



**Reg. No. BTH 13-0229-2010**

## **System of Qualifications<sup>1</sup> for Blekinge Institute of Technology for first and second cycle higher education<sup>2</sup>**

This System of Qualifications was adopted by the Vice-Chancellor of Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) 2010-03-16 and supersedes the System of Qualifications Reg. No. 13-1277-2009 (dated 2009-10-05). Students who commenced their studies prior to 2007-07-01 are entitled to complete their education and receive their degree according to the Degree Ordinance in force at that time, but no later than 2015-06-30.

The appendixes to the System of Qualifications were adopted by the Board for Education of Blekinge Institute of Technology.

### **1. Introduction**

This document determines which qualifications will be issued at Blekinge Institute of Technology. The System of Qualifications is based on existing comprehensive regulatory schemes (See Chapter 2).

A student satisfying the stated requirements can be granted one of the qualifications that the Institute issues (See Chapters 4, 5 and 6).

This document also contains information regarding the main fields of study at the Institute (See Chapter 3), rules for the issuance of degree certificates and course certificates (See Chapter 7) and the procedure for appeals (See Chapter 8).

This System of Qualifications also has the following appendixes:

- Appendix 1: List of main fields of study and of professional qualifications at BTH.
- Appendix 2: Mathematics requirements for the additional designation “of Science” (*teknologie*).
- Appendix 3: Criteria for main fields of study at BTH.
- Appendix 4: Qualification descriptors

The above-mentioned appendixes may be revised independently of the main document.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the System of Qualifications was formerly called Degree Ordinance.

<sup>2</sup> This is a translation into English of the original Swedish version. Only the Swedish version is legally binding.

## 2. **Comprehensive rules and regulations**

The following national rules and regulations govern the System of Qualifications of the Institute at first- and second cycle levels: the Higher Education Act (HL 1:10–11), and the Higher Education Ordinance (HF 6:4–5, 15–17, 25–27, and Appendix 2).

At BTH, the organisation plan determines which bodies make decisions, including those decisions that relate to BTH's System of Qualifications.

## 3. **Main fields of study**

In the new Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, that applies to higher education as from 1 July 2007, the concept "main subject" in a qualification is replaced by "main field" or "main field of study". A main field of study can be broader or narrower than a subject, but can also consist of a traditional subject. The main fields of study at BTH are listed in Appendix 1.

The level of each course will be determined to be either first cycle or second cycle. Second-cycle education should be based on first-cycle education. The determination of cycles is linked to the chosen objectives of the course, forms of work and examination, course literature, special admission requirements or placement within the educational system. In addition, second-cycle studies differ from first-cycle studies in that the second-cycle student must be able to handle greater complexity with a larger degree of independence. The description of objectives in the System of Qualifications indicates general requirements for the qualifications at different cycles.

In the case of general qualifications, there should be a progressive specialisation in the main field of study. This is expressed in the following way according to the designations that have been recommended by the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF):

- G1N – first cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements
- G1F – first cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
- G1E – first cycle, contains specially designed degree project for Higher Education Diploma
  
- G2F – first cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
- G2E – first cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science
  
- GXX – first cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified
  
- A1N – second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
- A1F – second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

A1E – second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

A2E – second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

AXX – second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

Criteria for the main fields of study at the various levels are found in Appendix 3. These criteria should be viewed as guidelines in the establishment or evaluation of a main field of study at a certain level. The BTH University Board establishes the main fields of study.

#### **4. General qualifications**

Blekinge Institute of Technology awards the following general qualifications:

##### **Higher Education Diploma**

From the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance; System of Qualifications:

“A Higher Education Diploma is obtained after the student has completed course requirements of 120 higher education credits with a certain area of specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself.”

“For a Higher Education Diploma students must have completed an independent project (degree project) in their main field of study, within the framework of the course requirements”

Specific for BTH as a higher education institution:

Designation in Swedish: Högskoleexamen med inriktning mot ...  
(Eng. designation: Higher Education Diploma with specialization in ...)

The Higher Education Diploma requires at least 60 higher education credits in the specialization/main field of study, of which at least 7.5 higher education credits shall consist of an independent project (degree project) (G1E-level). Higher Education Diplomas are only granted pursuant to the programme syllabi and qualification descriptors that BTH has adopted.

##### **Bachelor's degree**

From the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance; System of Qualifications:

“A Degree of Bachelor is obtained after the student has completed course requirements of 180 higher education credits with a certain area of specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself,

including at least 90 higher education credits with progressive specialisation within the main field of study for the programme”.

“For a Degree of Bachelor the student must have completed an independent project (degree project) of at least 15 higher education credits in the main field of study for the programme, within the framework of the course requirements”.

Specific for BTH, as a higher education institution:

Designation in Swedish: Teknologie/Ekonomie/Filosofie kandidatexamen (Eng. designation: Bachelor of Science/Science in Business and Economics/Social Science/Arts)

The Degree of Bachelor requires at least 30 higher education credits at the G2-level in the main field of study, of which the independent project (Bachelor’s thesis) shall consist of at least 15 higher education credits (G2E-level). Bachelor’s degrees are only awarded pursuant to the programme syllabi and qualification descriptors that BTH has adopted.

Appendix 1 indicates the main fields of study in which the Institute issues Degrees of Bachelor.

### **Master’s degree (60 credits)**

From the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance; System of Qualifications:

“A Master’s degree (60 credits) is obtained after the student has completed course requirements of 60 higher education credits with a certain area of specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself, including at least 30 higher education credits with specialisation in the main field of study for the programme. In addition, the student must hold a Degree of Bachelor, a Degree of Bachelor of Arts in..., a professional qualification worth at least 180 higher education credits or an equivalent foreign qualification”.

“For a Master’s degree (60 credits) the student must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 15 higher education credits in the main field of study for the programme, within the framework of the course requirements”.

Specific for BTH, as a higher education institution:

Designation in Swedish: Teknologie/Ekonomie/Filosofie magisterexamen (Eng. designation: Master of Science/Science in Business and Economics/Social Science/Arts (60 credits))

The Master’s degree (60 credits) requires at least 30 higher education credits at second-cycle level in the main field of study, of which the independent

project (Master's thesis) shall be worth at least 15 higher education credits (A1E-level). Of the 60 higher education credits required for the degree, no more than 15 credits may be from the first cycle. Master's degrees (60 credits) are only granted pursuant to the programme syllabi and qualification descriptors that BTH has adopted.

Appendix 1 indicates the main fields of study in which the Institute issues Master's degree (60 credits).

### **Master's degree (120 credits)**

From the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance; System of Qualifications:

“A Master's degree (120 credits) is obtained after the student has completed course requirements of 120 higher education credits with a certain area of specialisation determined by each higher education institution itself, including at least 60 higher education credits with specialisation in the main field of study for the programme. In addition, the student must hold a Degree of Bachelor, a Degree of Bachelor of Arts in..., a professional qualification worth at least 180 higher education credits or an equivalent foreign qualification”.

”For a Master's degree (120 credits) the student must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 30 higher education credits in the main field of study, within the framework of the course requirements. The independent project may comprise less than 30 higher education credits, but not less than 15 higher education credits, if the student has already completed a second-cycle independent project worth at least 15 higher education credits in the main field of study, or an equivalent project in a foreign educational programme.”

Specific for BTH, as a higher education institution:

Designation in Swedish: Teknologie/Filosofie masterexamen  
(Eng. designation: Master of Science (120 credits))

The Master's degree (120 credits) requires at least 60 higher education credits at the second cycle in the main field of study, of which the independent project (Master's thesis) shall be at least 30 higher education credits (A2E-level). Of the 120 higher education credits required for the degree, no more than 30 credits may be from the first cycle. Master's degrees (120 credits) are only granted pursuant to the programme syllabi and qualification descriptors that BTH has adopted.

Appendix 1 indicates the main fields of study in which the Institute issues Master (Two Years).

## **5. Qualifications with specific additional designations**

The Bachelor's degree, Master's degree (60 credits) and Master's degree (120 credits) may be awarded with one of the additional designations below. For specified requirements of main field of study for each respective additional designation see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

Master of Science (120 credits)/Master of Science (60 credits)/Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science

Master of Science in Business and Economics (60 credits)/Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics

Master of Science (120 credits)/Master of Science (60 credits)/Bachelor of Science

## **6. Professional qualifications**

Objectives and requirements for professional qualifications are set out in Appendix 2 of the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance.

The professional qualifications that the Institute is entitled to award are listed in Appendix 1. Professional qualifications are defined by the course requirements indicated in each programme syllabus

In addition to the requirements of the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a Bachelor of Science in Engineering contain at least 15 higher education credits in Mathematics or Applied Mathematics, as well as at least 15 higher education credits in courses having a clear focus on skills training. This includes project courses and courses conducted in group form. The qualification must also include a first-cycle independent project (degree project) of 15 higher education credits.

In addition to the requirements in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a Master of Science in Engineering contain at least 30 higher education credits in Mathematics or Applied Mathematics, as well as at least 15 higher education credits in courses having a clear focus on skills training. This includes project courses and courses conducted in group form. The qualification must also include a second-cycle independent project (Master's thesis) of 30 higher education credits.

In addition to the requirements in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, BTH requires that a Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing contain an independent project (degree project) of at least 7.5 higher education credits.

Professional qualifications are only awarded pursuant to the programme syllabi for programmes established at BTH.

## **7. Issuance of degree and course certificates**

Degree certificates are issued in the manner decided by the Vice-Chancellor.

Degree and course certificates should indicate the title of the course, the number of higher education credits, the grade, the date of the grade and the grade scale, as well as, when applicable, previous education of activities that are counted as part of the degree.

Only completed courses may be included in a degree.

BTH's degree certificate includes a translation into English, which is the only language for which BTH issues a translation of the degree certificate.

Degree and course certificates are issued after the completion of course requirements and a subsequently submitted written request.

## **8. Appeal of denial of application for a certificate**

Students can appeal decisions denying a student's request for the issuance of a degree or course certificate to:

Överklagandenämnden för högskolan (ÖNH) (The Higher Education Appeals Board)

The appeal is submitted to:

Registrary

Blekinge Institute of Technology

371 70 Karlskrona

Sweden

Note: The Higher Education Appeals Board is a government agency empowered to hear appeals of certain decisions made by the higher education sector and the sector for post-secondary vocational education and training. Decisions of the Higher Education Appeals Board may not be appealed. For further information, visit [www.onh.se](http://www.onh.se).