

System Biology and Modelling, Bachelor Project

Systembiologisk modellering, kandidatprojekt

16 credits

Programme course

TBMT33

Valid from: 2025 Spring semester

Determined by	Main field of study	
Board of Studies for Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnology	Biotechnology	
Date determined	Course level	Progressive specialisation
2024-08-28	First cycle	G2E
Revised by	Disciplinary domain	
	Technology	
Revision date	Subject group	
	Biotechnology	
Offered first time	Offered for the last time	
Spring semester 2014		
Department	Replaced by	
Institutionen för medicinsk teknik		

Specific information

This course is not available for exchange students

Course offered for

- Master of Science in Engineering Biology

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, see tab Common rules, headline Commencing a degree project. Apart from that, the student needs to have knowledge in programming and problem solving and biochemistry.

To start with the actual project part of the course, the student must have basic understanding of systems biology. If the student does not have a basic understanding, the student is expected to perform an additional preparatory task before starting the project.

Intended learning outcomes

Individual and professional skills: The student is expected to show an ability to

- plan, carry out, and present an independent project
- formulate research questions and limit a project so that it can be carried out within the given time-frame
- answer scientific questions using systems biology methods
- demonstrate familiarity with software relevant to the project
- search and evaluate scientific literature
- show a basic understanding for reproducibility in research

Group work and communication: The student is expected to show an ability to

- contribute to a well-functioning group process.
- express himself/herself professionally both in writing and in oral presentations, within all the different examination forms: group-presentation for the customer, oral presentation (3 in total), poster presentation, and a written thesis
- to critically examine and discuss, both in writing and at a presentation event, another thesis.

CDIO professionalism: The student is expected to be able to

- put the work in relation to its scientific, societal, and ethical consequences

Course content

The student is expected to systematically integrate their knowledge acquired in biology, biochemistry, mathematics, programming, and general problem-solving. This is achieved by addressing a systems biology research question, where the student uses mathematical modeling to answer a scientific question based on real biological data that has not been previously addressed.

Other types of projects within the field of biotechnology may also be proposed, provided that the student finds a suitable supervisor on their own.

Teaching and working methods

The course consists of an independent project. A supervisor and an examiner are appointed for each student/group of students. The practical work is usually conducted in pairs during daily activities. Each project is connected to 1–3 other projects within a broader project framework. Each project addresses a new research question each year.

The course runs throughout the spring semester.

Examination

UPG1 Opposition	1 credits	U, G
PRA1 Project work with poster presentation, written report, etc	15 credits	U, G

The project work includes a written report, a poster, a group presentation for the client, an oral presentation, and a reflection document

Grades are given as 'Fail' or 'Pass'.

Grades for examination modules are decided in accordance with the assessment criteria presented at the start of the course.

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Grades

Two grade scale, older version, U, G

Other information

About teaching and examination language

The teaching language is presented in the Overview tab for each course. The examination language relates to the teaching language as follows:

- If teaching language is “Swedish”, the course as a whole could be given in Swedish, or partly in English. Examination language is Swedish, but parts of the examination can be in English.
- If teaching language is “English”, the course as a whole is taught in English. Examination language is English.
- If teaching language is “Swedish/English”, the course as a whole will be taught in English if students without prior knowledge of the Swedish language participate. Examination language is Swedish or English depending on teaching language.

Other

The course is conducted in such a way that there are equal opportunities with regard to sex, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation and age.

The planning and implementation of a course should correspond to the course syllabus. The course evaluation should therefore be conducted with the course syllabus as a starting point.

The course is campus-based at the location specified for the course, unless otherwise stated under “Teaching and working methods”. Please note, in a campus-based course occasional remote sessions could be included.

Common rules

Course syllabus

A syllabus must be established for each course. The syllabus specifies the aim and contents of the course, and the prior knowledge that a student must have in order to be able to benefit from the course.

Timetabling

Program courses are timetabled after a decision has been made for this course concerning its assignment to a timetable module. Single subject courses can be timetabled at other times.

Interruption in and deregistration from a course

The LiU decision, Guidelines concerning confirmation of participation in education, Dnr LiU-2020-02256 (<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/764582>), states that interruptions in study are to be recorded in Ladok. Thus, all students who do not participate in a course for which they have registered are therefore obliged to report the interruption so that this can be noted in Ladok. Deregistration from or interrupting a course is carried out using a [Web-based form](#).

Cancelled courses and changes to the course syllabus

Courses with few participants (fewer than 10) may be cancelled or organised in a manner that differs from that stated in the course syllabus. The Dean is to deliberate and decide whether a course is to be cancelled or changed from the course syllabus. For single subject courses, the cancellation must be done before students are admitted to the course (in accordance with LiUs regulation Dnr LiU-2022-01200, <https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622645>).

Guidelines relating to examinations and examiners

For details, see Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, Dnr LiU-2023-00379 (<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>).

An examiner must be employed as a teacher at LiU according to the LiU Regulations for Appointments, Dnr LiU-2022-04445 (<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622784>). For courses in second-cycle, the following teachers can be appointed as examiner: Professor (including Adjunct and Visiting Professor), Associate Professor (including Adjunct), Senior Lecturer (including Adjunct and Visiting Senior Lecturer), Research Fellow, or Postdoc. For courses in first-cycle, Assistant Lecturer (including Adjunct and Visiting Assistant Lecturer) can also be appointed as examiner in addition to those listed for second-cycle courses. In exceptional

cases, a Part-time Lecturer can also be appointed as an examiner at both first- and second cycle, see Delegation of authority for the Board of Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Forms of examination

Principles for examination

Written and oral examinations and digital and computer-based examinations are held at least three times a year: once immediately after the end of the course, once in August, and once (usually) in one of the re-examination periods. Examinations held at other times are to follow a decision of the faculty programme board.

Principles for examination scheduling for courses that follow the study periods:

- courses given in VT1 are examined for the first time in March, with re-examination in June and August
- courses given in VT2 are examined for the first time in May, with re-examination in August and January
- courses given in HT1 are examined for the first time in October, with re-examination in January and August
- courses given in HT2 are examined for the first time in January, with re-examination in March and in August.

The examination schedule is based on the structure of timetable modules, but there may be deviations from this, mainly in the case of courses that are studied and examined for several programmes and in lower grades (i.e. 1 and 2).

Examinations for courses that the faculty programme board has decided are to be held in alternate years are held three times during the school year in which the course is given according to the principles stated above.

Examinations for courses that are cancelled or rescheduled such that they are not given in one or several years are held three times during the year that immediately follows the course, with examination scheduling that corresponds to the scheduling that was in force before the course was cancelled or rescheduled.

When a course, or a written or oral examination (TEN, DIT, DAT, MUN), is given for the last time, the regular examination and two re-examinations will be offered. Thereafter, examinations are phased out by offering three examinations during the following academic year at the same times as the examinations in any substitute course. The exception is courses given in the period HT1, where the three examination occasions are January, March and August. If there is no substitute course, three examinations will be offered during re-examination periods during the following academic year. Other examination times are decided by the faculty programme board. In all cases above, the examination is also offered one more time during the academic year after the following, unless the faculty programme board decides otherwise. In total, 6 re-examinations are offered, of which 2 are regular re-examinations. In the examination registration system, the examinations given for the penultimate time and the last time are denoted.

If a course is given during several periods of the year (for programmes, or on different occasions for different programmes) the faculty programme board or boards determine together the scheduling and frequency of re-examination occasions.

For single subject courses, written and oral examinations can be held at other times.

Retakes of other forms of examination

Regulations concerning retakes of other forms of examination than written examinations and digital and computer-based examinations are given in the LiU guidelines for examinations and examiners, Dnr LiU-2023-00379 (<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>).

Course closure

For Decision on Routines for Administration of the Discontinuation of Educational Programs, Freestanding Courses and Courses in Programs, see Dnr LiU-2021-04782 (<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/1156410>). After a decision on closure and after the end of the discontinuation period, the students are referred to a replacement course (or similar) according to information in the course syllabus or programme syllabus. If a student has passed some part/parts of a closed program course but not all, and there is an at least partially replacing course, an assessment of crediting can be made. For questions about the crediting of course components, contact the Study councillors.

Registration for examination

In order to take an written, digital or computer-based examination, registration in advance is mandatory, see decision in the university's rule book Dnr LiU-2020-04559 (<https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622682>). An unregistered student can thus not be offered a place. The registration is done at the Student Portal or in the LiU-app during the registration period. The registration period opens 30 days before the date of the examination and closes 10 days before the date of the examination. Candidates are informed of the location of the examination by email, four days in advance.

Code of conduct for students during examinations

Details are given in a decision in the university's rule book, Dnr LiU-2020-04559 (<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622682>).

Retakes for higher grade

Students at the Institute of Technology at LiU have the right to retake written examinations and digital and computer-based examinations in an attempt to achieve a higher grade. This is valid for all examination components with code "TEN", "DIT" and "DAT". The same right may not be exercised for other examination components, unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus.

A retake is not possible on courses that are included in an issued degree diploma.

Grades

The grades that are preferably to be used are Fail (U), Pass (3), Pass not without distinction (4) and Pass with distinction (5).

- Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for courses that have written or digital examinations.
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded for courses with a large degree of practical components such as laboratory work, project work and group work.
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) are to be used for degree projects and other independent work.

Examination components

The following examination components and associated module codes are used at the Faculty of Science and Engineering:

- Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for written examinations (TEN) and digital examinations (DIT).
- Examination components for which the grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded are laboratory work (LAB), project work (PRA), preparatory written examination (KTR), digital preparatory written examination (DIK), oral examination (MUN), computer-based examination in a computer lab (DAT), digital preparatory written examination in a computer lab (DAK), home assignment (HEM), and assignment (UPG).
- Students receive grades either Fail (U) or Pass (G) for other examination components in which the examination criteria are satisfied principally through active attendance such as tutorial group (BAS) or examination item (MOM).
- Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) are to be used for the examination components Opposition (OPPO) and Attendance at thesis presentation (AUSK) (i.e. part of the degree project).

In general, the following applies:

- Mandatory course components must be scored and given a module code.
- Examination components that are not scored, cannot be mandatory. Hence, it is voluntary to participate in these examinations, and the voluntariness must be clearly stated. Additionally, if there are any associated conditions to the examination component, these must be clearly stated as well.
- For courses with more than one examination component with grades U,3,4,5, it shall be clearly stated how the final grade is weighted.

For mandatory components, the following applies (in accordance with the LiU Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, Dnr LiU-2023-00379

<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>):

- If special circumstances prevail, and if it is possible with consideration of the nature of the compulsory component, the examiner may decide to replace the compulsory component with another equivalent component.

For possibilities to alternative forms of examinations, the following applies (in accordance with the LiU Guidelines for education and examination for first-cycle and second-cycle education at Linköping University, Dnr LiU-2023-00379 <http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/917592>):

- If the LiU coordinator for students with disabilities has granted a student the right to an adapted examination for a written examination in an examination hall, the student has the right to it.
- If the coordinator has recommended for the student an adapted examination or alternative form of examination, the examiner may grant this if the examiner assesses that it is possible, based on consideration of the course objectives.
- An examiner may also decide that an adapted examination or alternative form of examination if the examiner assessed that special circumstances prevail, and the examiner assesses that it is possible while maintaining the objectives of the course.

Reporting of examination results

The examination results for a student are reported at the relevant department.

Degree projects (included in Term 6 of study programmes in engineering)

General provisions

All study programmes in engineering (with the exception of the programme in Industrial Engineering and Management – International and the programme in Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering – International) have since 2014 included an obligatory degree project. The project undertaken may also be included as part of the Bachelor of Science (Technology). During Term 6 of each programme, one or several special courses are given that constitute degree projects. The syllabuses of these courses contain course-specific provisions, which are supplemented with the general provisions given below.

Aim

The degree project is to contribute to general and programme-specific objectives of the study programmes in engineering being achieved. Specific learning outcomes are given in the relevant course syllabus. In addition, the degree project has also the following learning outcomes, which are common to all degree project-based courses at LiTH:

- Knowledge of the subject
After carrying out the degree project, the student is expected to master the following:
 - integrating in a systematic manner the knowledge gained during the period of study
 - applying methodological knowledge and subject-specific knowledge within the main subject area

- assimilating the contents of relevant technical publications and relating the study to such contents.
- Personal and professional skills
After carrying out the degree project, the student is expected to possess the following skills:
 - formulating research questions and limiting the same, within a specified time schedule
 - seeking and evaluating scientific literature.
- Working and communicating in a group
After carrying out the degree project, the student is expected to possess the following skills:
 - planning, executing and presenting independent work in the form of a project carried out in a group
 - expressing oneself professionally, in writing and orally
 - critically examining and discussing independent work presented in speech and in writing.
- Engineering fundamentals
After carrying out the degree project, the student is expected to master the following:
 - creating, analysing and/or evaluating technical solutions
 - making assessments that consider relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects.

Degree projects undertaken while studying abroad

During study abroad, an individual plan is to be drawn up together with the faculty programme director to determine how the requirements for a degree project in engineering can be satisfied.

Commencing a degree project

Before a student commences a degree project, the following requirements must be satisfied:

- The student must have a minimum of 90 credits obtained from courses from Terms 1-4 of the programme (courses taken voluntarily are not counted). This requirement must be satisfied before the end of the third week of study period 2 of the autumn term before the degree project is to be carried out.
- The student must have completed the subject-specific courses listed in the course syllabus for the relevant degree project course. This requirement must be satisfied before the end of the third week of study period 2 of the autumn term before the degree project is to be carried out.
- When assessing whether the requirements have been satisfied, individual decisions (such as those taken in association with admission to subsequent parts of the programme) are to be considered.

Registration for a degree project is carried out during the course registration period 1-10 October in the autumn before the degree project is to be undertaken.

Forms of examination

The examiner for the degree project is responsible for ensuring that examination takes place as specified by the course syllabus, and, where appropriate, carries out the duties of an examiner for degree projects.

The written report of the degree project corresponds to a degree project for a bachelor's degree. This means that it is to be managed in an equivalent manner with respect to publication, unless special circumstances apply.

The report must be prepared in accordance with principles for acceptable practice when referring to sources (references or quotations for which the source is specified) when the text, images, ideas, data, etc., of other people are used. It is also to be made clear whether the author has reused his or her own text, images, ideas, data, etc. from previous examinations, such as undergraduate work, project reports, etc. (This is sometimes known as “self-plagiarism”.) A failure to specify such sources may be regarded as attempted deception during examination.

In cases in which several students carry out a degree project together, the contribution of each student is to be specified. The extent of the work for each student is to correspond to that of a degree project. The examiner is to ensure that each student has contributed in a satisfactory manner to the work, and that each student satisfies the requirements for achieving a Pass grade for the degree project.

Plagiarism

For examinations that involve the writing of reports, in cases in which it can be assumed that the student has had access to other sources (such as during project work, writing essays, etc.), the material submitted must be prepared in accordance with principles for acceptable practice when referring to sources (references or quotations for which the source is specified) when the text, images, ideas, data, etc. of other people are used. It is also to be made clear whether the author has reused his or her own text, images, ideas, data, etc. from previous examinations, such as degree projects, project reports, etc. (this is sometimes known as “self-plagiarism”).

A failure to specify such sources may be regarded as attempted deception during examination.

Attempts to cheat

In the event of a suspected attempt by a student to cheat during an examination, or when study performance is to be assessed as specified in Chapter 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the examiner is to report this to the disciplinary board of the university. Possible consequences for the student are suspension from study and a formal warning. More information is available at [Cheating, deception and plagiarism](#).

Linköping University has also produced a guide for teachers and students' use of generative AI in education (Dnr LiU-2023-02660). As a student, you are always expected to gain knowledge of what applies to each course (including the degree

project). In general, clarity to where and how generative AI has been used is important.

Regulations (apply to LiU in its entirety)

The university is a government agency whose operations are regulated by legislation and ordinances, which include the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. In addition to legislation and ordinances, operations are subject to several policy documents. The Linköping University rule book collects currently valid decisions of a regulatory nature taken by the university board, the vice-chancellor and faculty/department boards.

LiU's rule book for education at first-cycle and second-cycle levels is available at <https://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/Innehall>.