



FACULTY OF FINE, APPLIED AND PERFORMING ARTS

General Syllabus for Doctoral (third-cycle) Education Leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice at the University of Gothenburg

Reg. No. U2023/408

1. Decision

Regulations regarding doctoral (third-cycle) education leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, and admission to a programme of this kind, are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapters 6 and 7 (SFS 1993:100).

Local regulations for doctoral 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 22 February 2023.

The syllabus is valid from 1 March 2023.

2. Content and Structure of Programme

2.1 General information about the content of the programme

Artistic Practice establishes a dialogue between practical questions and theoretically based methods within the field. It entails intertwined creative-analytical making that connects to contemporary research relevant to the scope of the PhD. Focus is placed on the practice of, and critical reflection on a central subject of relevance to research in Artistic Practice, which takes place by situating it to relevant knowledge and methods.

The aim of the doctoral programme in Artistic Practice is for the practitioner to become proficiently educated, in both practice and theory, with a focus on the independent and critical creation of a knowledge in the field covering both breadth and depth, practice and theory. The aim is also to expand the field's dialogue with the wider society.

The doctoral programme in Artistic Practice is a principal category based in the different research fields: (i) craft, (ii) design, (iii) design management, (iv) fine art, (v) film, (vi) literary composition, poetry and prose, and (vii) photography. Research topics and methods are connected to the specific fields' contemporary and historical applications and the research fields' relevant theory.

The framework of Artistic Practice encourages a more in-depth approach within the respective field and cross-fertilisations between fields, something the research environment actively promotes and enables. Development and renewal are essential and cover both practice and critical reflection, which are considered as two interacting components. Of central importance is the doctoral candidate's own artistic work. The orientation of the Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts programme in Artistic Practice places great emphasis on the ability to put one's own practical work in an artistically based praxis, theory and method and to clearly position oneself in a field of study where art and science exist in dialogue.

2.2 Programme structure

For a licentiate degree, doctoral studies leading to a Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice consist of a course section comprising 30 higher education credits (credits) and a documented artistic research project comprising 90 credits, i.e. a total of 120 credits.

For a doctoral degree, doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice consist of a course section comprising 60 credits and a documented artistic research project (a doctoral dissertation) comprising 180 credits, i.e. a total of 240 credits.

Besides the work involved in producing a licentiate thesis or a doctoral dissertation, doctoral education in Artistic Practice includes taking part in organised doctoral courses, active participation in seminars, exhibitions, conferences and festivals, carrying out study trips, one's own seminars and lectures, and also work on articles and artistic productions.

Certain parts of the programme can take place at a foreign higher 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.

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student has to complete the following courses:

- a) an obligatory introduction course (7,5 credits), which main purpose is to provide advanced knowledge on the subject area of artistic research in artistic practice, and to develop the participants' basic research skills.
- b) three obligatory Faculty courses (7,5 credits each), which aim at providing advanced knowledge on writing, method, and theoretical constructs in artistic research.

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student has to complete the following courses:

- a) an obligatory introduction course (7,5 credits), which main purpose is to provide advanced knowledge on the subject area of artistic research in artistic practice, and to develop the participants' basic research skills.
- b) four obligatory Faculty courses (7,5 credits each), which aim at providing advanced knowledge on writing, method, and theoretical constructs, and research communication and presentation forms in artistic research.
- c) individually chosen courses (together 22,5 credits). These courses can be organized Faculty or University courses, doctoral courses at other faculties or higher education institutions, or individual undertakings.

2.4 Documented artistic research project for a Licentiate degree

The documented artistic research project for the Licentiate degree shall demonstrate the licentiate's ability to identify and clearly define a research subject, and, using relevant methods, demonstrate the ability to perform and discuss an artistic research investigation. The core of the project shall comprise an artistic production or work of artistic expression in dialogue with the presentation as a whole.

The documented artistic research project can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph) or of a compilation of research findings/results that the candidate has published or had accepted for publication in reviewed journals or anthologies, or through publication platforms in the arts field.

In certain cases, project 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 Documented artistic research project (doctoral dissertation)

The documented artistic research project (doctoral dissertation) shall demonstrate the doctoral researcher's ability to identify, clearly define, contextualize and, by using relevant methods, demonstrate the ability to perform and discuss his/her/their artistic research investigation. The core of the doctoral dissertation shall comprise an artistic production or work of artistic expression in dialogue with the written presentation.

The documented artistic research project can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph dissertation) or of a compilation of research findings/outcomes that the doctoral researcher has published or had accepted for publication in reviewed journals or anthologies, or through publication platforms within the arts field (an aggregation dissertation.)

A documented artistic research project completed as part of a licentiate degree can be included as a part of the doctoral dissertation, either in revised or unrevised form.

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.

Programme Goals

3.1 General goals for licentiate degree

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

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate in Fine arts in Artistic Practice, the third-cycle student shall:

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

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate in Fine arts in Artistic Practice, the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate creative capacity in his or her artistic field
- 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 in Fine arts in Artistic Practice, 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 art, 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 artistic development.

Thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate in Fine arts in Artistic Practice, the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a documented artistic research project (research thesis) of at least 60 credits.

3.2 General goals for doctoral degree

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

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Doctor in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice, the third-cycle student shall:

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

Competence and skills

For the Degree of Doctor in Fine arts in Artistic Practice the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate creative capacity in his or her artistic field
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic 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 documented artistic research project 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 in Fine arts in Artistic Practice 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 art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Documented artistic research project (doctoral thesis)

For the Degree of Doctor in Fine arts in Artistic Practice, the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a documented artistic research project (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

Qualifications and entry requirements

In order to be admitted to doctoral 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 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 Artistic Practice are:

- at least 120 credits (or the equivalent) in subjects that are considered to have relevance to doctoral (third-cycle) studies in the subject Artistic Practice (or equivalent knowledge)
- a documented specialisation of study including subjects oriented towards relevant issues in the subject Artistic Practice
- an independent project (thesis) comprising at least 30 credits (or, alternatively, several projects, which, together, are considered to be the equivalent of 30 credits) in a subject that is considered as having relevance to doctoral studies in the subject Artistic Practice.
- documented ability of working with artistic practice at a high level
- genuine artistic experience in the field of research
- documented interest in reflection, research-related issues and processes
- documented experience in academic writing or other, equivalent qualified text production that demonstrates research-like stringency.

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

4.3 Admission, selection

The decision to admit a researcher to doctoral 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 researchers admitted to doctoral education will be restricted to those who can be offered acceptable terms concerning supervision and study conditions in general.

Furthermore, only researchers 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 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 education. The following assessment criteria are applied to test this ability:

- artistic quality and originality within the field of artistic practice
- ability to think independently and critically, in the form of reflective writing and discussion, within the subject area
- familiarity with research-related issues and processes
- interest in being a member of the department and contributing positively to the programmes and institutional environment.

5. Examination

Doctoral education leads to Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts by submitting a doctoral dissertation, or, to a Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts degree, by submitting a documented artistic research project.

The project can combine artistic and scientific/scholarly elements in several different ways, but in such a way that a researcher's own work of artistic expression comprises the core of the project. The doctoral researcher shall document his or her artistic 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 researcher's knowledge is, as well as what ability of autonomous judgement and critical analysis the doctoral researcher has demonstrated.

5.1 *Licentiate degree*

For a Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice, a doctoral researcher is required to have completed at least 120 credits in the doctoral programme, of which at least 30 credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded a pass mark and at least 60 credits in the form of a documented artistic research project, which shall normally contain text as well as artistic production. The project is submitted and discussed at a public seminar, where it is examined by an external examiner 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 Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice, the doctoral researcher is required to have completed at least 240 credits in the doctoral programme, of which at least 60 credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded pass marks and at least 120 credits in the form of the successful completion of artistic research project (doctoral dissertation).

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.

Grade An artistic research project, a doctoral dissertation, and courses, are awarded the grades Pass or Fail.

Title A degree within this framework of doctoral (third-cycle) education shall be given the title:
Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice (, with specialising in)
or
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Artistic Practice (, with specialising in)

at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts.

Third-cycle education within Artistic Practice offers the following specialisations:

- Craft
- Design
- Design management
- Fine Art
- Film
- Literary composition, poetry and prose
- Photography

Exam title and any specialisation to be decided at admittance.

Doctoral researchers who wish to change specialisation during the course of their studies can, after consulting their supervisor and doctoral examiner, apply for that to the head of department. The individual study plan should then be updated.

6 Transitional regulations

Doctoral researchers who have been admitted before 1 March 2023 can, after consulting their supervisor and doctoral examiner, submit a request to the Head of Department to transfer to this syllabus. The individual study plan should then be updated.