Programme syllabus

Master's Programme, Computational and Systems Biology, 120 credits
Masterprogram, beräknings- och systembiologi

120.0 credits

Valid for students admitted to the education from autumn 08 (HT - Autumn term; VT - Spring term).

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, programme syllabus.

Programme objectives

The program gives students knowledge, skills and networks to continue on entrepreneurial, engineering or research leader tracks to the biotech and pharmaceutical industries and to academia in the post-genome and bio-simulation era.

Knowledge and understanding

A Master of Science in Computational and Systems Biology will:

- have an advanced understanding of methods and results in Computational and Systems Biology
- have a solid base in bio-modeling, including using modeling tools and common operating systems
- have a solid base in bioinformatics, including knowing about the most important genomic databases, practical know-how in using them, and understanding central bioinformatic algorithms
- have a basic understanding of industrial management, entrepreneurship and project management

Skills and abilities

A Master of Science in Computational and Systems Biology will:

- be able to follow and develop best practice methods in industry, administration and academic research, especially in the Biotech and Bio/IT sector
- be able to independently define and solve modeling problems posed in Biology
- be able to work independently as a bioinformatician, including constructing simpler algorithms as well as modifying and adapting algorithms in the scientific and technical literature
- be able to work in medical or bio-science research or project teams, and contribute the modeling and bioinformatic competence
• be able to work successfully in international multidisciplinary teams consisting of both technical and
business/entrepreneurial team members, and to have the necessary skills in spoken and written
English
• have basic skills in project planning, project management and project review and assessment in a
small-company setting

Ability to make judgements and adopt a standpoint

A Master of Science in Computational and Systems Biology will be able to:

• independently analyse and relate to economic, environmental and ethic consequences of applications
of computational and systems biology, and to design systems and solutions with this in mind
• by self-development retain his or her professional skills over a career
• follow discussion on technology and uses of technology in society and contribute to the same

Extent and content of the programme

Computational and Systems Biology is a two-year (120 ECTS credits) master programme on the advanced
level (second level). The instruction language is entirely English. The programme consists of a basic
curriculum followed by three specialization streams: (i) Biomodeling, (ii) Bioinformatics, and (iii) Biotech
and entrepreneurship. The courses in the basic curriculum are compulsory and constitute about half of the
credit points. To obtain sufficient depth in a specialization, a student is normally required to complete
courses worth at least 15 ECTS credits among the profile courses for the specialization stream in question.

Eligibility and selection

General admission requirements
A completed Bachelor's degree, equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS credits), from a
university recognized by the Swedish government or accredited by some other recognized organization. A
good knowledge of written and spoken English. Applicants must provide proof of their proficiency in
English using e.g. TOEFL, IELTS or equivalent tests.

Specific admission requirements
The prerequisite for the Master's programme in Computational and Systems Biology is a Swedish or
foreign degree equivalent to Bachelors degree of 180 ECTS credits, with credits in the following subjects:
multivariate calculus, linear algebra, and computer science including programming.

Selection process
The selection process for the Master of Science programme in Computational and Systems Biology is
based on a total evaluation of the following selection criteria: university, grades (Grade Point Average),
course work related to the programme, working experiences and references.

Applicants are strongly advised to attach Graduate Record Examination scores (GRE General Test as well
as one of GRE Subject Tests in either Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics or Biochemistry, Cell and
Molecular Biology), to assist the evaluation committee in assessing how the selection criteria are met.
Complete information on the eligibility requirements can be found in the local admission policy of KTH, see:
http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/11/5.html

Implementation of the education

Structure of the education

Structure of the education
The academic year lasts for a duration of 40 weeks. The academic year at KTH is divided into four periods. Each period lasts approximately seven weeks. Each period is followed by an exam period. In addition to the four regular exam periods, there are three additional re-examination periods: in January, in May-June and in August immediately preceding the first study period of the academic year.

The first year in the programme is mainly dedicated to the compulsory courses in the basic curriculum. The second year mainly consists of elective courses and the final degree project.

Courses

The programme is course-based. Lists of courses are included in appendix 1.

The programme is course-based with strong features of computer labs and projects, oral presentations and lectures, written reports, take-home exams and regular written exams. A list of courses is included in Appendix 1. The basic curriculum in year 1 consists mainly of compulsory courses. In year 2 only one course is compulsory. In the chosen specialization at least 15 ECTS credits have to be taken.

Grading system

Courses in the first and the second cycle are graded on a scale from A to F. A-E are passing grades, A is the highest grade. The grades pass (P) and fail (F) are used for courses under certain circumstances.

Conditions for participation in the programme

No later than November 15 and May 15 each academic year, respectively, the students are required to make a study registration and course selection for the coming term. At least 45 ECTS credits have to be completed during the first academic year (including the re-examination period in August) in order for the student to be promoted to the second year of the programme. Students have to make a decision about the specialization stream during the first year of the programme.

Recognition of previous academic studies

Under certain circumstances, and in agreement with the programme director, credits for previous studies can be received according to the local policy of KTH, see http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/13/3.html

Studies abroad
Under certain circumstances, and in agreement with the programme director, studies may be conducted at other universities in Sweden or outside Sweden. Credits can be received according to the local policy of KTH, see http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/13/3.html

**Degree project**

Students admitted to the programme are required to perform an individual study in the form of a thesis project corresponding to 30 ECTS credits. To begin the thesis project, a student must normally have completed at least 40 ECTS credits of the mandatory course work and 10 ECTS credits of the profile courses in the specialization stream. The purpose of the thesis project is that the student demonstrates the ability to perform independent project work, using the skills obtained from the courses in the programme. It is the student's responsibility to find a suitable thesis project, with assistance from KTH.

More information on the KTH policy on the degree project can be found at:
http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/15/5.html

**Degree**

In order to graduate with a degree of Master one must pass every course that is included in the student’s study plan. The programme must be designed such that the student, at the time of receiving the degree, fulfils the national Degree Ordinance and has completed courses corresponding to a total of 120 ECTS credits, where:

- at least 90 ECTS credits belong to the second cycle, of which 60 ECTS credits are in the main field of study and 30 of those 60 ECTS credits correspond to the degree project.

Students who fulfil all the requirements will be awarded a degree of Master of Science (two years). Students must apply for the degree and also show proof of their basic degree (Bachelor or similar) and have paid the student union fee.

**Degree name**

*Degree of Master of Science (Two Years)*
*Teknologe masterexamen (Två år)*
http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/19/1.html

**Appendix 1 - Course list**
**Appendix 2 - Programme syllabus descriptions**
Appendix 1: Course list

Master's Programme, Computational and Systems Biology, 120 credits (TBSBM), Programme syllabus for studies starting in autumn 2008

General courses

Year 1

Mandatory courses (51.0 Credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA2205</td>
<td>Introduction to the Philosophy of Science and Research Methodology</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2397</td>
<td>Applied Bioinformatics</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2398</td>
<td>Quantitative Systems Biology</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2399</td>
<td>Omic Data and Systems Biology</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2435</td>
<td>Mathematical Modelling of Biological Systems</td>
<td>9.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2450</td>
<td>Algorithmic Bioinformatics</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK2530</td>
<td>Introduction to Biomedicine</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year 2

Mandatory courses (66.0 Credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD225X</td>
<td>Degree Project in Biomedical Engineering, Second Cycle</td>
<td>30.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2016</td>
<td>Project Management: Leadership and Control</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME202X</td>
<td>Degree Project in Industrial Management, Second Cycle</td>
<td>30.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BB2250</td>
<td>Applied Gene Technology</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB2320</td>
<td>Protomics Technologies</td>
<td>4.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD1352</td>
<td>Algorithms, Data Structures and Complexity</td>
<td>9.0 hp</td>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2257</td>
<td>Visualization</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2354</td>
<td>Algorithms and Complexity</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2390</td>
<td>Internet Programming</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD2431</td>
<td>Machine Learning</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN2200</td>
<td>Pattern Recognition</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN2500</td>
<td>Information Theory and Source Coding</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2018</td>
<td>Leading Temporary Organizations and Projects</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2024</td>
<td>Industrial Marketing, Advanced Course</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2035</td>
<td>Globalization of Industry and Technology, Advanced Course</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2800</td>
<td>Ideation - Creating a Business Idea</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2801</td>
<td>Planning - Developing a Venture</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2802</td>
<td>Execution - Running your own Company</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2803</td>
<td>Growth - Managing Your Firm</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ME2804</td>
<td>Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF1811</td>
<td>Optimization</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF2960</td>
<td>Statistical Theory</td>
<td>6.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK2520</td>
<td>Experimental Methods in Molecular Biophysics</td>
<td>8.0 hp</td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Supplementary information**

Specialization streams are:

1. Biomodeling  
2. Bioinformatics  
3. Biotech and Entrepreneurship

DD225X is compulsory within 1. and 2., ME202X within 3.

Within the chosen stream at least 15 higher education credits of recommended courses must be chosen:

1. DD2431, DD2257, EN2200, SK2520, SF1811, at Stockholm University: RF2110 Biostatistics for Physicists  
2. DD1352/DD2354, DD2431, DD2390, BB2320, BB2250, EN2200, EN2500, SF1811, SF2960, at Stockholm University: RF2110 Biostatistics for Physicists, and KB8007 Comparative Genomics  
3. ME2018, ME2024, ME2035, ME2800, ME2801, ME2802, ME2803, ME2804, DD2431, DD2390
Appendix 2: Specialisations

Master's Programme, Computational and Systems Biology, 120 credits (TBSBM), Programme syllabus for studies starting in autumn 2008

This programme has no specialisations.