

THE PHD CHAPTER AT THS

***DOKTORANDSEKTIONEN VID TEKNISKA
HÖGSKOLANS STUDENTKÅR***



PLAN OF OPERATIONS

2025-2026

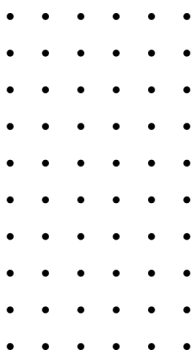
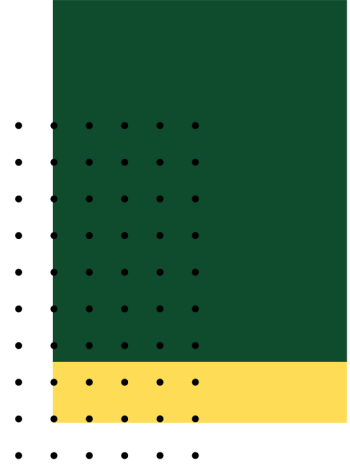
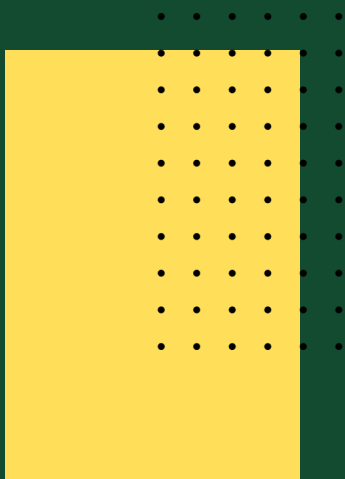




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BACKGROUND

In accordance to our statutes the PhD Chapter should be to work toward development of research education, as well as monitoring and improving general working conditions for doctoral students at KTH - Royal Institute of Technology. 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 2025/2026 and outlays the major goals and challenges that we currently see within this period. This document was reviewed by all current board members, some of whom 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. We have indicated areas that we will either continue working on or start new discussions regarding the relevant positions at KTH.

EDUCATION



Regarding educational concerns, now that Swedish courses can be credited into a third cycle degree, we will put efforts for KTH to start providing such Swedish courses for doctoral students at KTH and ensure that students get credited.

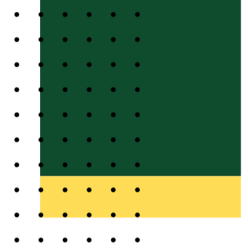
We will also continue to work on advocating for the FOFU (Forskning och Forskarutbildning) funding on third-level courses to be fixed in a certain percentage to guarantee the continuity and offering of the courses.

We also want to push for getting 3rd cycle courses to be included in the student evaluation system or find another way for students to give course feedback.

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

Last year, the PhD Chapter conducted a survey regarding the doctoral salary ladder at KTH which showed big issues with the current salary system. The issue were brought up at central KTH councils as well as during the arranged lunch with the Rektor. Thus a salary ladder working group was formed. Based on students' wishes, a time-based salary ladder system stood out as the most desired one. Together with trade union representatives and FuSAM, we are pushing for a time based salary ladder system for all PhD students at KTH. This is an ongoing work from last year and we hope to push it to shore this year.



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. The CBH council have raised that they have large issues regarding this and since these issues exist all over KTH we like to raise these issues to central KTH in order to raise awareness and push for changes for all.

On top of that, we would like to raise issues regarding the management of the physical working environments, managed by Akademiska hus. Some students have not been able to go to there lab facilities for months, thus preventing them to do research.

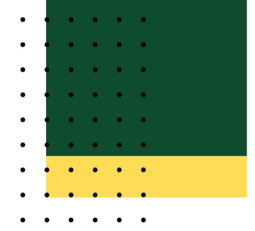
FINANCES AND TREASURY

As of last year, 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.

SOCIAL

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

Firstly, we have organised a labor union event, together with the PhD representative of SACO-S, for new PhD students during the international reception.



Together with KTH central we are also continuing with the central PhD on-boarding sessions. We believe that proper on-boarding is vital for the student well-being and research education as a whole.

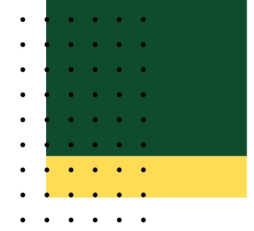
To celebrate the 45th anniversary of the PhD Chapter we have planned to hold a grand jubilé gasque at Münchenbryggeriet for all PhDs at KTH and special guests. We want to celebrate the fantastic work that has been done by various PhD students, both at the school level and KTH-wide, in regards to student rights and enrich student life.

Further, we plan to continue hosting social events such as karaoke nights and pubs, which has had consistently positive turnouts. We will continue our role with organising other types of events, such as sports events and gasque, where students get introduced to Swedish student life.

COMMUNICATION

Concerning communication, we will continue to use various social media platforms such as Instagram and LinkedIn to spread information related to the Chapter's activities, while keeping and improving our website with updated information. Email has been our fundamental tool to keep contact with students since it is the most frequently checked channel. We will continue to use a newsletter to reach out to all students about our activities.

We are also looking into new ways to reach out to students and for them to easily ask questions to us. Creating a new open slack workspace could be an alternative.



Our Communication manager will continue to work hard on our very own PhD podcast, which focuses on any insights and experiences from PhD students, graduates, professors and professionals regarding any aspects of PhD life. We hope students could feel supported and get useful information which helps them to solve some common issues during PhD and help them to go through this journey.

BUSINESS

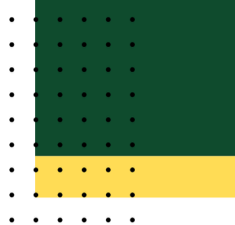
We will continue with company visits in order to bridge opportunities for PhD students.

Last year we hosted the first edition of PhireD, our very own career fair for PhD students. We had 300 PhD students and Post Docs participating and over 15 companies registered. This year we are forming a committee in order to make it grow and reach a larger audience in terms of different industries.

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.



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.

This year we are also joining FuSAMs Coordination meetings.

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

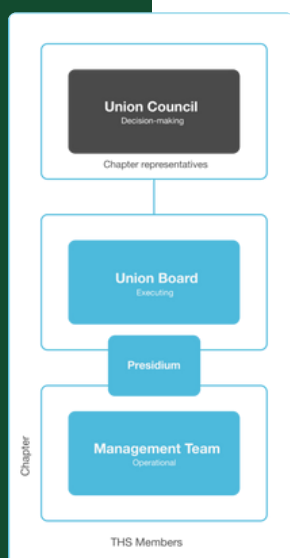
- University Board
- Faculty Council
- Employment Board
- Third Cycle Education Committee
- Equality Council
- ISP Focus Group
- Ethics Council
- Scholarship Council
- Language Committee
- Library Board
- FuSAMs Coordination group

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



SoYA

The Supervisor of the Year Award is awarded around May every year by the PhD Chapter. In 2025, we had 49 nominations and an independent jury of PhD students, in which all five schools were represented, evaluated the nominations. The winner of 2025 edition was Linda Lundström!

PhD Ombudsman

The PhD Ombudsman at THS, Adi Musabasic, is employed to give free support and to bring PhD issues to KTH, including funding issues and harassment. We will push for more interaction with Adi as our interactions can help identify common issues that PhD student face.

Student Union Council

This year we invited all PhD Chapter members to apply for a position at the Student Union Council at THS. Eight members showed interest to represent the PhD Chapter. This means both the four main positions and the two back-up positions were filled.

THE BOARD

This is the current board as of July 2025. Some members (Ellymay, Hilma, Ivo, Kamila, Kaung, Markella) have a mandate until June 2026, while others (Abhilash, Dita, Hemanth, Peiling, Uli) mandate period ends by December 2025. Uli, Dita and Peiling were elected during by-elections and their mandate goes until December 2025, although they were elected in June 2025.



Hilma Karlsson
Chairperson



Uli Max Rahmlow
Vice Chairperson



Ellymay Goossens
Education Manager



Peiling Wu
Communications



Hemanth Venkatesan
Treasurer



Dita Anggraini
Council Coordinator



Kamila Oppelová
Business Liaison



Kaung Myat
Webmaster



Abhilash Kulkarni
Event Manager



Ivo Bruijl
Workgroups Manager



Markella Zacharouli
WOP Manager

FUNCTIONARIES

These are the functionaries of the PhD Chapter as of July 2025. Unlike the Board positions, these are not time compensated and are done on a voluntary basis.

One Master of Ceremonies , the two Standard Bearers and the three members of the Nominating Committee have mandates until December 2025, while the Auditors and the other Master of Ceremonies (Athanasia) have their mandate until June 2026.



Daniel Madeiros
Auditor



Saumey Jain
Auditor



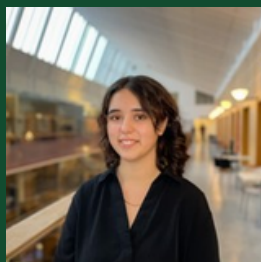
Matt Davoudizavareh
Standard Bearer



Hemanth Venkatesan
Vice Standard Bearer



Hemanth Venkatesan
Master of Ceremonies



Athanasia Christou
Master of Ceremonies

Nominating Committee

Ugne Miniotes

Joel Kronborg

Zoé Barjot

Ibrahim Batayneh

Andressa Mazur

Photos: Public profile at KTH



**THE
PHD CHAPTER
AT
THS**

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