

Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH)

Undergraduate education

The Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology is a translation of the document *Examensordning vid Blekinge Tekniska Högskola* (in Swedish), which was approved by the Vice-Chancellor of Blekinge Institute of Technology on 27 November 2002. (Revised 2004-08-31 and 2005-05-10, R037/05).

The appendices to the degree ordinance have been approved by the Board for Undergraduate Education at BTH.

1. Introduction

This document governs the type and level of degrees granted by Blekinge Institute of Technology. The degree ordinance at BTH is based on the national degree ordinance governing higher education in Sweden (see section 2).

A student who has satisfied the relevant criteria may be awarded one of the general degrees offered by BTH (see section 3). This degree may or may not have a Swedish classification (see section 4) or be classified as a professional degree (see section 5).

The present document also includes information about examination requirements which are specific to BTH (see section 6) as well as subjects offered at Blekinge Institute of Technology. This document also specifies the regulations governing the granting of degree and course certificates (see section 8) as well as the crediting of courses from other universities and university colleges (see section 9). The final section describes the process of appeal (see section 10).

Accompanying this degree ordinance document are 10 appendices:

- Appendix A: A list of the primary and secondary subjects at BTH for which the Institute is entitled to award Master's degrees with majors, Bachelor's degrees and University Diplomas.
- Appendix B: A list of general subject areas at BTH in which the Institute is entitled to award Master's degrees.
- Appendix C: A list of the subject combinations for a University Diploma where the candidate has less than 40 credit points¹ in the primary subject.
- Appendix D: Technical subjects leading to a degree with the Swedish classification 'filosofie'.
- Appendix E: Mathematics requirements for a degree with the Swedish classification 'teknologie'.
- Appendix F: A list of the subjects exempted from BTH-specific examination requirements.

¹ One credit point is the equivalent of one week's full-time study.

- Appendix G: A list of the programmes leading to professional degrees, including the examination to which the programme leads.
- Appendix H: Mathematics requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering.
- Appendix I: Criteria for the different subject levels at BTH.

The above appendices may be revised independently of the main document.

2. General rules and regulations

The following regulations govern the rules and regulations for degrees at the Institute: the Higher Education Act (Högskolelagen. HL 1:4), the Higher Education Ordinance (Högskoleförordningen. HF 6:4-5, 15-17 and appendix 2) and the National Agency for Higher Education directions (HSVFS 2000:2).

3. General degrees

The following general degrees are granted by BTH:

Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup (English: Master of Science/Social Science/Arts in ...)

Extract from the Higher Education Ordinance:

A Master of (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup) shall be obtained after completing the course requirements of at least 160 credit points. Advanced studies are required in the main subject at the 80-credit point level, with passing grades.

In order to receive a degree of Master (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup), the student shall have completed an independent project (degree project) of at least 20 credit points or two such projects of at least 10 credit points each. This project (these projects) shall be part of the main subject studied. Credit may be given for 40 credit points from doctoral studies in the main subject.

The following applies specifically to Blekinge Institute of Technology:

To be awarded a degree of Master (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup), students must have at least 80 credit points in their primary subject and a minimum of 20 credit points in their secondary. The secondary subject may be replaced by an additional 20 credit points in the primary subject.

The independent project is worth a minimum of 20 credit points, of which a minimum of 10 credit points must be at 80-credit point level, i.e. fall within the interval 61-80 credit points, and the entire project must, as a minimum requirement, be at 60-credit point level, i.e. fall within the interval 41-60 credit points. Alternatively, one of the two independent projects worth a minimum of 10 credit points must be of 80-credit point level, i.e. fall within the interval 61-80 credit points, and the other of at least 60-credit point level, i.e. fall within the

interval 61-80 credit points. Altogether, at least 20 credit points must be at 80-credit point level, i.e. fall within the interval 61-80 credit points.

Where a student applies for admission to a 60- or 180-credit point Master's programme, he/she will not be awarded a Master's degree on completion of 160 credit points.

Those subjects where BTH requires 180 credit points are specified in the table in Appendix A.

Appendix A lists the subjects in which BTH awards a Master's degree (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup). The exceptions are specified at the end of this section, under the heading 'Courses from other universities and university colleges and degrees at BTH'.

Magisterexamen med ämnesbredd (English: Master of *Specialisation*).

The Higher Education Ordinance specifies that:

A Master of (Magisterexamen med ämnesbredd) shall be obtained by a student who holds a degree of at least 120 credit points or an equivalent foreign degree, after completing course requirements totalling at least 40 credit points with specialisation, to be determined more precisely by the institution of higher education concerned.

In order to receive a degree of Master (Magisterexamen med ämnesbredd) the student shall have completed an independent project (degree project) of at least 10 credit points within the framework of course requirements.

The following applies specifically to BTH:

A Master of (Magisterexamen med ämnesbredd) is attained after completion of an undifferentiated educational programme with a certain specialisation, comprising at least 40 credit points. Studies of subjects cannot normally constitute a specialisation.

Contrary to what applies to the Master's degree (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup), a Master's degree with specialisation (Magister med ämnesbredd) only leads to a general Master of, i.e. a degree without prefix (see also section 4).

Appendix B specifies the specialisations in which Master's degrees (Magister med ämnesbredd) are awarded.

Kandidatexamen (English: Bachelor of Science/Social Science/Arts in ...)

The Higher Education Ordinance specifies that:

A Bachelor of shall be obtained after completing course requirements of at least 120 credit points in total. Advanced studies are required in the main subject at the 60-credit point level, with passing grades.

In order to achieve a degree of Bachelor, the student shall have completed an independent project (degree project/thesis) of at least 10 credit points. This shall be part of the main subject studied.

The following applies specifically to BTH:

To be awarded a Bachelor's degree Blekinge Institute of Technology requires that a minimum of 60 credit points be within the primary subject and at least 20 within the secondary. The secondary subject can be replaced by an additional 20 credit points in the primary subject.

The independent project must reach the 60-credit point standard, i.e. fall within the interval 41-60 credit points. At least twenty points must be at 60-credit point level, i.e. fall within the 41-60 credit point level.

Appendix A lists the subjects in which BTH awards Bachelor's degrees. Exceptions are specified at the end of this section, under 'Courses from other universities and university colleges and degrees at BTH'.

Högskoleexamen (English: University Diploma with specialisation in ...)

The Higher Education Ordinance specifies that:

University Diplomas shall be obtained after completing course requirements totalling at least 80 credit points with a certain specialisation in accordance with the further decision of the institution of higher education.

The following applies specifically to BTH:

A University Diploma may be awarded on successful completion of 80 credit points, of which a minimum of 40 must be in the primary subject or comply with the specifications detailed in Appendix C. The primary subjects for a University Diploma may only be selected from among those subjects in which Bachelor's degrees are awarded (see Appendix A). A University Diploma can always be issued providing the relevant requirements are satisfied, i.e. a student may be awarded a University Diploma even when s/he is enrolled on a programme leading to a Bachelor's degree.

Courses from other universities and university colleges and degrees at BTH

Where a student has successfully completed courses at another university or university college and the certificate is to be issued by BTH, subjects other than those specified in Appendix A may be approved if the subject or subjects has/have been studied at another university or university college. BTH issues the certificate if BTH is where the student has passed the latest examination, unless the universities/university colleges concerned have agreed otherwise.

4. Degrees with Swedish classifications

Bachelor and Master's degrees with Swedish classifications are awarded where the relevant criteria are fulfilled. Where these criteria are not satisfied, a degree may be awarded if the general requirements for a Bachelor's or Master's degree are satisfied (see section 3).

Master/Bachelor's degree with the Swedish classification 'filosofie'

The primary subject (see Appendix A) must belong to the humanities, social sciences or mathematics/natural sciences. A degree with the Swedish classification 'filosofie' is also awarded where the primary subject is care science. A degree with the Swedish classification 'filosofie' may also be awarded in the subjects specified in Appendix D.

Master/Bachelor's degree with the Swedish classification 'ekonomie'

The primary subject is business administration or economics. Students must have a minimum of 20 credit points in whichever of these two subjects is **not** the primary one.

Master/Bachelor's degree with the Swedish classification 'teknologie'

The primary subject must be within technology. The subjects belonging to the area of technology are listed in Appendix A and are marked with a cross in the column 'Technology and Natural Science'.

In addition to the requirement that the educational area is technology, students must also have at least 10 credit points in mathematics or applied mathematics at undergraduate level or higher, i.e. mathematics or applied mathematics above Swedish upper secondary institution level 'C'.² This requirement is explained in detail in Appendix E. Subjects which at other universities of technology do not normally include this level of mathematics or applied mathematics are exempted from the regulation. These exemptions are listed in Appendix F.

5. Professional degrees

The aims and requirements governing professional degrees are specified in Appendix 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

The professional degrees awarded by Blekinge Institute of Technology are listed in Appendix G. Professional degrees are defined by the courses included in the programmes which lead to the award of professional degrees. The programmes leading to the different professional degrees are specified in Appendix G.

In addition to the requirements specified in the Higher Education Ordinance, Blekinge Institute of Technology requires that a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Högskoleingenjörsexamen) comprise a minimum of 120 credit points.³ A Bachelor of Science in Engineering must also satisfy the criteria for

² Letter codes signify the modules completed, where 'A' is the first and most basic module and 'E' the most advanced.

³ This applies to students admitted from the autumn term 2002 onwards.

mathematics or applied mathematics specified in Appendix H. Furthermore, a Bachelor of Science in Engineering must include 10 credit points of courses focusing on technical skills, including project courses or courses where students work in groups. See the relevant programme curriculum for the requirements governing the different fields within the Bachelor of Science in Engineering programmes.

6. Other degree requirements

There must be at least 40 credit points gained between each certificate awarded. This regulation applies to degrees on the same level, i.e. two Bachelor's degrees as well as degrees on different levels, e.g. between a Bachelor's and a Master's degree. The difference between the different degree levels is governed by the Higher Education Ordinance.

In addition, the above regulation also applies to general and professional degrees.

If the difference between different degrees is less than 40 credit points, only one certificate will be issued, in which it will be specified that the requirements for another degree have also been fulfilled.

7. Subjects

A subject comprises an area of knowledge with its own title, which is normally defined by the international research community. Primary and secondary subjects comprise the areas of knowledge which have been so defined by the Institute.

The criteria for subjects at different levels are specified in Appendix I. These criteria should be regarded as guidelines for deciding the level of the subject. The Blekinge Institute of Technology Board establishes new subjects. The Board for Undergraduate Studies is responsible for deciding if a given subject is to be offered as a primary or a secondary subject. For a subject to be regarded as a primary subject at Master's level it must be evaluated in accordance with the quality assurance process governing the creation of Master's subjects.

Not all subjects are offered at all levels (see Appendix A). Appendix A specifies which subjects are offered at Master's level but not at Bachelor's level. Certain subjects are offered at Master's level only, where the professional roles for which the programme trains students require knowledge equivalent to that normally provided at Master's level.

8. Granting degree and course certificates

The granting of degree certificates is governed by the Vice-Chancellor.

Degree and course certificates must specify the number of course credit points obtained by the student, grades, date of grades and scale of grades as well as

previous training/education where relevant and where included as part of the official degree.

Only completed courses may be included in the degree.

Only one degree will be granted for a given combination of courses. If a student fulfils the requirements for both a professional and a general degree, s/he shall decide which of the two degrees is to be granted. It may be specified on a certificate that a student has satisfied the requirements for two different degrees provided s/he has a) fulfilled the relevant requirements for both degrees and b) stipulated in his/her application for a degree that such an addition be made.

If a student fulfils the requirements for a general degree with more than one subject title, s/he may select the title of his/her choice. The certificate may also specify that the requirements for another degree have also been satisfied.

All certificates awarded by Blekinge Institute of Technology contain a translation of the title in English. This is the only translation which BTH provides.

9. Crediting of courses

The examiner or equivalent person is responsible for deciding if other course qualifications, complete or partial, from another university or university college shall be included in the credit points awarded for a given course at Blekinge Institute of Technology.

The decision as to whether a complete course, courses or other training/education may be included in a programme rests with the relevant institution board or by the person, e.g. Director of Undergraduate Studies at the institution to whom the board has delegated this task as the person responsible for the subject. Where a delegated person has made the decision, this must be reported to the institution board, which also has the right to withdraw such delegation.

The decision to include a complete course, courses or other training/education in a subject for which a general degree is granted is made by the relevant institution board or by the person, e.g. Director of Undergraduate Studies at the institution to whom the board has delegated this task as the person responsible for the subject. Where a delegated person has made the decision, this must be reported to the institution board, which also has the right to withdraw such delegation.

Decisions concerning the crediting of courses can be contested to the Board of Appeal for Higher Education. Appeals are submitted to Blekinge Institute of Technology.

Where a student wishes to have qualifications from a foreign university or university college validated, the institution board may request that the student submit the relevant documents translated into ECTS (European Credit Transfer

System). Where the student fails to produce the requested documents, the institution board has the right to refuse to grant the student's request to have his/her qualifications validated. This rule applies from 1 January 2004. For further information see the Institute's *Policy för tillgodoräkning av utländsk högskoleutbildning (Policy for Crediting of Education Undertaken at Foreign Educational Establishments)*. In Swedish).

10. Appeals procedure where a request to have previous qualifications validated has been refused or where the request for a certificate or course document has been denied

Students who have been refused the right to have previous qualifications validated or have been denied a certificate or course certificate can appeal to the Board of Appeal for Higher Education. Appeals are submitted to the Institute:

Att: Registrar
Överklagandenämnden för högskolan (The Board of Appeal for Higher Education)
Blekinge Institute of Technology
371 79 Karlskrona
Sweden

Appendix A: List of primary and secondary subjects at Blekinge Institute of Technology included in a Master's degree (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup), Bachelor's degree and University Diploma

Appendix A to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

According to the degree ordinance at BTH, all Bachelor's and Master's degrees must, in addition to a primary subject, include a secondary subject of at least 20 credit points or, alternatively, an additional 20 credit points in the primary subject.

There is also scope for courses which are not included in either the primary or secondary subject. The table below specifies in alphabetical order all primary subjects included in a Bachelor's or Master's degree (Magisterexamen med ämnesdjup) and all secondary subjects. At the bottom of the table are subjects for which no new admissions will be made at Blekinge Institute of Technology.

Subjects	Subjects (in Swedish)	Bachelor	Master 160 credit points	Master 180 credit points	Secondary subject	Technology and Natural Science	Institution responsible (Swedish acronym)
Human Work Science	Arbetsvetenskap	X	X		X	X	TKS
Computer Science	Datavetenskap	X	X		X	X	TEK
Electrical Engineering	Elektroteknik	X		X	X	X	TEK
English	Engelska	X	X		X		TKS
Public Health Science	Folkhälsovetenskap				X		HAL
Spatial Planning	Fysisk planering			X		X	TEK
Business Administration	Företags ekonomi	X	X		X		MAM
Business Law	Handelsrätt				X		MAM
History	Historia	X	X		X		TKS
Clinical Medicine	Klinisk medicin				X		HAL
Comparative Literature	Litteraturvetenskap	X			X		TKS
Mechanical Engineering	Maskinteknik	X		X	X	X	TEK
Mathematics ⁴	Matematik	X	X		X	X	TEK
Media Technology	Medieteknik	X			X	X	TKS
Economics	National ekonomi				X		MAM
Pedagogy	Pedagogik	X			X		MAM
Software Engineering	Programvaruteknik	X	X		X	X	TEK
Psychology	Psykologi	X			X		MAM

⁴ Where mathematics is the primary subject in a degree, the Swedish classification is not 'teknologie.' See Appendix D.

Swedish	Svenska språket	X			X		TKS
Sociology	Sociologi	X			X		MAM
Applied Mathematics ⁵	Tillämpad matematik				X	X	TEK
Nursing Science	Vårdvetenskap	X	X		X		HAL

Subjects where no new admissions are accepted	Subjects (in Swedish)	Bachelor	Master 160 credit points	Master 180 credit points	Secondary subject	Technology and Natural Science
Civil Engineering	Byggnadsteknik	X			X	X
Administrative Data Processing	ADB	X			X	X
German	Tyska	X			X	
Political Science	Statsvetenskap				X	
Planning	Planering	X			X	X
Nursing	Omvårdnad	X			X	

⁵ Applied mathematics is defined as mathematical statistics and numerical mathematics.

Appendix B: List of specialisations for Master's degrees

Appendix B to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

Specialisations for Master's degrees (Magisterexamen med ämnesbredd) at Blekinge Institute of Technology:

- Business Administration in e-Business
- European Spatial Planning

Appendix C: Subject combinations for a University Diploma

Appendix C to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

Blekinge Institute of Technology has not made any formal decisions regarding subject combinations for a University Diploma where the student has not gained 40 credit points in the primary subject.

Appendix D: Technical subjects for a degree with the Swedish classification ‘filosofie’

Appendix D to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

The following subjects within the field of technology may be included in a degree with the Swedish classification ‘filosofie’. The subjects selected normally belong to more than one area of education or are sufficiently broad that the mathematics component which is normally required for a degree with the Swedish classification ‘teknologie’ is not specified. The subjects are:

- Human Work Science
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Media Technology

Appendix E: Mathematics requirements for a degree with the Swedish classification ‘teknologie’

Appendix E to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

See section 4.

Admission requirements	Requirements for a Bachelor’s degree with the Swedish classification ‘teknologie’
Completed course level ‘C’ at Swedish upper secondary institution	15 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. A minimum of 10 of the 15 credit points should not be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.
Completed course level ‘D’ at Swedish upper secondary institution	10 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. None of the 10 credit points should be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.
Completed course level ‘E’ at Swedish upper secondary institution	10 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. None of the 10 credit points should be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.

Appendix F: list of subjects exempted from the general rules and regulations

Appendix F to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

Blekinge Institute of Technology has exempted the following from the general rules and regulations:

- The Master's programme in Spatial Planning is exempted from the stipulation that 10 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics are required for a degree with the Swedish classification 'teknologie'. The exemption is made on the basis of the tradition prevailing at other universities of technology with respect to the closely related subject architecture.

Appendix G: List of professional degrees

Appendix G to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

Blekinge Institute of Technology issues the following professional degrees:

- Bachelor of Science in xx Engineering (Högskoleingenjörsexamen)
- Master of Science in xx Engineering (Civilingenjörsexamen)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Sjuksköterskeexamen)
- Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Specialistsjuksköterskeexamen)
- University Diploma in Applied Technology (Yrkesteknisk examen)

The above degrees are awarded as follows:

- Bachelor of Science in Engineering in:
 - Computer Engineering (from the Computer Engineering programme)
 - Mechanical Engineering specialising in Development Technology
 - Mechanical Engineering specialising in Virtual Product Development and Design.
 - Software Engineering
- Master of Science in:
 - Computer Science and Engineering
 - Industrial Engineering and Management
 - Mechanical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Graduate Diploma in:
 - Emergency Care Specialist Nursing – Anaesthetic Nursing
 - Emergency Care Specialist Nursing – Intensive Care Nursing
 - Emergency Care Specialist Nursing – Prehospital Nursing
 - Emergency Care Specialist Nursing – Operating Room Nursing
 - Elderly Care Specialist Nursing
 - General Health Care Specialist Nursing – Medical Nursing
 - Primary Health Care Specialist Nursing
- University Diploma in Applied Technology in:
 - Construction/Production

Appendix H: Mathematics requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Högskoleingenjörsexamen)

Appendix H to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

See section 5.

Admission requirements	Requirements for a Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Högskoleingenjörsexamen)
Completed course level 'C' at Swedish upper secondary institution	15 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. A minimum of 10 of the 15 credit points should not be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.
Completed course level 'D' at Swedish upper secondary institution	10 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. None of the 10 credit points should be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.
Completed course level 'E' at Swedish upper secondary institution	10 credit points mathematics or applied mathematics from a university or university college. None of the 10 credit points should be at Swedish upper secondary course levels A-E.

Appendix I: Criteria for subject levels at Blekinge Institute of Technology

Appendix I to the Degree Ordinance at Blekinge Institute of Technology was approved by the Board for Undergraduate Studies at the Institute on 7 November 2002

The Blekinge Institute of Technology Board establishes new subjects. The Board for Undergraduate Studies is responsible for deciding if a given subject is to be offered as a primary or a secondary subject. In addition to the specific requirements governing the subjects to be offered at Master's level, the following criteria apply.

This appendix summarizes the essential criteria (N.B. it does not cover all the criteria) for determining which subjects are to be offered as secondary and primary subjects respectively. A distinction shall be made between Bachelor and Master's level with respect to the primary subject. The criteria are not complete as there may be other important reasons which need to be taken into consideration, e.g. the strategic significance of the subject for the Institute.

Once the criteria below are satisfied, the Board for Undergraduate Education makes the formal decision as to which subjects are to be classified as primary and secondary respectively. At Master's level, the Board for Undergraduate Education bases its decision on internal and external evaluations.

The criteria for a Master's degree without a major (magisternivå med ämnesbredd) are under compilation.

Secondary subject

For a subject to be classified as secondary there must be an instructor who has this subject as his/her speciality. It is also a stipulation that the institution responsible for teaching the subject or another institution at the Institute must be able to provide a substitute teacher if the main teacher is, for whatever reason, unable to teach the subject.

Bachelor's level

At Bachelor's level there must be at least two teachers able to supervise a Bachelor project. At least one of the two teachers must have a Ph.D. Over and above these two teachers there should be other teachers with the relevant subject knowledge. The institution should have active researchers within the field but it is not a criterion that it has postgraduate students within the subject. Documentation must be available testifying to the fact that the subject can be studied in sufficient breadth and depth. The subject must also be well-established at the Institute. Library resources should be available to ensure that sufficient literature is available within the subject area to successfully complete a Bachelor's project.

Master's level (Magisternivå med ämnesdjup)

A Master's subject must have a solid research foundation within the institution, i.e. the equivalent of two instructors with Ph.Ds, of whom one should be of senior lecturer status. There should also be an additional support teacher who has the necessary experience and knowledge for supervising a Master's project within the subject.

There should also be post-graduate students within the field. Post-graduates may be registered at another university or university college but be supervised by Blekinge Institute of Technology staff.

Documentation of the subject must testify to the breadth of teaching at undergraduate level and to depth within the research, i.e. research in general as well as research at the Institute within the subject area. A clear description of the subject must be included, clarifying in what way(s) the Master's subject provides greater in-depth study as compared with the corresponding undergraduate course at Blekinge Institute of Technology.

In addition, the Institute should have awarded Bachelor's degrees in the subject area for a minimum of 2 years. In special cases this criterion may be waived.

Library resources should be available to ensure that there is sufficient literature within the subject area to successfully complete a Master's project.