



DECISION

*Reg. no* STYR 2023/768*Date* 8 February 2024

Vice-Chancellor

## Introduction of Digital Degree Certificates

### Background

Since the spring of 2022, a project has been underway to investigate the possibility of introducing digital degree certificates at Lund University.

Today, all degree certificates are issued on paper, and bear the signature of a dean or equivalent. It is a time-consuming process, since the physical original is sent back and forth to the dean and then by post to the alumnus. Digital degree certificates mean that the certificates are issued by decision-makers directly in Ladok. The document, in the form of a PDF with an e-seal, can be downloaded and printed by the student. Through digital processing the time involved will be reduced, degree certificates will be more difficult to forge, and resources will be freed up for both administrators and deans.

The Ladok consortium is developing the overall national solution for issuing digital degree certificates directly in Ladok. During spring 2024, 37 out of 40 Swedish higher education institutions that use Ladok will introduce digital degree certificates.

The anchoring process has been carried out through a reference group with invited faculty and student representatives, meetings with various stakeholders – from deans to degree administrators and Lund University Student Unions. The case has been presented to the

Education Board and the Research Programmes Board on several occasions during the course of the project. Lund University Student Unions have taken part in the process and oppose the introduction of digital degree certificates in the form proposed.

At meetings of the Research Programmes Board and the Education Board on 27 October 2023 and 8 November 2023 respectively, it was decided to recommend that the Vice-Chancellor decide to introduce digital degree certificates, and to revise the delegation rules to make it possible for degree administrators to issue certificates. The Vice-Chancellor's Management Council approved the proposal on 23 November 2023. Lund University Student Unions dissented on both boards and registered a reservation in the Vice-Chancellor's Management Council.

The delegation rules are to be revised in the light of the introduction of digital degree certificates.

Negotiations in accordance with Section 11 of the Swedish Employment (Co-Determination in the Workplace) Act took place on 5 December 2023.

## Decision

The University decides to introduce digital degree certificates for all education cycles and faculties at Lund University.

The decision comes into force on 15 April 2024.

The decision on this matter was taken by the undersigned Vice-Chancellor in the presence of University Director Susanne Kristensson, after consultation with a representative of Lund University Student Unions and a presentation by Susanna Björklund, Student Affairs.

Erik Renström

Copies sent to:

- Faculty offices
- Lund University Student Unions
- Student Affairs Division
- The Education Board
- Research Programmes Board