

General syllabus for third-cycle study programmes in Comparative Literature

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

Name of degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Literature and Licentiate in Comparative Literature, respectively.

Comparative Literature is a broad subject that covers different aspects of literature, its history, forms, actors, material conditions, uses, and interaction with society.

After completing their studies, the doctor or licentiate will be able to work as a researcher and teacher of Comparative Literature within academia, or to fulfil other professions that comprise advanced literary and cultural analysis, text production, editorial work, and project managing within culture, publishing, and education sectors.

Below the term “doctoral student” applies to third cycle students.

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 Comparative Literature, in addition to general entry requirements, the following is required:

1. A second cycle qualification in a humanistic or social science subject that includes at least 60 credits (60 ECTS) with progression in Comparative Literature, or equivalent knowledge,
2. 30 credits (30 ECTS) in Comparative Literature at second-cycle level, of which at least 15 credits consist of an independent degree project, or equivalent knowledge, and
3. knowledge of Swedish and English required to benefit from compulsory course components and to participate actively in seminars and the like, as well as documented language skills required to read imaginative and scientific texts in English and the Scandinavian languages. If the proposed research project engages in literature in other languages than these, proficiency in reading imaginative and scientific texts in the relevant language or languages must also be documented.

Admission and selection

Admission to doctoral education in Comparative Literature 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. Certificates that document the general and specific requirements. If the applicant wishes to claim that the qualifications are equivalent to the requirements, a motivation must be added to the certificates.
2. A project draft that describes and motivates the aims and relevance of the planned research project, the problem(s) to develop, and discusses its relation to relevant previous research as well as which theories, methods, and materials that may be used. The draft should also include a rough time plan.
3. A second-cycle degree project that meets the specific entry requirements. This can be complemented with relevant other projects and publications.

The draft is assessed on basis of the following criteria: originality, scholarly relevance and positioning in the field, as well as feasibility.

Degree projects and publications, if any, are assessed on basis of the following criteria: originality and scholarly positioning in the field, complexity of the task and precision in the overall presentation and use of methods.

Recruitment and selection are done in view of the correlation and interplay between the proposed research project and the current research at the Department, as well as the Department's capacity to provide a supervisor with appropriate competence in the research area specified.

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 Comparative Literature 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.

The study programme includes a coursework part which comprises 60 higher education credits (60 ECTS) both in the case of the Degree of Doctor and the Degree of Licentiate.

Compulsory courses: 30 credits

- Theories and methods in Comparative literature or humanistic sciences, 7.5 credits
- Specialisations in literary history, 15 credits, of which at least 7.5 must focus on literature from or preceding the Romantic period
- Teaching and learning in higher education, basic course, 5 credits. Doctoral students that teach on first and second cycle must complete this course within the first year of their education
- Course in research ethics at the Faculty of Humanities, 2,5 credits

Elective courses: 30 credits

- These are determined in consultation with the doctoral student's supervisors and the doctoral examiner.

Forms of examination can consist of either an oral examination, a written assignment, or a combination thereof.

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

As part of their education, doctoral students are expected to participate in seminar activities. They must present their thesis work regularly, primarily via one of the department's seminars. Doctoral students are also to participate in joint activities within their department unless there are special reasons for not doing so.

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 manuscript must be examined at a final review seminar, before the doctoral thesis can be submitted to a public defence.

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.

The licentiate thesis comprises 60 credits. 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.

Further details about this are set out in the Rules for Third-Cycle Education at the Faculty of Humanities and in the department's Guidelines for third-cycle education.

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 August 2023 may, in consultation with their supervisors and doctoral examiner, petition the Head of Department to transfer to this general syllabus.