

Reference Guide – Doctoral students

Latest update: 2021-04-14, Åsa Agréus, Human Resources Department

RULES AND REFERENCES

- [Doctoral education at Karolinska](#)

DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIP (Swedish: doktorandanställning)

	Section of law/collective agreement	Salary/amount/other information	Agreement	
Doctoral studentship	<p><i>The Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 5 Section 3-7</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First appointment no more than 1 year. • May be extended by 2 years at a time. • Employment no more than 8 years (when employed at 50 %) or no more than 4 years (when employed at 100 %). • Employment to no longer than one year after receiving a PhD.¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary in accordance with Doctoral student ladder (salary-setting principles for Doctoral students) • Scope 50 - 100 % • Employment conditions in accordance with agreements • Deduction is made from the maximum period of employment (ie included in the total employment time) for study time when the doctoral student had other funding eg. received an external scholarship or educational grant (UBB). 	In Swedish: Villkorsavtal	
<p>Doctoral student ladder Valid from 4 April 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum salary for registered doctoral student on an active level (parental leave included) as follows. • For doctoral students with a 5 year study plan (students with 20 % teaching and/or other department duties) the salary is increased after 15, 30 and 45 months. • For doctoral students on part-time level (50 % of full-time) the salary is increased after 24, 48 and 72 months. • Upon completion of dissertation, the salary is adjusted the month after the dissertation. 			
	Month	Without medical degree	With medical degree²	Medical doctor with Swedish license to practice/ Dentist with Swedish license to practice and 2 years of practice after medical school
	1-12	27 900 SEK	30 600 SEK	33 000 SEK
	13-24	28 400 SEK	31 100 SEK	33 500 SEK
	25-36	30 700 SEK	33 400 SEK	35 800 SEK
	From 37	31 200 SEK	33 900 SEK	36 300 SEK
	After PhD	32 700 SEK (+ one-off payment 3 000 SEK)	35 400 SEK (+ one-off payment 3 000 SEK)	37 800 SEK (+ one-off payment 3 000 SEK)

¹ The term can be extended under special circumstances. Special circumstances refer to leave from work due to illness, service in the Swedish Armed Forces, commission of trust in union organizations or student organizations or maternity/paternity leave.

² For the interpretation of a doctoral degree regarding a foreign exam, the following applies. HR at the department is responsible for examining whether the employee has stated in the CV that he or she has a doctorate or is a registered doctor or dentist. Medical examinations from EU and EEA countries are always considered equivalent to Swedish medical education according to the National Board of Health and Welfare. Assessment of doctoral degrees from other countries is done by the head of department. If a doctoral student does not accept the prefect assessment or the prefect can not make the assessment, the doctoral candidate may apply for a foreign exam examination at the National Board of Health and Welfare. An approval will be valid from the date the decision is taken by the National Board of Health and Welfare and the salary supplement will be paid from this date. If an employee has not received salary according to the PhD student steps, he or she shall immediately inform HR at the department.

Reference Guide – Doctoral students

DOCTORAL STUDENT WITH EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIP

A doctoral student who commences his education with scholarship funding shall be employed when, according to the individual study plan, there is a duration of three years of full-time doctoral education until PhD. Please note that this provision applies only to doctoral student admitted from 1 July 2018. Exceptions may be made if the grant is provided in the context of a development assistance program or if the grant is provided in the framework of a European Union-funded program or other cooperation.

Doctoral students on scholarships must have at least the same income levels as other doctoral students. If the external scholarship is too low, the doctoral student will receive an additional scholarship from KI or a supplementary employment.

Income levels change over time as they are linked to the development of other doctoral students' remuneration levels (doctoral students' salary levels).

The amounts from 1 April 2021 are calculated according to the doctoral student's level without a doctor's degree for years 1, 2, 3 and 4, less tax deductions according to the table for Solna municipality 2021 ([tax table 29 column 1](#)) If the student rate is 50%, the amounts may be halved. Corresponding calculation shall be made if a doctoral student has a doctorate or is a registered doctor or registered dentist with 2 years of public service.

For more information on scholarships, see [Scholarship regulations at KI](#)

Minimum income levels (valid from 1 April 2021):

- Minimum level for year 1: 27 900 – 5 667 = 22 233 SEK a month
- Minimum level for year 2: 28 400 – 5 770 = 22 630 SEK a month
- Minimum level for year 3: 30 700 – 6 383 = 24 317 SEK a month
- Minimum level for year 4: 31 200 – 6 485 = 24 715 SEK a month

- Same level all 4 years: 23 474 SEK a month

Compensation for postdoctors with scholarships

KI-established scholarships for postdoctors are recommended at a maximum of 33,000 kr / month. A higher amount can be paid exceptionally and the reason must be documented in the scholarship decision. The lowest income level for postdoctors with scholarships is recommended to be the highest income levels after tax in the local collective agreements for doctoral students.

Reference Guide – Doctoral students

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN CASE OF ILLNESS AND PARENTAL LEAVE

	Parental leave pay and Sickness pay	Insurances	Pension	Care and medicines	Vacation	Health promotion
Doctoral studentship	Yes. See Parental leave pay and If you get ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury insurance Business travel insurance Occupational injury insurance (PSA) Group life insurance See Insurance	Yes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swedish public pension Occupational pension See Pension	Yes. See If you get ill	Yes. See Vacation .	Yes. See Health promotion
Scholarship	Yes. See HF 1 kap. 11c § . See Insurance coverage for scholarship holders	Insurance from Kammarkollegiet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal injury insurance (students) Insurance for doctoral students with stipends that applies in the event of absence from studies, with illness or maternity leave in case of withdrawn scholarship for these reasons. See Insurance coverage for scholarship holders	No	No. See Insurance coverage for scholarship holders and Patientavgifter och högkostnadskort .	No. Scholarship holders have no formally regulated vacation since they are not employed. The scope and time of the leave should be regulated in the individual study plan.	Partially. Scholarship holders are allowed to use the KI-gym in Campus Huddinge and Campus Solna and to participate in healthpromoting workshops and courses. See Health promotion