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# BTH's vision and strategy 2021-2025

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## I. Our DNA

Blekinge Institute of Technology, BTH, has a national mission to contribute knowledge, expertise and innovation, and our organisation is characterised to a high degree by internationalisation. BTH conducts education and research in fields in which society has major needs. We are driven by application and external engagement and, through our national and international collaborations, we contribute to developing Blekinge as a region of knowledge and growth.

BTH's profile is digitalisation and sustainability, which permeate our activities and are supported by the core subjects of information technology, engineering, spatial planning, leadership and health. Through international excellence, we contribute to digital and sustainable transformation. As an institute of technology, we have a responsibility and a unique opportunity to make our contribution to both regional and national competitiveness and to global sustainability.

External engagement with wider society and the private sector contribute to making us more attractive and ensuring that our education and research maintain high quality and relevance. Equally important is our internal collaboration, in which we use our various areas of expertise to break new ground and solve new problems. BTH is characterised by proximity and flexibility and acts fast as the world around us changes. Our strength lies in our employees and students, and together, we create an inviting and inspiring learning and work environment characterised by openness, curiosity and respect. In addition, we have Sweden's most beautifully located campus, close to the sea in Karlskrona and in Karlshamn.

The world around us is changing fast and the need for knowledge, expertise and innovation to meet societal challenges is growing. In the next couple of years, BTH makes a clear move to reinforce its position as an enabler of a better future. It is mainly a question of clarifying our profile, our culture and our identity as an innovative and focused higher education institution, able to rapidly mobilise collective forces to make a difference.

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## 2. Our profile

BTH's profile is digitalisation and sustainability.

### **We work for digitalisation by:**

Developing and transmitting knowledge about technologies, processes and methods that enable a digital society.

Developing and transmitting knowledge about how digitalisation and its consequences can contribute to a better and more sustainable society.

Developing our organisation and our support using new digital technologies and associated working methods.

### **We work for sustainability by:**

Providing students with knowledge and understanding of how they can contribute to sustainable development in their future professions and giving them the conditions to develop their ability to evaluate and address sustainable development issues.

Maintaining high societal relevance in our research, thereby developing knowledge and expertise to support sustainable development.

Being an example in our own operations, with high ambitions on issues such as energy use, purchasing, travel, and a work environment for staff and students characterised by trust, meaning and diversity.

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### 3. Our vision

BTH is a knowledge-driven organisation centred on utility and application, and as such we are a driving force in the transition to a sustainable and more digital society. Our vision is therefore:

A better world through knowledge, competence and innovation in digitalisation and sustainability.

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## 4. Our objectives and strategic choices

### 4.1 Education

BTH offers profession-oriented study programmes within the disciplinary fields of engineering and health. The study programmes are of high quality, student-centred and linked to research, and intended for both national and international students. With a degree from BTH, students create conditions for society's development in digitalisation and sustainability. Their specific disciplinary knowledge combines with generic abilities to meet the current and future skills requirements of employers.

Overarching goal: BTH has attractive profession-oriented study programmes focused on society's future needs and challenges, conducted in close collaboration with society-at-large.

BTH has excellent and relevant study programmes in engineering and health. Our educational volume shows qualitative organic growth and we expect to have around 4000 full-time students in 2030. The range of education we offer is planned strategically and for the long term, ensuring a portfolio of attractive and unique programmes and courses that meet society's challenges and the needs of industry and other organisations. Study programmes form the core of the educational range on offer and single subject courses and course packages complement this range, offering students opportunities for individual profiling and expertise.

The majority of our students study in the first cycle, where most of our courses are offered in Swedish. In years two and three, a range of courses offered in English invites student exchanges and internationalisation. Second cycle programmes are based on our strong research fields and ensure that we have complete environments. The student body consists of both Swedish and international students from various countries, and the proportion of fee-paying students is one fifth of the total. In order to create a lively campus, our educational range mainly consists of campus-based study programmes, complemented by a number of distance learning programmes to offer flexibility and broader participation.

BTH has modern educational methods focusing on a varied, flexible and digital approach to learning for both campus-based and distance learning students. Our teaching staff possess solid disciplinary and teaching expertise, and strive for both research and teaching excellence. The forms of learning are based on the needs, knowledge and experience of our students. The educational environment supports the students in developing into good colleagues, leaders and innovators with the ability to predict and generate changes in the business sector and in society.

## 4.2 Research and PhD studies

BTH conducts research focused on digitalisation and sustainability. There is a strong link between research, education and BTH's collaboration with companies, public authorities and other societal stakeholders. The objective is to solve society's challenges, and the three tasks provide mutually beneficial conditions for achieving this.

Overarching goal: BTH's research has high relevance and impact, is focused on society's needs and challenges, and is usually conducted in collaboration with industry and society.

BTH's research maintains high international quality and, through relevant interdisciplinary projects, receives extensive external funding. We have a broad funding portfolio and a significant proportion of research in the total range of activities. There is a strong disciplinary link between research and education, and a large part of the research is conducted in collaboration with national and international partners. Through our national and international collaborations, we contribute to developing the region.

Doctoral education enjoy good conditions in the form of qualified supervisors and a relevant range of third cycle courses. PhD studies are conducted within set timeframes in environments with a critical mass. A significant proportion of our PhD students conduct part of their studies in collaboration with a higher education institution or research institute outside the country. Many PhD students are part of national or Nordic graduate schools or equivalent networks for research studies.

BTH's research contributes to a lively campus through popular science lectures that are open to staff, students, collaboration partners and the general public. Our research activities generate attractiveness for staff and students and contribute to successful recruitment.

### 4.3 Operational prerequisites

To enable BTH to conduct high-quality first, second and third cycle education as well as research in the best possible way requires staff with the right expertise, relevant support functions in various fields, an adaptation of the infrastructure and a good work environment with a positive working atmosphere. The organisation's needs and the demands placed on us as a well-run and financially sound public authority are to govern our prioritisations.

Overarching goal: BTH is a well-run public authority which offers staff and students needs-driven conditions of high quality to conduct first, second and third cycle education as well as research.

The organisation's prerequisites comprise the staff, work processes and infrastructures that support, govern and develop the organisation with high quality and ensure that BTH lives up to the demands placed on a public authority. BTH's profile entails that the higher education institution is an example in digitalisation and sustainability, which is visible in our own operations, our activities and our work environment. BTH has a student-centred approach characterised by digital maturity, high quality and efficiency in various support processes and working methods.

A central element is to offer a physically attractive study and work environment, spacially as well as digitally. The environments are inviting and characterised by flexibility. They provide space for creativity and learning while offering cutting-edge technical equipment that meets the organisation's requirements and our sustainability goals. Our campuses are reinforced in terms of content and design centred on integration with the city in order to offer a more lively physical environment.

BTH has a responsive and courageous leadership that enables necessary change to drive the organisation and its prerequisites forward. The working atmosphere is inspiring and inclusive, and permeated by gender equality and equal opportunities for students and staff. A critical success factor for BTH is its ability to recruit and retain staff and students. Excellent conditions for the education and research create a strong brand which attracts students, staff and collaborative partners.

BTH has a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship with a strong will to dare to test new approaches. To provide BTH with greater flexibility within the framework of a public authority, new forms of effective utilisation in collaboration with external partners are explored. This reinforces our ability to safeguard the innovative power of our students and staff.

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