

Department of Computer and Information science IDA

IDA is the Swedish abbreviation for the Department of Computer and Information Science, at Linköping University, Sweden. IDA was founded in 1983, but the roots go back to the early seventies. It is one of the largest departments for computer and information science in northern Europe, with 190 employees of which 68 are faculty members (PhDs), including 26 full professors.

Approximately 60 postgraduate students are enrolled in the department's PhD programmes, including two thirds doctoral students holding salaried positions.

Research at IDA covers a broad spectrum of topics from core computer science to applications, including theoretical computer science, programming environments, software engineering, real-time and embedded systems, artificial intelligence, information security, databases, information systems, computational linguistics, cognitive science, interaction and service design, autonomous systems and statistics.

IDA offers around 15-20 PhD courses every year, and our broad research base directly enriches our undergraduate and graduate education. We give courses within most engineering programmes, several Master programmes, as well as the programmes for innovative programming, cognitive science and statistics.

IDA is organized into five divisions, each with responsibility for both research and teaching. They include:

- **ADIT:** Database and Information Techniques, Prof. Nahid Shahmehri, nahid.shahmehri@liu.se.
- **AIICS:** Artificial Intelligence and Integrated Computer Systems, Prof. Patrick Doherty, patrick.doherty@liu.se.
- **HCS:** Human-Centered Systems, Prof. Arne Jönsson, arne.jonsson@liu.se.
- **STIMA:** Division of Statistics and Machine Learning, Prof. Mattias Villani, mattias.villani@liu.se
- **SaS:** Software and Systems, Prof. Christoph Kessler, christoph.kessler@liu.se.

Contact information

For general information about the department, see the department home page at

<http://www.ida.liu.se/>

For specific information about PhD studies and the various PhD subjects, content of PhD courses, etc., please contact the director of graduate studies

Prof, Petru Eles, petru.eles@liu.se

For general information about applications to PhD studies, financial support, working and residence permits and other administrative questions, please contact the coordinator of graduate studies administration

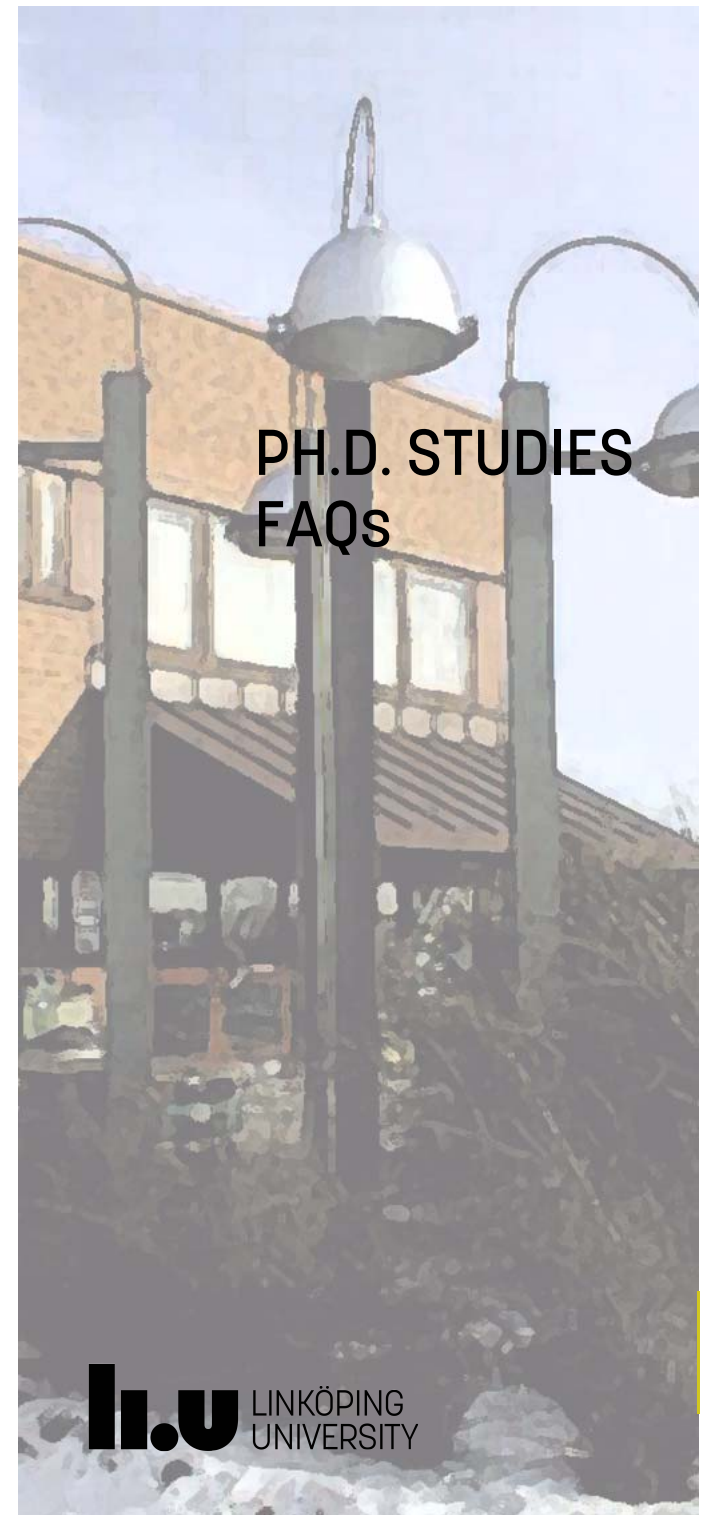
Anne Moe, anne.moe@liu.se

For information about our international master's programs please consult our web

<https://www.liu.se/en/education/master/>

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What do PhD students do?

A: PhD students are usually involved in two main activities: the writing of a PhD thesis, and taking PhD courses. Writing a PhD thesis usually implies taking part in research projects conducted by one of our research groups.

Q: How long does it take to finish a PhD?

A: Each of the activities above amounts to approximately two years of full-time work, but since most PhD students are also involved in up to 20 per cent teaching the total expected time to obtain a PhD is 5 years.

Q: What do IDA PhDs do after graduation?

A: There are a great variety of careers available to graduates. Some of our PhDs have become lecturers and professors at IDA; others secure positions with other universities in Sweden and abroad, for instance at MIT and Yale. Approximately half of our PhDs are now working for industry, in Sweden and abroad.

Q: What is a licentiate degree?

A: The licentiate degree is a degree half-way between a master's degree and a PhD; it amounts to one year of PhD courses, and one year of thesis work (excluding teaching). Most people who complete the PhD degree first complete the licentiate degree and then spend two more years on PhD courses and thesis work.

Q: How do I identify the subject of my thesis?

A: The subject of your thesis is typically decided jointly by yourself and your supervisor. All PhD students have one main supervisor and one second supervisor. In addition many PhD students also have an advisory committee consisting of the main supervisor and several additional supervisors.

Q: How do I finance my studies?

A: There is no tuition fee. In fact, almost every PhD student in the department is employed as a "doctorand" and has a salary. A doctorand position is typically renewed one year at a time, and is limited to a maximum of 4 years (excluding teaching).

Q: What are the requirements for becoming a PhD student?

A: Every PhD student is admitted to a subject area, and each subject area has its own requirements. In order to be eligible you should have at least the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree plus an additional year of specialization in the subject area (Master's degree) - or 240 ECTS with 60 ECTS on advanced level.

Q: What PhD subject areas can I be admitted to?

There are four PhD subject areas: computer science (datalogi), design, cognitive science (kognitionsvetenskap) and statistics (statistik).

Q: Are there any admission tests?

A: No, there are no formal admission tests but you have to satisfy the requirements described above, and there is a general examination including e.g. interviews.

Q: What research areas are covered by IDA?

A: Research at IDA covers a broad spectrum of topics from core computer science to applications, including theoretical computer science, programming environments, software engineering, real-time and embedded systems, artificial intelligence, information security, databases, information systems, computational linguistics, cognitive science, interaction and service design, autonomous systems and statistics.

Q: I have one course to complete before I get my degree. Can I become a PhD student?

A: No, not formally. But you can be admitted to a temporary position until you get your degree. You may take part in PhD courses, and the credits will be registered as soon as you become a PhD student.

Q: How much teaching does a PhD student do?

A: Everyone who has a full-time "doctorand" position should devote at least 80 per cent of the time to PhD courses and thesis work. Hence, up to 20 per cent can be devoted to teaching.

Q: What about social benefits?

A: If you have a "doctorand" position you have all the benefits of other employees; pension, social security etc.

Q: What about other benefits?

A: Most PhD students have an office of their own, usually close to their supervisor, equipped with modern workstations and/or PCs. We also encourage PhD students to participate in national and international conferences.

Q: Do I have to speak Swedish?

A: In general no. Most Swedes speak English well, and almost everybody at the university is fluent in English. However, Swedish courses are available, and we strongly encourage everyone to learn Swedish to better interact with the local environment.

Q: Is there an international master's program?

A: Yes, there are international master's programs in different areas. See the contact information or our web pages:
<https://www.liu.se/en/education/master/>

Q: Where can I get information about courses?

A: The PhD course program is a mixture of regular courses, given every or every other year, and temporary courses. The courses for this academic year (and previous years) can be found on our home page.

Q: How do I apply for a PhD position?

A: The best advice is to get in contact with one or two of our researchers and/or one of the division heads before you apply. For students from Linköping, the master's project is usually a good way to get started. If you do not know whom to contact you may get advice from the director of graduate studies (see the contact information). PhD positions are announced on our home page where you also can find instructions on how to apply, when positions are open.