

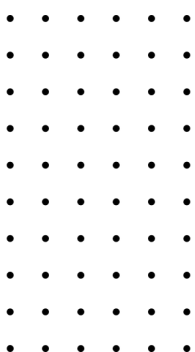
# THE PHD CHAPTER AT THS

***DOKTORANDSEKTIONEN VID TEKNISKA  
HÖGSKOLANS STUDENTKÅR***



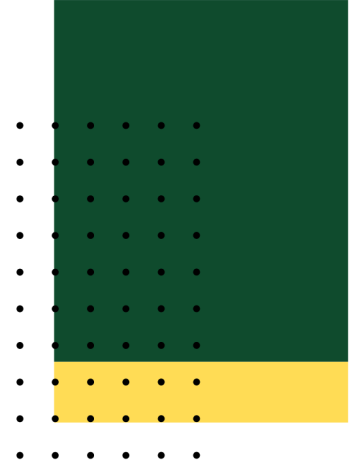
## PLAN OF OPERATIONS

2024-2025





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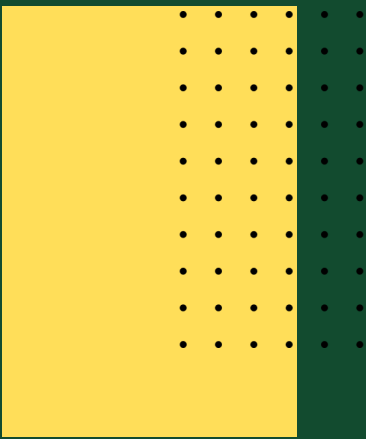
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## BACKGROUND

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The objectives of the PhD Chapter should be to work toward development of research education at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, as well as monitoring and improving general working conditions for doctoral students at KTH. Additionally, the PhD Chapter should work for fostering greater unity and fellowship among its members.

This plan of operations guides the executive work of the board for the operational year 2024/2025 and outlays the major goals and challenges that we currently see for this period. This document was reviewed by all current board members, some of which are part of the previous board, ensuring a degree of continuity in the activities.

This document is split into different categories, each of which has its own challenges, and has some areas that we would like to either continue working on or start new discussions regarding the relevant positions at KTH.

# EDUCATION

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Before summer, the Research Education Council agreed on changing the guidelines for research education to allow for 6 ECTS of a language course, useful for the degree, to be accounted for within the research education. For many students, this kind of useful language course will be in Swedish. The aim for the coming year, is for this decision to be decided upon by the Faculty Council and thereafter the Rektor and for the research education guidelines to be changed. Following this, we will put high efforts for KTH to start providing such **Swedish courses** for doctoral students at KTH.

In KTH new **quality assurance system**, a doctoral student survey is one of the main tools to monitor the supervision quality and student well-being. We will work together with KTH to determine the questions in the survey and how the data will be handled after. Furthermore, we will actively work to ensure that the quality assurance system is followed and implemented in a way which leads to accountability. The PhD Chapter is also involved in the new automatic course evaluation system being implemented.

Course-wise, we will continue the work on advocating for the FOFU (Forskning och Forskarutbildning) funding on third-level courses to be fixed in a certain percentage to guarantee the continuity and offering of the courses. Among other topics that we would like to see evaluated, there are the guidelines for internships for doctoral students.

An additional point we intend to bring up is for research education programs to include the mandatory Gender Equality and Diversity module (JML) in their program, as well as sustainability.

# EMPLOYMENT

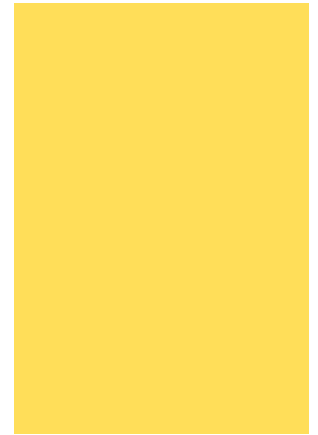
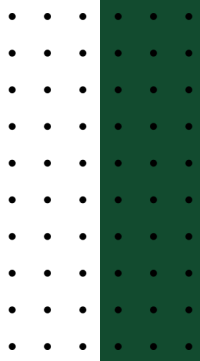


In early summer, the PhD Chapter conducted a survey regarding the doctoral salary ladder at KTH including some other topics, such as questions regarding vacation and sick days. Based on the results and students' wishes, we will bring up the conversation regarding the salary ladder and possible improvements to the implementation of it. We will also aim to increase our collaboration with the labor unions and provide them with the data regarding sick days and vacation days.

Another topic to discuss is the process of time compensation and tracking for teaching assistants. It is currently not as effective as it should be, and this process might have differences even at division- level, and we should evaluate how to improve it.

# FINANCES AND TREASURY

We intend to make the funding request process easier for PhD students by streamlining it digitally, and we hope that minor events organized by PhDs students themselves will be further organised and reach more students than the KTH-wide events the Chapter has organized previously.



## COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL

Regarding organisation of events, we will try to keep up the momentum built up during the previous year.

Firstly, we are **hosting the PhD Reception**, in collaboration with THS International and KTH central, and **following-up on the on-boarding process** by the PhD students at KTH. We are then actively working with FuSAM on setting up a central on-boarding process at for doctoral students at KTH. We believe that a proper on-boarding is vital for the student well-being and research education as a whole.

Further, we plan to continue hosting social events such as kareoke nights and pubs, which have had large number of interests. As well as many other types of events, such as sports events or gasque, where students get introduced to Swedish student life. We will also continue to organize events working with questions surrounding sustainability, equality and diversity.

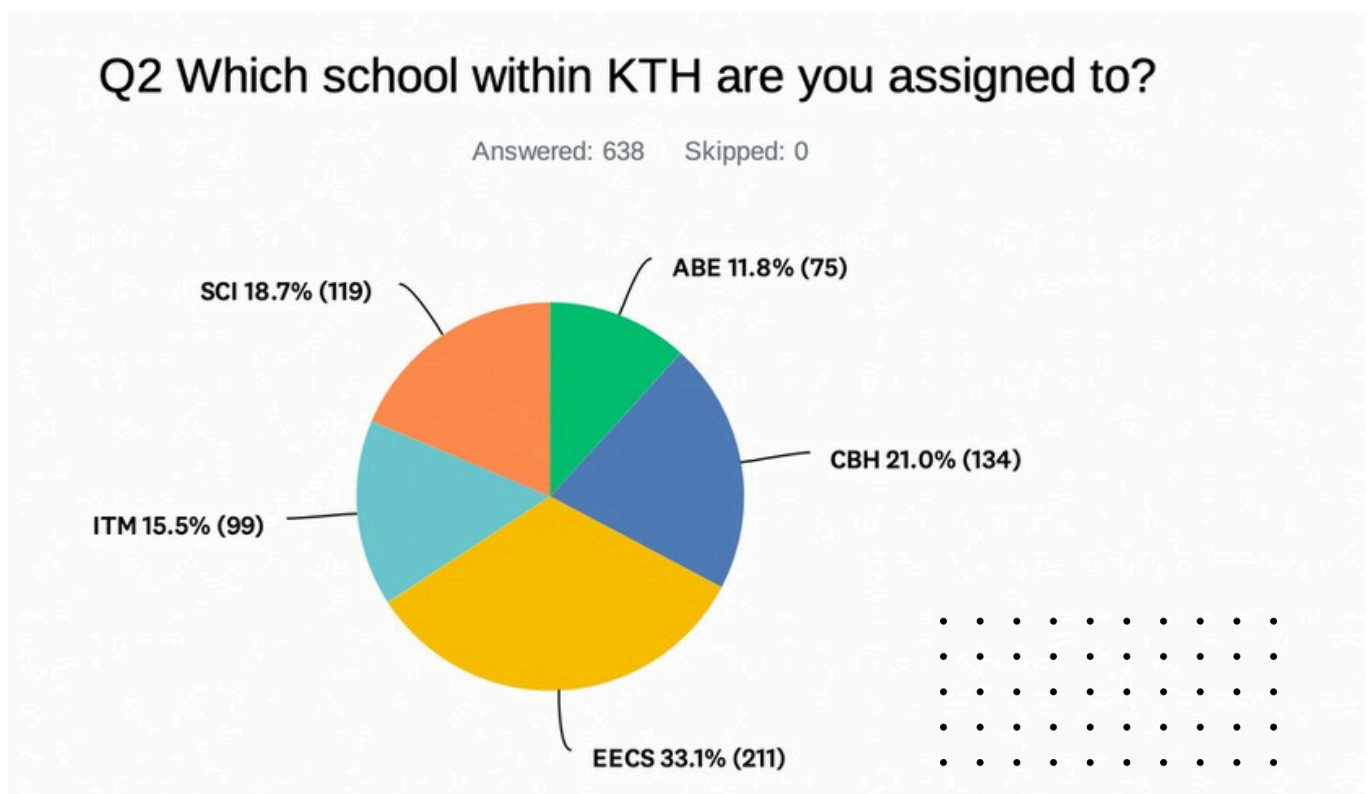
Concerning communication, **we will continue to use social media together with the website** to spread information related to the Chapter's activities, while keeping and improving our website with updated information. Most importantly, we will continue **to use a newsletter**, which last year very successfully improved engagement from students in our activities.

# WORKING WITH COUNCILS

As KTH has changed to a more collegial structure with Faculty Boards (Fakultetsnämnder) locally at each school, **it is necessary to support and work together with the Councils** to ensure the student influence on research education questions and, at the same time, learn how to deal with the specificity of each school. We will work on improving the collaboration and information flow from the Chapter board to the councils.

**We will continue to deal with time compensation guidelines at the school level** and supporting in adjusting these guidelines according to the needs.

Another important point is to continue to **leverage the 2023 PhD survey results** that was conducted and analysed by the previous boards in order to influence decisions made on council level. Especially in the implementation of the new Quality Assurance System.



# REPRESENTATION

The PhD Chapter will keep doing its representation duties at the local level at KTH, and also joining forces with other student organizations when necessary.

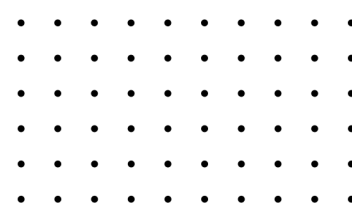
These are the committees in which the PhD Chapter has a student representative at KTH:

- University Board
- Faculty Council
- Employment Board
- Third Cycle Education Committee
- Equality Council
- ISP Focus Group
- Ethics Council
- Scholarship Council
- Language Committee
- Library Board

In addition, we also take part with Future Faculty errands - for the recruitment and promotion of professors - and the reading group of the General Study Plans (ASP).

At THS, we aim to be an active part of its internal committees, namely the Union Council (KF) and the Communication Council. We also aim to keep improving our collaboration with THS and learn from other Chapters, by taking part in the Education Council (Utbildningsrådet) and other such councils.

Lastly, we will work with the KTH management office to implement routines regarding time compensation of student representatives on a central level. As well as set new time compensation guidelines for the PhD Chapter board.





# OTHER ACTIVITIES



## SoYA

The Supervisor of the Year Award is awarded around May every year by the PhD Chapter. In 2023, we had over 60 nominations that were evaluated by a jury of 5 anonymous doctoral students. We are committed to have another edition in 2024.



## Companies

The Business Liaison deals with connections between the PhD Chapter and companies, trying to bridge opportunities for PhD students.



## PhD Ombudsman

The PhD Ombudsman at THS, Ingrid Iliou, is employed to give free support and to bring PhD issues to KTH, including funding issues and harassment. We will work together with her to improve the work environment of PhD students.

# THE BOARD

This is the current board as of July 2024. Some members (Ugne, Ellymay, Mehdi, Matt) have a mandate until June 2025, while others (Andressa, Zoé, Hemanth) are departing the Board by the end of December 2023. Zoé and Andressa were elected during by-elections and their mandate goes until December 2023, although they were elected in June 2023.

The Chapter also have 3 functionaries at the Nominating Committee, 2 standard bearers and 2 Masters of Cerimonies.



**Ugne Miniotaite**  
Chairperson



**Doga Gürgünoglu**  
Vice Chairperson



**Ellymay Goossens**  
Education Manager



**Andressa Mazur**  
Communications



**Hemanth Venkatesan**  
Treasurer



**Zoé Barjot**  
Council Coordinator



**Matt Davoudi**  
Business Liaison



**Mehdi Nourazar**  
Webmaster



**Mattias Åstrand**  
Event Manager

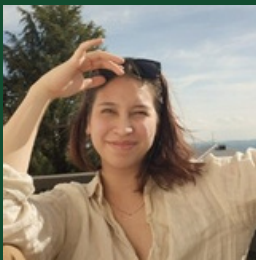


**Peiling Wu**  
Workgroups Manager

# FUNCTIONARIES

These are the functionaries of the PhD Chapter as of July 2024. Unlike the Board positions, these are not time compensated and are done on a voluntary basis.

Two Master of Ceremonies , the two Standard Bearers and the three members of the Nominating Committee have mandates until December 2023, while the Auditor and the other Master of Cerimonies (Saumey) have their mandate until June 2024.



**Katarina Lindmark**  
Auditor



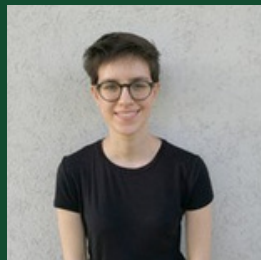
**Monika Rolinska**  
Standard Bearer



**Martin Lindström**  
Vice Standard Bearer



**Mattias Åstrand**  
Master of Ceremonies



**Susanna Pozzoli**  
Master of Ceremonies

**Nominating Committee**  
**Vladilena Gaisina**  
**Daniel Madeiros**  
**Zoé Barjot**  
**Mohammad Abuasbeh**  
**Andressa Mazur**

*Photos: Public profile at KTH*



**THE  
PHD CHAPTER  
AT  
THS**

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