

# General syllabus for third-cycle study programmes in Multilingualism

Decision-maker	Faculty Board of Humanities
Executing officer	Ulrika Josefsson
Date of decision	2023-02-09
Period of validity	2023-04-01 - Until further notice.
Summary	The syllabus describes the objectives, content and examination of the study programme as well as admission and selection.
Translation	This document is a translation of the Swedish original. In the event of problems of interpretation or differences between the Swedish and English text, the Swedish text which constitutes the basis of the information, shall always take precedence

## **Name of degree and subject area description**

Title of qualification: Doctor of Philosophy in Multilingualism or Licentiate of Philosophy in Multilingualism.

The third cycle subject area of Multilingualism cover a broad range of fields and specialisations within the third-cycle subject area of Multilingualism. The primary objective of these field is to provide a comprehensive understanding of linguistic theories and methodologies, as well as ample experience in exploring and analyzing linguistic areas of inquiry related to Multilingualism.

The expertise gained through this third-cycle programme in Multilingualism is highly sought after across various fields in our multilingual society. The degree is particularly relevant for those seeking teaching positions in upper-secondary education as it equips them with the necessary theoretical knowledge of the subject. It is also of relevance for head teachers, persons with other managerial roles in education, and policy planners. Furthermore, it is beneficial for language consultants, head teachers, and policy planners. Other areas of work where the third cycle programme is of value include publishing and the media, as well as professions involving advanced research and analysis in the public or private sector. A doctorate is a prerequisite for a teaching post in higher education.

## **General national outcomes for Degree of Doctor**

According to the Qualifications Ordinance for the Degree of Doctor in the Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2, the outcomes for the Degree of Doctor are as follows:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge in and a systematic understanding of the field of research as well as in-depth and up-to-date specialist knowledge within a defined area of the field of research, and
- Demonstrate familiarity with scientific method in general and with the specific methods used in the field of research in particular
- Demonstrate an ability to scientifically analyse and synthesise and to independently and critically evaluate and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations
- Demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scholarly thoroughness, identify and formulate research questions as well as to plan and conduct research and perform other qualified tasks using appropriate methods within specified time limits and to review and assess such work
- Demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through their 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 an ability to identify needs for additional 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
- 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.

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## General national outcomes for Degree of Licentiate

According to the Qualifications Ordinance for the Degree of Licentiate in the Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2, the outcomes for the Degree of Licentiate are as follows:

- 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
- 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
- Demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity
- Demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their 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 their ongoing learning.

## Subject area specific and supplementary outcomes

### Entry and admission requirements

In order to be admitted to the study programme, the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements and specific entry requirements in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 7 Section 39, a person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if they:

1. have been awarded a second-cycle qualification, or
2. have satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

To be admitted to doctoral education in Multilingualism in addition to general entry requirements, the following is required:

1. 30 credits in a humanistic, social science or educational studies subject, of which at least 15 credits consist of an independent project or equivalent knowledge
2. Knowledge of Swedish and English required to benefit from compulsory course components and participate actively in seminars and the like.

## Admission and selection

Admission to doctoral education in Multilingualism normally occurs in connection with the Department's advertising of doctoral positions. For admission, funding for the applicant's doctoral studies must be secured.

According to Chapter 7 Section 41 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the selection shall take into account the ability of the applicants to benefit from the course or study programme. The applicant must attach the following as grounds for this selection:

1. Essays, independent projects (degree project), and publications, if any. These will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: demonstrated ability to carry out independent linguistic research and demonstrated ability to make critical judgements and to argue scientifically.
2. A project outline of five to ten pages in which the applicant specifies a research area to develop, justifies its relevance and discusses which theories, methods and materials may be used. The project outline is assessed on the basis of the following criteria: a) knowledge of relevant and current research in the field; b) how well the proposed investigation relates to current research in the field; c) whether the methods described for collecting and analysing data are adequate; and d) whether the outline is considered realistic in terms of the feasibility of carrying out the project within the constraints of the programme. The project outline also provides the basis for assessing the Department's capacity to provide a supervisor with appropriate competence in the research area specified.

Recruitment and selection take into account the department's supervision resources in the doctoral student's area of research focus. Admission may include interviews in addition to the examination of the qualifications submitted. The decision on admission is made by the Head of Department after preparation at the Department.

## Content and structure of the programme

Doctoral education in Multilingualism comprises 240 credits for the Doctorate and 120 credits for the Licentiate.

Third cycle study programmes include coursework, with each course being examined as it is completed, and the doctoral student's own research project leading to a scholarly thesis.

As part of their training, doctoral students are expected to participate in seminar activities. Doctoral students are also expected to participate in joint activities within their department, unless there are special reasons for not doing so.

The study programme includes a coursework part of 60 credits for the doctoral degree and 45 credits for the licentiate degree, of which 42.5 credits are compulsory courses for the doctoral degree and 37.5 credits are compulsory courses for the licentiate degree (42.5 credits if the doctoral student is going to teach). The compulsory courses are as follows:

- Linguistic Methodology from a Philosophy of Science Perspective, 7.5 credits
- Scandinavian Languages and Multilingualism – then and now, 7.5 credits
- Second Language Acquisition – Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives, 7.5 credits
- Swedish in a Typological Perspective, 7.5 credits
- Second Language Research in Education, 7.5 credits

- Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 1: Basic Course, 5 credits (compulsory for the Degree of Doctor and should be completed during the first year of the third-cycle studies, compulsory for the Degree of Licentiate only if the doctoral student is going to teach).

Other courses of 17.5 credits for the Doctorate and 2.5-7.5 credits for the Licentiate are selected in consultation with the student's supervisor.

Licentiate are selected in consultation with the student's supervisor. Electives can provide both breadth and specialisation and can be freely chosen from the third cycle courses offered by the department. Courses may also be selected from the faculty's joint course offering and from courses offered by other faculties and higher education institutions. All doctoral students are advised to acquire skills in scientific presentation techniques and research information.

If a doctoral student wishes to transfer credits from previous courses and programmes, this must be specified in the individual study plan.

The doctoral thesis is worth 180 credits. It may take the form of a monograph or a compilation. A licentiate thesis may form part of a doctoral thesis, either in revised or unrevised form.

The doctoral student is expected to report regularly on his/her work. In the first instance, this should be done through one of the department's seminars. The following seminars are recommended for the Degree of Doctor:

- Idea seminar (during the first year of study): research task presented
- Planning seminar (about midway through programme): background, material, method and any preliminary results presented
- Closing seminar (about six months before planned thesis defence): draft copies of all chapters shall be available to enable an overall assessment; external reviewer invited to attend.

Further details about this are set out in the Rules for Third-Cycle Education at the Faculty of Humanities. The doctoral thesis is defended at a public defence. When assessing the thesis, both its content and defence will be taken into consideration. The thesis is assessed using the grades of Pass or Fail.

Licentiate theses are defended at a public seminar. When assessing the Licentiate thesis, both its content and defence will be taken into consideration. The thesis is assessed using the grades of Pass or Fail.

## Supervision

For each doctoral student, at least two supervisors are to be appointed, one of which shall be the main supervisor and the other shall be the co-supervisor. At least one of the supervisors is to be employed at the University of Gothenburg, ordinarily in the department in which the doctoral student is placed. At least one of the supervisors must have the qualifications required for appointment as a docent/reader and at least one of the supervisors must have completed a course in doctoral supervision.

The doctoral student is entitled to a level of supervision that is at a minimum in accordance with the standard determined by the Faculty Board (see Rules for Third-Cycle Education at the Faculty of Humanities).

A doctoral student who so requests is to be permitted to change supervisor.

## Individual study plan

Upon admission, the doctoral student and their supervisors are to draw up an electronic individual study plan in consultation with the doctoral examiner, which is to be established no later than two months after the commencement of studies.

The individual study plan is to be reviewed at least once each year. This follow-up is to clearly state how the doctoral student is progressing within the programme.

In conjunction with drawing up the individual study plan, the doctoral student is entitled to request the transfer of credits from previously passed second- or third-cycle courses and study programmes. Credits that are counted towards the general or specific entry requirements may not also be counted as credits at third-cycle level and must be replaced by another course. Otherwise, the following options apply.

- A doctoral student who has completed and passed a course at second-cycle level which is included among the compulsory or optional courses at third-cycle level is entitled to request that the course be replaced with another course of the same scope in their individual study plan. This does not impact the programme length for the Degree of Doctor/Licentiate Degree.
- A doctoral student who has completed parts of doctoral studies while admitted to doctoral education at another higher education institution or in another subject may request that these credits be transferred without being replaced by other courses. This does have an impact on the programme length for the Degree of Doctor/Licentiate Degree, which is reduced to the corresponding extent.

The ISP is to include a timetable with an associated funding plan for the entire study period up until the planned date for the defence of the thesis.

## Transitional provisions

Doctoral students admitted prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, may, in consultation with their supervisors and doctoral examiner, petition the Head of Department to transfer to this general syllabus.