

# **KTH Ethics Policy**

## **KTH basic values**

KTH operations rest on a foundation of ethics based on human rights, democracy and free, open debate. The conviction that technical/scientific research and education are able to contribute to a better life situation for individual people, sustainable development and the improved functioning of society plays a vital role for all KTH activities. KTH works to implement free exchange of information and for national and international cooperation. Gender equality and repudiation of all forms of discrimination are a self-evident part of the KTH value platform.

## **Undergraduate education at KTH should be:**

... designed so that students and teachers together work to ensure the student achieves established educational goals. Both parties must be committed to the attainment of these goals.

... characterised by mutual respect between student and teacher.

... implemented demanding considerable commitment from the teacher and work input from the student. It is in their mutual interest that a degree from KTH is perceived as a guarantee of quality.

... carried out with zero tolerance of all forms of partiality, plagiarism, prohibited exertion of influence or pressure or other impropriety during teaching, project activities, examinations etc.

.... designed so that students, after completed undergraduate studies, are familiar with basic ethical concepts and their application to problems and opportunities within the relevant area of education.

.... supported by all KTH personnel in order to, in an innovative fashion, cooperate with teachers to produce educational inputs of high quality.

.... implemented through well-functioning coordination between different organisational units and employees as concerns all aspects of study, from application for entrance to awarding of degree.

## **Research at KTH should:**

...aim at maintaining high levels of scientific quality and achieving international recognition.

...aim at systematically and critically searching for new knowledge. Knowledge that is intended to increase understanding of the world and knowledge that has relevance for social development.

...whenever suitable for the task at hand, carry out activities in cooperation with the rest of society, including companies working with technical development.

...always be carried out in such a manner so as not to expose the integrity of the research or the researcher to risk of any kind. Any connections to commercial or other interests, which may cause a conflict of interest or credibility, must be openly reported. Expert advice, participation in debates, authorship of popular scientific works etc. which is connected to the researcher and teacher roles must be characterised by objectivity and integrity.

...be carried out without tolerance for any form of plagiarism, exertion of undue influence or other impropriety. This includes providing proper and correct references and stating any indebtedness to the work and efforts of others.

...be carried out with the aim of publication in scientific journals and books in both traditional and IT-based publishing forms.

... be published or reported in such a manner that the efforts of colleagues are recognised to a degree equivalent to their scientific contributions. Co-authorship means joint responsibility for the material published.

...when other people are involved, be carried out with respect for the individual's autonomy and personal integrity.

...when animals are involved, include a thorough animal experiment ethical review.

### **Doctoral studies at KTH should:**

... be designed so that students and teachers together work to ensure the student achieves established educational goals. Both parties must be committed to the attainment of these goals.

...be led by a supervisor (or a supervisory group) with good levels of competence within the relevant research field and who are sensitive to the interests and views of the doctoral student within the framework of any project goals.

...be supervised taking into consideration the doctoral student's relationship of dependence as concerns his/her supervisor.

...be characterised by mutual respect between the doctoral student and supervisor.

...lead to the doctoral student developing his/her independence and, after graduation, possessing the capacity to carry out research of good scientific quality.

... be carried out with zero tolerance of all forms of partiality, plagiarism, prohibited exertion of influence or pressure or other impropriety during teaching and examinations.

...ensure that the doctoral student, after graduation, is well versed in the ethical problems relevant to his/her own research field.

## **Management, employees and students should:**

.... treat each other with respect regardless of ethnicity, disability, gender, religion, role, sexual orientation, social background or age.

.... be aware of and comply with the legislation, regulations and local rules relevant to student activities.

.... strive to maintain KTH's good name and reputation for example through, when they feel it is necessary, utilising their right to express their point of view and openly discuss issues that affect KTH, both in-house and externally.

.... when they come into contact with sensitive personal information, for example examination results or personal details concerning participants in experiments, manage such information with respect for the personal integrity of those involved.

... make efforts to achieve a good working environment and good relationships between and among employees and students. Management tasks must always be carried out with respect for other employees and the knowledge of their dependency situation.

... continuously work to develop management and co-workership.

... strive for an organisation where decisions are made in a manner characterised by openness, clarity, objectivity and codetermination.