



Dnr GU 2023/437

## **General Syllabus for Doctoral (third-cycle) Education in Performance Practices at the University of Gothenburg**

### 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 2023-03-22.

The syllabus is valid from 2023-04-01.

### 2. Content and Structure of Programme

#### *2.1 General information about the content of the programme*

The purpose of the doctoral education in Performance Practices is to – through training in relevant research methods and theories – educate researchers in performance practices with an ability to independently conduct research projects that contribute to the development of knowledge and methods in the subject area.

Doctoral projects in the subject area of performance practices explore questions with relevance for the field of the performing arts, artistic research and society as a whole. The doctoral education in performance practices covers the whole field of the performing arts, and includes all disciplines and genres.

The doctoral education in performance practices uses theories and methods from artistic research but also from other research disciplines, as well as methods developed

in artistic practice. It is characterized by an ambition towards interaction and cross-fertilization between traditional artistic and scientific working methods and development of new methods. Through training in methods and theoretical constructs used in artistic research, the education provides a broadened perspective on knowledge development as well as increased knowledge and skills to conduct artistic research within the subject.

The doctoral education in performance practices supports both interdisciplinary cross-fertilizations and specialization within the doctoral student's specific artistic orientation. The doctoral student's artistic work – where practice and critical reflection are considered as two cooperating parts – is central for the education. The doctoral education actively works to widen the doctoral student's local, national and international networks.

The doctoral education in Performance practices places emphasis on the development of the ability to conduct research that are clearly positioned both in the field of artistic research and the academic field at large, as well as the ability to conduct research in cooperation with other disciplines.

## *2.2 Programme structure*

The doctoral education in Performance practices consists of

- for a *licentiate degree*, a course section comprising 30 higher education credits, and a documented artistic research project (thesis) comprising 90 higher education credits, i.e. a total of 120 higher education credits.
- for a *doctoral degree*, a course section comprising 60 higher education credits and a documented artistic research project (dissertation) comprising 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, the doctoral education in performance practices includes organised doctoral courses, and the possibility of carrying out individually designed courses that can be literature- or media-based. It includes or promotes active participation in seminars, conferences and festivals, as well as 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 educational 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*

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

- a) an obligatory introduction course (7.5 higher education credits), which main purpose is to provide advanced knowledge on the subject area of artistic research in performance practices, and to develop the participants' basic research skills.
- b) three obligatory Faculty courses (7.5 higher education 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 higher education credits), which main purpose is to provide advanced knowledge on the subject area of artistic research in performance practices, and to develop the participants' basic research skills.
- b) four obligatory Faculty courses (7.5 higher education 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 higher education credits). These courses can be organized Faculty or University courses, doctoral courses at other faculties or higher education institutions, or individual undertakings.

#### *2.4 Licentiate thesis*

The licentiate thesis shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to identify, clearly define and with relevant methods conduct an artistic research task. The licentiate thesis shall also comprise artistic work in dialogue with the presentation in general. 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 candidate has published or had accepted for publication in scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field, 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 artistic 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 arts field. In the parts of the thesis that consist of artistic work it must maintain a high standard, 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 with relevant methods conduct an artistic research task. The doctoral dissertation shall also comprise artistic work in dialogue with the presentation in general.

The thesis can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph dissertation) or of a compilation of articles that the candidate has published or had accepted for publication in scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field, 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 artistic 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 work it must maintain a high standard, and have relevance to the development of research within the arts field.

In certain cases, the artistic research project 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 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 Performance practices, the third-cycle student shall:

– demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research in Performance practices, 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 in Performance practices, 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 in Performance practices, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of artistic 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.

### *Thesis*

For a Degree of Licentiate in Performance practices the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a 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 Performance practices, the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field of performance practices, 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 in Performance practices 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 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 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 Performance practices 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 artistic 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 in Performance practices, the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

#### 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 Performance practices are:

- at least 120 higher education credits (or the equivalent) in subjects that 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.
- a documented artistic practice at a high level within the performing arts field.

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 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 fulfil the doctoral (third-cycle) education. The following assessment criteria are applied to test this ability:

- artistic quality and originality in the subject Performance practices
- 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
- ability to formulate a research-related project in the subject that is feasible, and anchored in both artistic practice and theory
- demonstrated interest in being an active part of and contribute to the educational and research environment at the Department

## 5. Examination

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

Each course that is included in the doctoral programme shall have an examiner at the department that provides the course.

### *5.1 Licentiate degree*

For a licentiate degree in Performance practices, a doctoral student is required to have completed at least 120 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle)



programme, of which 30 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded a pass mark and 90 higher education credits in the form of a licentiate thesis. 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 in Performance practices, the doctoral student is required to have completed at least 240 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle) programme, of which 60 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded pass marks and 180 higher education credits in the form of the successful completion of a 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.

### *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 Performance practices, or degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Performance practices at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. The 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 2023-04-01 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.