



PhD Programme at the Academy of Music and Drama

General Information

Doctoral studies comprise four years of full-time study and are the third and final educational tier offered at universities and colleges, after Bachelor's (first-cycle) and Master's (second-cycle) programmes. Regulations concerning education at the doctoral level can be found in Sweden's Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100).

Regardless of how the position is financed, a doctoral student is an employee of the Academy of Music and Drama (HSM) and is guaranteed a work station equipped with a computer and other necessary equipment. Doctoral students are also assigned a principal supervisor and an assistant supervisor. Furthermore, an examiner will monitor the student's education overall and approve individual study plans, among other things (see below). The PhD Programme's director of studies serves as the human resources manager.

The PhD programme falls under the jurisdiction of HSM both formally and in connection with employment. The Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts, of which HSM is a part, runs a joint research school for the whole faculty. The Research School organizes joint courses, seminars, events for doctoral students, supervisor training courses and more. HSM also participates in the University of Gothenburg's joint research school, the Centre for Education Science and Teacher Research (CUL).

Doctoral students who are accepted to the PhD Programme have the right to discontinue their studies and conclude their education with a licentiate degree, instead of with a doctoral degree.

PhD Programme Subject Areas

HSM offers four subject areas within its PhD Programme:

- Music Education
- Research on Arts Education¹
- Musical Performance and Interpretation, with the following possible specializations:
 - Interpretation
 - Composition
 - Improvisation

¹ This subject is also included in the University of Gothenburg's joint research school, the Centre for Education Science and Teacher Research (CUL).

- Theory with a focus on improvisation
- Performance in Theatre and Music Drama.

A general syllabus has been prepared for each subject area within the PhD Programme and approved and adopted by the faculty's board. Links to HSM's general syllabuses can be found [here](#).

The PhD Programme's seminars and literature studies are mainly held in English.

The Musical Performance and Interpretation and Performance in Theatre and Music Drama subjects offer two different degree options; a Doctor of Philosophy or a Doctor of the Arts degree. See the general syllabuses for more information.

Financing

Doctoral students at Swedish universities must receive a guaranteed income for the duration of their education. Ordinarily, this is achieved by awarding them a doctoral position, which is advertised together with the advertisement of an opening in the PhD Programme. Doctoral students can also be accepted to what is known as a *samverkansdoktorand* position, i.e. as an externally positioned doctoral student, the financing for which differs from that of a doctoral position. Individuals who receive a pension are considered to receive a guaranteed income and may be accepted as doctoral students. Regardless of how their position is financed, all doctoral students must be approved by means of a special examination.

Doctoral Position

A doctoral position is limited in its duration to four years of full-time study. Students may also study part-time, though for no less than the equivalent of 50 per cent of a full-time position. Students who study part-time are also employed part-time. Where students study part-time, their period of employment is extended correspondingly, so that their total period of employment is always equivalent to four years' full-time employment.

A doctoral student's starting salary is SEK 25,141. When half their period of employment has passed, and if the student is considered to have completed half of the programme's courses and other elements, their salary will be raised to SEK 27,645. In the same way, their salary will be raised to SEK 29,945 when they have completed 80 per cent of their employment term and the programme requirements.

Externally Positioned Doctoral Student (*samverkansdoktorand*)

An externally positioned doctoral student should have a guaranteed income that covers the full duration of the PhD Programme, i.e. four years of full-time study. This guaranteed income may come from the applicant's employer, who grants the applicant permission to pursue doctoral education comprising at least 50 per cent of a full-time position within the framework of their employment and who guarantees the applicant's salary during the same period. This agreement must be confirmed by means of a written agreement between the employer and the University of Gothenburg.

Externally positioned doctoral students with foreign citizenship can also have their income guaranteed through government grants, in accordance with certain bilateral agreements that foreign governments can establish with Sweden.

An externally positioned doctoral student's salary must be at least equal to that paid for a doctoral position and follow the same wage development schedule when 50 and 75 per cent of the programme has been completed.

Eligibility

To be accepted to the PhD programme, an applicant must meet the criteria for both basic and special eligibility. For more information about eligibility, see the general syllabus for each subject area.

Calls for Applications

Calls for applications to HSM's PhD Programme are announced on HSM's website and in special mail-outs via newsletters and other means. Calls for applications remain open for at least three weeks.

Applications

Applicants to the PhD Programme submit their application according to the instructions given in the call for applications. Applications are most often submitted to the University of Gothenburg electronically.

In addition to documents verifying that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements, a plan detailing the applicant's proposed research project must be presented. The contents of these plans vary somewhat depending on which subject they concern. The relevant programme coordinators at HSM (see below) can provide more information about this.

Externally Positioned Doctoral Student (samverkansdoktorand)

Applicants who have secured financing that would allow them to be accepted as an externally positioned doctoral student must undergo the same admissions process, including a review of their eligibility and project plan, as applicants who respond to public calls for applications. Externally positioned doctoral students may be accepted to the programme at any time, on the condition that the financial requirements for the position have been met.

Admission

Applications are assessed by a group of experts at the relevant department. External experts are also recruited for the assessment process. A small number of applicants will be called to an interview. After comprehensive assessment, the applicants will be ranked according to their suitability.

Decisions to admit or decline prospective doctoral students may not be appealed.

PhD Programme

Comprehensive information about the aim of the programmes, their design with respect to coursework and the thesis element (i.e., the specific research project), examinations, etc., is provided in the general syllabuses.

Supervision

Doctoral students are assigned both a principal supervisor and an assistant supervisor. The principal supervisor is an HSM employee and has primary responsibility for helping the doctoral student to progress through the PhD Programme, including as relates to the student's thesis project. Principal supervisors allocate the equivalent of 5 % of a full-time position to this task. Several individuals may serve as assistant supervisors, depending on the thesis project's specialization. Assistant supervisors allocate the equivalent of 3 % of a full-time position to this task. This supervision may be divided between more than one person.

Individual Study Plan

The principal supervisor and doctoral student should jointly prepare an individual study plan (ISP) that is to be updated at least once per academic year, during the autumn. The ISP details the student's doctoral education as a whole, including the thesis project. Because the ISP is regularly updated, courses and other PhD Programme elements that the student completes are also added to the document on a running basis. ISPs must also be approved by the doctoral student's examiner and, finally, by the head of the department at HSM.

ISPs are important documents for both doctoral students and the department, as they comprise a mutual agreement concerning the plan for the student's education and a follow-up of what has been achieved.

Courses

The courses included in the PhD Programme vary between the different subject areas. See the general syllabuses for more information. Fine arts doctoral students (i.e., doctoral students in Musical Performance and Interpretation or Performance in Theatre and Music Drama) attend certain compulsory courses taught within the faculty's Research School, together with fine arts doctoral students from the School of Design and Crafts (HDK) and Valand Academy. CUL doctoral students study certain common courses together with other CUL doctoral students at the University of Gothenburg.

Students also enjoy a great deal of freedom in selecting which courses they will take, both among those offered by the University of Gothenburg and by other academic institutions.

Seminars

One important and compulsory part of the programme is the seminars where literature is reviewed. Thesis drafts will also be discussed at these seminars.

Thesis Project

To be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of the Arts degree, a student must fulfil the coursework requirements and have his or her thesis approved. The thesis comprises a report on a research project and must be presented as a printed text in book form. In addition to the hard copy, projects can also be presented in the form of documented sound and images, e.g. in CD/DVD format or on a website.

Funds are allocated for the production of the thesis in book form and in the form of other media. These funds are also intended to cover the cost of the student's public defence (see below).

Operational Grants

In addition to a work station and computing equipment, doctoral students also receive certain operational grants that may, after consultation with the student's primary supervisor, be used to cover costs associated with their research project.

Interim Seminars

As part of the thesis project's progression, interim seminars are held after the project is 25, 50, and 75 per cent complete. An external reviewer is invited to attend the interim seminars. The reviewer is tasked with reviewing the results achieved thus far in order to assist the doctoral student in their on-going work. During the final phase of the completion of the thesis, a concluding seminar is also organized with the same purpose as the interim seminars, after which the thesis text can undergo a final fine-tuning.

Public Defence

Once the thesis is ready for publication, the principal supervisor organizes the public defence, including the selection of the opponent and examination committee. Public defences must be approved by the faculty dean. Special funds are made available for public defences and for publishing theses. Doctoral students will receive help from the director of studies for the PhD Programme to convert their thesis manuscript into book form and with any other relevant production, e.g. of CDs or DVDs.

Doctoral students in the fine arts may choose to include a performance as part of their public defence.

During the public defence, the opponent will critically review from a scientific and/or artistic perspective the thesis presented for approval as a doctoral thesis. After the opponent's review and round of questions, the members of the examination committee and others present will be offered the opportunity to ask further questions. After the defence, the examination committee will deliberate on whether to award the student a pass or fail. Both the student's opponent and principal supervisor may attend this meeting. They have the right to express an opinion during the proceedings, but not to vote.

Degree

Once the thesis has been approved and the requirements concerning coursework and other elements have been met, the doctoral student can apply to receive their doctoral degree.

Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at the University of Gothenburg

See also Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at the University of Gothenburg, which contains information about the rights and obligations of both doctoral students and the university: http://medarbetarportalen.gu.se/digitalAssets/1531/1531397_v-2015_327-doktorandregler-150413.pdf

PhD Programme Courses, Compulsory and Elective

Music Education, 90 HE credits (total)

- Introductory Course, 15 HE credits (Mapping the research field (music, performing arts, education)), 15 HE credits

- Courses included in the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' general courses, 15 HE credits
- Courses in research methodology, 15 HE credits
- Elective courses (see syllabus), 45 HE credits

Research on Arts Education, 90 HE credits (total)

- Aesthetic Learning, 7.5 HE credits
- Elective theory and methodology courses, 30 HE credits
- Advanced studies related to the subject, 22.5 HE credits
- Compulsory Courses included in the CUL research school's curriculum, 30 HE credits

Musical Performance and Interpretation, 60–90 HE credits (total)

- Mapping the research field (music, performing arts, education), 7.5 or 15 HE credits, elective
- Compulsory Courses, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' Research School

Performance in Theatre and Music Drama, 60–90 HE credits (total)

- Mapping the research field (music, performing arts, education), 7.5 or 15 HE credits, elective
- Compulsory Courses, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' Research School

Compulsory courses, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' Research School

- Basic Course 1: Writing Course, 7.5 HE credits
- Basic Course 2: Methodology Course, 7.5 HE credits
- Basic Course 3: Orientation in the field of artistic research, 7.5 HE credits
- Basic Course 4: Operating and communicating in a cross-disciplinary research, 7.5 HE credits
- Participation in the Research School's activities, seminars, etc., 7.5 HE credits
- Link: http://konst.gu.se/english/education/doctoral_studies/info_students/?languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fkonst.gu.se%2Futbildning%2Futbildning%2Bp%25C3%25A5%2Bforskarniv%25C3%25A5%2Fforskarskola%2Fdoktorandkurser%2F

Compulsory Courses, CUL Research School (Research on Arts Education)

- Course 1: Perspectives on Bildung and Education, 7.5 HE credits
- Course 2: Educational Science, Knowledge-building and Learning, 7.5 HE credits
- Course 3: Research Traditions, Research Ethics and Theory of Science, 7.5 HE credits
- Course 4: Qualitative Research Methods in Educational Sciences, 5 HE credits
 - Quantitative Research Methods in Educational Sciences, 5 HE credits
 - Methodological Challenges in Educational Research, 5 HE credits
- Link: <http://cul.gu.se/kurser>

Programme Coordinators

Musical Performance and Interpretation: prof. Maria Bania, maria.bania@hsm.gu.se

Performance in Theatre and Music Drama: prof. Cecilia Lagerström, cecilia.lagerstrom@hsm.gu.se

Music Education and Research on Arts Education: Prof. Monica Lindgren, monica.lindgren@hsm.gu.se

