



## DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

### **General Programme Syllabus for Postgraduate Studies in Psychology, 240 Higher Education Credits**

The programme was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg on 27 March 2007 (2015-12-14; dnr U2015/862). (2016-12-15 dnr U2016/658)

#### **1. Aims**

A general aim of the programme is for the doctoral student to acquire the knowledge and proficiency fundamental to the conductance of independent research in psychology and to contribute to the development of expertise within the discipline through the presentation of a scholarly thesis.

Another aim of the postgraduate programme in psychology is to develop the doctoral student's ability to apply such proficiency and skills in post-doctoral research or in other professional work. The programme shall develop also the doctoral student's communicative and pedagogical abilities with respect to oral and written communication both within and outside academic contexts. The programme comprises 240 higher education credits (HE credits), including 5 HE credits in teaching and learning in higher education. The doctoral student shall acquire also knowledge regarding planning and implementation of research projects.

Moreover, postgraduate studies shall promote international contacts, for example in the form of participation in research conferences and possible visits to foreign higher education institutions.

The specific goals of the programme, which doctoral students must accomplish in order to obtain a third-cycle degree in psychology, are indicated below. The requirements specified in the system of qualifications concerning third-cycle degrees provided in the Higher Education Ordinance also apply.

#### **1.1 Knowledge and understanding**

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student is required to:

- demonstrate a sufficient breadth of knowledge within and systematic understanding of the knowledge base in psychology, along with a depth of specialist, current knowledge within the research field, and also
- demonstrate thorough knowledge of scholarly methodology within the general knowledge base in the field of psychology and in particular of the specific research field's methods

## **1.2 Competence and skills**

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student is required to:

- demonstrate the ability to conduct scholarly analysis and synthesis, and to critically review and evaluate complex new issues independently within the field of psychology,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently, creatively and with scholarly precision, and to plan and pursue psychology research and other advanced tasks using commensurate methods within given time parameters, as well as to review and appraise such research work,
- demonstrate the ability to verbally and/or in writing present and discuss research and research findings in both national and international contexts in dialogue with the academic community within psychology and society in general,
- demonstrate the ability to identify a need for further research within the candidate's own research field in psychology,
- demonstrate the ability within both psychology research and education, and in other advanced contexts, to contribute to the development of the knowledge base and to support others in their teaching of psychology, and also
- demonstrate the ability through personal research to make a contribution to development of knowledge within the chosen research field by means of a thesis.

## **1.3 Judgement and approach**

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate intellectual independence and an analytical approach to knowledge formation within psychology,
  - demonstrate the ability to appraise weaknesses and strengths in the candidate's own scholarly thesis,
- demonstrate scholarly probity and the ability to make such ethical judgements relating to research that are pertinent in psychology research and also demonstrate profound insight into the possibilities and limitations of academic psychology, its role in society and the researcher's responsibility for how it is applied.

## **2. Entry requirements**

Applicants must meet both general and specific entry requirements in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

## **2.1 General entry requirements**

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter, 7, Sec. 39, an applicant shall be considered to meet the general entry requirements if he/she has obtained

a degree at the advanced level,  
at least 240 HE credits, of which at least 60 must be at the advanced level, or  
largely equivalent knowledge in other ways in Sweden or abroad.

Applicants who fulfilled the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies prior to 1 July 2007 shall be considered to fulfil the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies also after this date and until the end of 2015.

## **2.2 Specific entry requirements**

In order to be accepted for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) education in Psychology, the following requirements must be fulfilled:-

- Completed courses involving at least 90 Further education points in Psychology at graduate level as well as
- At least 60 Further education points in Psychology at Advanced level, of which courses involving at least 15 Further education points involving Philosophy of Science Methods as well as a scientific paper/thesis involving at least 15 Further education points, or Accumulated merits and knowledge accruing from other types of education that are equivalent to the above.

## **3. Selection among qualified applicants**

The dissertation plan and outline shall be used as the basis of judgement for the accompanying application, together with previous scientific papers/theses and educational merits, as well as an interview procedure to determine the applicant's position for fulfilment of the PhD education.

The dissertation plan provides the basis for judgements concerning the department's supervisory competence within the area of research that is denoted in the dissertation plan.

The Head of Department is in charge of all admission decisions.

## **4. Programme disposition and content**

The programme leading to a PhD in psychology comprises 240 HE credits. A licentiate degree may be obtained upon completion of 120 HE credits if the requirements for licentiate degrees specified in the Higher Education Ordinance have been fulfilled.

Postgraduate programmes consist of both courses, which are subsequently examined, and individual research work leading up to a scholarly thesis. Within the framework of the programme, the doctoral student is also expected to take part in seminar activities and, unless there are specific reasons not to, contribute to the Department's joint activities.

The doctoral student may be credited for previously completed higher education. Decisions related to transfer of credits are made, following an individual application submitted by the doctoral student, by the Head of Department in connection with the establishment of an individual study plan, yet no later than six months after completion of the plan. A transfer of credits shall be linked to a decision regarding a reduction of the period of doctoral student finance corresponding to the number of credits transferred. The reduction allowance shall be documented in the individual study plan. A doctoral student may not transfer more credits than the equivalent of two years of study.

#### **4.1 Courses**

The education consists of part-course of 75 HE credits that are comprised of 37.5 HE credits for Method, of which 15 HE credits are made up from the departments obligatory Method course. Additionally, the 5 HE credit course in further education pedagogics is obligatory. The other courses are decided upon in consultation with the supervisor(s).

#### **4.2 Thesis**

Central to the programme is the completion of a scholarly thesis through which the doctoral student contributes to the development and knowledge within the chosen discipline. The doctoral student is expected to provide regular reports regarding the progression of his/her thesis work. This obligation is primarily fulfilled through presentation of thesis memos (can be specified) at Department seminars (can be specified).

External readers should be engaged at mid-way and/or final reviews.

Each thesis shall, in accordance with the rules for doctoral/licentiate degrees laid down in the Higher Education Ordinance, be defended at a public defence/licentiate seminar.

### **5. Supervision**

Two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student – one main and one assistant supervisor. The main supervisor shall be employed at or co-opted by the University of Gothenburg. At least one of the supervisors shall be qualified for appointment to a Readership (Docent) position and at least one of the supervisors shall have completed supervisor training.

The doctoral student is entitled to supervision as stipulated in *Riktlinjer för utbildning på forskarnivå vid Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten*.

Doctoral students have the right to change supervisors upon request.

### **6. Individual study plan**

The individual study plan shall comprise a time plan as well as a funding plan for the entire period of study that is complied with until the planned date of completion.

An individual study plan shall be developed for each doctoral student in connection with admission. The plan is established by the Head of Department in consultation with the doctoral student and his/her supervisor.

The study plan shall be reviewed on at least one occasion each year. The review shall provide a clear description of the doctoral student's progress.

### **7. Additional information**

For further information, current legislation, University and Faculty guidelines as well as local documents at the Department of Psychology shall be considered.

Information regarding current rules and regulations is available via [www.samfak.gu.se](http://www.samfak.gu.se).