

# General syllabus for third-cycle study programmes in Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences

Decision-maker	Faculty Board of Humanities
Executing officer	Ulrika Josefsson
Date of decision	2023-06-15
Period of validity	2023-08-01 – 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**

Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences deals with approaches to problems and perspectives within learning, knowledge formation and knowledge processes. These approaches to problems and perspectives are to link to one or more of the other third-cycle subject areas at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Gothenburg.

## **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.

## **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.

## 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 Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences, in addition to general entry requirements, the following is required:

1. that the applicant has taken a teaching qualification that includes a second-cycle degree project comprising at least 15 higher education credits and also that the applicant has either a humanities focus for their teaching qualification or 60 higher education credits in a humanities subject, or
2. that the applicant has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

## Admission and selection

Admission to third-cycle studies in Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences is normally initiated by the Department announcing a call for doctoral studentships. Admissions for Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences are coordinated according to announcements at the Centre for Education Science and Teacher Research (CUL) Graduate School. Admission is conditional upon the studies being properly funded.

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. the degree project for their teaching qualification, or equivalent independent project, and other relevant essays. These are assessed according to the following quality criteria: demonstrated ability to formulate relevant research tasks, approach to previous research within the area, independent completion of an examination and also demonstrated capacity for written scholarly argumentation.

2. a project draft in which the applicant stipulates a research domain to develop during research education, the theories, methods and materials that might be relevant, and also the relevance of the project draft to didactic issues, learning, knowledge formation and knowledge processes.

The project draft is assessed on the basis of the following criteria: demonstrated ability to formulate and delimit issues within the scholarly problem area in writing, gain support for the issues in current research and a description of how the research is to be implemented. Furthermore, the relevance of the research to research in educational sciences and also for the specialisation formulated for the graduate school in question is assessed.

The project draft also provides supporting information for assessing the Department's supervisor competence within the research domain stipulated. Reference may also be made to qualifications that may otherwise be relevant for the applicant, for example documented professional experience as a teacher.

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 Humanities specialising in Educational Sciences comprises 240 credits for the Degree of Doctor and 120 credits for the Degree of Licentiate.

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

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

The study programme for the Degree of Doctor and for the Degree of Licentiate both includes a coursework part which comprises 60 credits of which 37,5 credits are compulsory and comprise:

- courses that are compulsory for the graduate school (30 credits), and
- the compulsory basic course in teaching and learning in higher education (5 credits), and
- the compulsory course in research ethics at the Faculty of Humanities, 2,5 credits

Different theories and methods of relevance to research within the area of educational science are studied for the graduate school courses. Courses comprising 22,5 credits are chosen from among the courses offered at the Faculty of Humanities at Gothenburg University or another higher education institute and are decided after having been agreed with the principal supervisor and doctoral examiner.

The compulsory basic course in teaching and learning in higher education (5 credits) should be completed during the first year of the third-cycle studies.

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

The thesis prepared for the Degree of Doctor comprises 180 credits. It may take the form of a monograph or a compilation thesis. A licentiate thesis may form part of a doctoral thesis, in either revised or unrevised form.

The licentiate thesis comprises 60 credits.

The doctoral student is expected to report on their thesis work regularly. In the first instance, this should take place via the Graduate School seminar and the department's seminars.

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.
- A doctoral student who has completed parts of their 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, 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 August 2023 may, in consultation with their supervisors and doctoral examiner, petition the Head of Department to transfer to this general syllabus.