



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

General Syllabus for Doctoral (third-cycle) Education in Design at the University of Gothenburg

Reg. nr U 2016/75

1. Decision

Regulations regarding doctoral (third-cycle) education and admission to doctoral (third-cycle) education, respectively, are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapters 6 and 7 (SFS 1993:100).

Local regulations for doctoral (third-cycle) education are to be found in the University of Gothenburg's governing documents and in the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' governing documents.

This General Syllabus was approved and established by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts, at the University of Gothenburg on 24-02-2016 (replaces previous document from 21-02-2012).

The syllabus is valid from 24-02-2016.

2. Content and Structure of Programme

2.1 General information about the content of the programme

Design as a subject establishes a dialogue between practice-based, theoretical and societal questions pertaining to design and design practice. The subject focuses on design as practice through expression and form with the help of relevant methods and theories. Design competency is characterised by the ability to fuse, in a meaningful expression and form, a diversity of knowledge perspectives.

The aim of doctoral (third-cycle) education in Design is to educate with the help of methods relevant to the subject field both in practice and in theory, with a focus on developing the ability to autonomously and critically expand the base of knowledge with regard to breadth as well as depth.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree programme places large emphasis on the students' ability to anchor their own creative work in arts-based practice, theory, and methodology and to clearly position themselves in an artistic research field where art and science are in dialogue.

2.2 Programme structure

For a *licentiate degree*, doctoral studies leading to a Licentiate of Philosophy in Design consist of a course section comprising 30–60 higher education credits and a thesis comprising 60–90 higher education credits, i.e. a total of 120 higher education credits.

For a *doctoral degree*, doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Design consist of a course section comprising 60–90 higher education credits and a dissertation comprising 150–180 higher education credits, i.e. a total of 240 higher education credits.

Besides the work involved in producing a licentiate thesis or a doctoral dissertation, doctoral (third-cycle) education takes the form, among other things, of actively taking part in organised doctoral courses, carrying out individually designed courses that can be literature- or media-based; this programme also takes the form of active participation in exhibitions, seminars and conferences and carrying out study trips, one's own seminars and lectures, and work on articles and artistic productions.

Certain parts of the programme can take place at a foreign higher arts institution provided there is an agreement between these institutions that guarantees the level of education and the integration of these studies into one's doctoral studies as a whole.

2.3 Course section

The main aim of the course section is to introduce and develop the research praxis of the artistic field.

The courses include organised subject-specific courses, Faculty and University courses and also external doctoral courses at other faculties and higher education institutions. Courses can also include individual subject-specific courses.

Participation in subject-specific courses should comprise at least 15 higher education credits for the licentiate degree and at least 30 higher education credits for the doctoral degree.

Participation in the cross-department Faculty Graduate School is compulsory. Four cross-disciplinary basic courses are to be studied here, comprising at least 15 higher education credits for the licentiate degree and at least 30 higher education credits for the doctoral degree, in accordance with the following table:

Faculty Courses (compulsory)		
Basic Course 1	Writing Course	7.5 HECs
Basic Course 2	Method Course	7.5 HECs
Basic Course 3	The Field of Artistic Research – an Orientation	7.5 HECs
Basic Course 4	Participation in Faculty Graduate School's activities: seminars, workshops etc.	7.5 HECs

2.4 Licentiate thesis

The licentiate thesis shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to identify, clearly define, and, using relevant methods, his or her ability to perform and discuss a research task. The licentiate thesis shall also comprise artistic expression in dialogue with the written presentation. The thesis can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph thesis) or of a compilation of articles that the doctoral student has published or had accepted for publication in scientific/scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field, together with a short summary of these (an article thesis/compilation thesis).

The thesis shall, within a limited area of the field in question, constitute an independent contribution to research, and document satisfactory insights into the relevant requirements and criteria of good research. The thesis shall be of such quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific/scholarly series or research journal, or the equivalent within the artistic field.

In the parts of the thesis that consist of artistic production, these shall meet the national requirements for artistic excellence and have relevance to the development of research within the artistic field.

In certain cases, thesis work can be pursued as team work. This shall then be organised in such a way that the individual contributions can be specified and assessed on the same grounds as for individual pieces of work.

2.5 Doctoral dissertation

The doctoral dissertation shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to identify, clearly define and, using relevant methods, his or her ability to perform and discuss a research task. The doctoral dissertation shall also comprise artistic expression in dialogue with the written presentation.

The doctoral dissertation can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph dissertation) or of a compilation of articles that the doctoral student has published or had accepted for publication in scientific/scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field, together with a short summary of these (an article dissertation/ compilation dissertation). Licentiate work can be included as a part of the doctoral dissertation, either in revised or unrevised form.

The doctoral dissertation shall constitute an independent contribution to research and document satisfactory insights into the relevant requirements and criteria of good research. The doctoral dissertation shall be of such quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific/scholarly series or research journal, or the equivalent within the artistic field. In the parts of the dissertation that consist of artistic production, these shall meet the international requirements for artistic excellence and have relevance to the development of research within the artistic field.

In certain cases, dissertation work can be pursued as team work. This shall then be organised in such a way that the individual efforts can be specified and assessed on the same grounds as for individual pieces of work.

3. Programme Goals

3.1 General national goals for licentiate degree

The general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are given in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance (see reference document attached to this general syllabus).

3.2 Subject-specific goals for licentiate degree

The aim of the programme is to develop the knowledge and skills required to independently and autonomously be able to pursue research, as well as to contribute to the formation of knowledge within the subject through the production of a scientific/scholarly licentiate thesis.

This includes demonstrating comprehensive knowledge of design as a research field, relevant knowledge within one's own field of research, as well as the ability to identify, formulate and examine artistic and/or scholarly issues and questions within the design field.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Design shall develop the ability of doctoral students to form, explore, analyse and discuss

design in social and cultural contexts, as well as to demonstrate critical and reflective capacity in relation to the research field.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Design shall develop the communicative and pedagogical skills of doctoral students in terms of them being able to express themselves well, orally and in writing, both within and outside academic contexts.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education shall also give students the possibility to develop international contacts, for example, in the form of participation in research conferences abroad or attendance at foreign higher education institutions.

3.3 Faculty-specific goals for licentiate degree

After completion of the programme, doctoral students at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts shall be able to critically assess, evaluate and reflect on their own, as well as on the writing of others, within the context of artistic research, and be able to establish an autonomous critical and productive approach to artistic and scientific processes within the field of artistic research.

Doctoral students should also be able to demonstrate a knowledge of methodology in general and the discourse on method relevant to their specific research field in particular, as well as demonstrating the ability to discuss critical questions within the framework of their research practice, that is with regard to method, research subject, institutional framework and the current debate within the research subject in question.

3.4 General national goals for doctoral degree

The general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are given in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance (see reference document attached to this general syllabus).

3.5 Subject-specific goals for doctoral degree

The aim of the programme is to develop the knowledge and skills required to independently and autonomously be able to pursue artistic research, as well as to contribute to the formation of knowledge within the subject through the production of a scientific/scholarly doctoral dissertation.

This includes demonstrating broad and deep knowledge of design as a research field, relevant specialist knowledge within one's own field of research, as well as the ability to identify,

formulate and examine artistic and/or scientific problems and issues within the design field.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Design shall develop the ability of doctoral students to form, explore, analyse and discuss design in social and cultural contexts, as well as to demonstrate critical and reflective capacity in relation to the research field.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Design shall develop the communicative and pedagogical skills of doctoral students in terms of them being able to express themselves well, orally and in writing, both within and outside academic contexts.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education shall also give doctoral students the possibility to develop international contacts, for example, in the form of participation in research conferences abroad or attendance at foreign higher education institutions.

Doctoral students shall also acquire the knowledge to plan, lead and complete a research project.

3.6 Faculty-wide goals for doctoral degree

After completion of the programme, doctoral students at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts shall be able to critically assess, evaluate and reflect on their own, as well as on the writing of others, within the context of artistic research, and be able to establish an autonomous critical and productive approach to artistic and scientific processes within the field of artistic research.

Doctoral students shall also be able to give a general account of the field of artistic research and its history, and of the integrational interaction between artefacts of artistic expression and arts-based texts, as well as to give general accounts of different formats that can be used for the sharing and dissemination of research results and material.

Doctoral students shall also be able to demonstrate knowledge of methodology in general and of the discourse on method that is relevant to their specific research field in particular, as well as being able to demonstrate the ability to discuss critical questions within the framework of their research practice, that is, with regard to method, research subject, institutional framework and the current debate within the research subject in question.

4 Qualifications and entry requirements

In order to be admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) education, the applicant is required to fulfil the criteria for the general and the specific entry requirements in accordance with what is stated in chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

4.1 General entry requirements

According to chapter 7, section 39, of the Higher Education Ordinance, a person meets the general entry requirements if he or she

1. has been awarded a master's (second-cycle) qualification, or
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising 240 higher education credits, of which at least 60 higher education credits were awarded at master's (second-cycle) level, or
3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Dean at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts may grant an exemption from the general entry requirements. However, to meet entry requirements, the applicant must be considered in other respects to have the ability required to complete the doctoral (third-cycle) programme.

4.2 Specific requirements

Specific entry requirements for the subject Design are:

- at least 120 higher education credits (or the equivalent) in the subject, or, alternatively, in another subject/other subjects that is/are considered to have relevance to doctoral (third-cycle) studies in the subject, or equivalent knowledge.
- a documented specialisation of study including subjects oriented towards relevant issues in the subject.
- an independent project comprising at least 30 higher education credits (thesis or, alternatively, several projects, which, together, are considered to be the equivalent of 30 higher education credits) in the subject, or, alternatively, in another subject/other subjects that is/are considered as having relevance to the doctoral studies in the subject.
- documented ability to work with expression and form and critically reflective issues and processes at an advanced level.

An applicant also meets the specific requirements if he or she has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Dean at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts may grant an exemption from the specific entry requirements for admission to doctoral (third-cycle) studies.

4.3 Admission, selection

The decision to admit a student to doctoral (third-cycle) education is made by the Head of the Department after the matter has been drafted in the Department Research Council or a similar body at the Department. The number of doctoral students admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) education will be restricted to those who can be offered acceptable terms concerning supervision and study conditions in general.

Furthermore, only students who are considered to have guaranteed funding for the entire period of study, according to the Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7, section 36, will be admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) studies.

Selection among applicants that meet the requirements stated in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 above will be based on the application documents received and on interviews with the applicants who, in the first place, are considered to be possible candidates for admission. Work samples may be requested as a complement to other application documents. Selection among qualified applicants is made in consideration of their ability to benefit from doctoral (third-cycle) education. The following assessment criteria are applied to test this ability:

- the feasibility of the research project described in the application, as well as its relevance and degree of impact and significance in relation to the subject description for Design.
- autonomous ability and the ability to think critically in the subject field.
- artistic quality and autonomy, including experiences on a professional level in the subject.

5. Examination

Doctoral (third-cycle) education leads to a doctoral degree by submitting a doctoral dissertation, or, for a licentiate degree, by submitting a licentiate thesis.

The dissertation (thesis) can combine artistic and scientific/scholarly elements in several different ways. Regarding artistic production, the doctoral student shall document his or her artistic practical work, that is, both processes and artistic works.

Each course that is included in the doctoral programme shall have an examiner at the department that provides the course. When exams are assessed, consideration shall be taken of how in depth the doctoral student's knowledge is, as well as what ability of autonomous judgement and critical analysis the doctoral student has demonstrated.

5.1 Licentiate degree

For a licentiate degree in Design, a doctoral student is required to have completed at least 120 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle) programme, of which at least 30 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded a pass mark and at least 60 higher education credits in the form of a licentiate thesis, which shall contain text as well as artistic production. The licentiate thesis is submitted and discussed at a public seminar, where it is examined by an external opponent appointed by the department at which the subject has been studied. On assessing the thesis, consideration shall be taken of its content as well as of the seminar discussion.

5.2 Doctoral degree

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student is required to have completed at least 240 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle) programme, of which at least 60 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded pass marks and at least 150 higher education credits in the form of the successful completion of a doctoral dissertation, which shall contain text as well as artistic production. The doctoral dissertation shall have been submitted and defended orally at a public defence. On assessing the dissertation, consideration shall be taken of its content as well as of its defence.

5.3 Grade

A doctoral dissertation, a licentiate thesis and courses are awarded the grades Pass or Fail.

5.4 Title

A degree within this framework of doctoral (third-cycle) education shall be given the title: degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Design or degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Design at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. This degree may be given a different title if there are special reasons for doing so.

6. Transitional regulations

Doctoral students who have been admitted before 24-02-2016 can, after consulting their supervisor, submit a request to the Head of Department to go over to this syllabus. The individual study plan should then be updated.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

General national goals for the licentiate degree

These general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are taken from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 credits.

General national goals for the doctoral degree

These general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are taken from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance:

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Research thesis (doctoral thesis)

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.