

# Admission Regulations for Doctoral Education

Decision-maker	University Board
Responsible unit	Educational Affairs
Decision date	2024-09-11
Period of validity	To be scrutinised for relevance/revised no later than 2027
Summary	It is stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance (HEO) that admission regulations are to be available at the higher education institution and that they are to be approved by the board. These admission regulations include rules that the University of Gothenburg applies on applications, entry requirements, selection, and admission, as well as how decisions are made and how they can be appealed.

# 1. Introduction

This is a translated version of the Swedish original. In case of differences between the Swedish version and the English translation, the Swedish original shall prevail.

In accordance with the University of Gothenburg's Rules of Procedure, decisions on the organization of doctoral education, and on the establishment and phasing out of doctoral subjects, are delegated to the Faculty Board. Prior to decisions on the establishment and phasing out of doctoral subjects, the Council for Doctoral Education shall be consulted.

Decisions on admission to doctoral studies are delegated to the Head of Department and decisions on granting exemptions from the requirement for general and specific entry requirements for admission to doctoral studies are delegated to the Dean.

## 2. General provisions

Under Chapter 7, Section 34 HEO, the number of doctoral students admitted to doctoral education may not exceed the number that can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study and whose studies are funded pursuant to Section 36.

## 3. Admission rules for doctoral studies

### 3.1 General entry requirements

General entry requirements for doctoral studies are indicated by Chapter 7, Section 39 HEO.

A person meets the general entry requirements for doctoral studies if they have been awarded a second-cycle qualification, have satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 HEC, of which at least 60 HEC were awarded in the second-cycle, or have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Dean may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant if there are special grounds.

### 3.2 Specific entry requirements

In addition to general entry requirements for admission to doctoral studies, other requirements may be imposed in the form of specific entry requirements, which are decided by the Faculty Board, based on Chapter 7, Section 40 HEO. The requirements in the specific entry requirements are to be indicated by the general syllabus of the doctoral subject in accordance with Chapter 6, Section 26 HEO.

The stated specific entry requirements must be essential for a student to be able to assimilate the doctoral studies. Requirements may relate to knowledge from higher education courses and study programmes or corresponding courses and study programmes, specific professional or vocational experience, and requisite language skills or other conditions required for the doctoral studies.

The Dean may permit an exemption from the specific entry requirements if there are special grounds.

### 3.3 Admission procedure

The Vice-Chancellor is to decide on more detailed rules for advertising a place for doctoral studies in the Rules for Doctoral Education - *Doktorandreglerna*. Applicants for doctoral studies are to apply in accordance with the Rules for Doctoral Education – *Doktorandreglerna*.

A place to doctoral studies must be advertised and admission is to take place in competition. An exemption from advertising may be granted in the following cases:

- For the admission of a doctoral student funded within the framework of employment, where the University of Gothenburg is not the employer (external employment – *samverkansdoktorand*),
- For the admission of a doctoral student funded by a scholarship in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Doctoral Education – *Doktorandreglerna*, and
- In conjunction with a doctoral student changing their higher education institution or alternatively changing the subject.

Decisions on admission to doctoral studies are made by the Head of Department.

The doctoral student may be admitted to doctoral studies that is concluded with the award of either a licentiate degree or degree of doctor.

Those who have been admitted to doctoral studies that concludes with a licentiate degree may, upon application and in competition with other applicants, be admitted to doctoral studies with that concludes with a doctoral degree.

In the case of admission to doctoral studies that concludes with a licentiate degree, the Head of Department must clearly indicate in written information that further studies towards a doctoral degree requires readmission.

### 3.4 Selection

The ability of the applicant to benefit from the doctoral studies is to be considered when selecting applicants for doctoral studies who meet the general and, when applicable, specific entry requirements; Chapter 7, Section 41 HEO.

The assessment criteria to be applied when selecting students for doctoral studies are shown by the general syllabus that is required under Chapter 6, Section 26 HEO for each subject in which a higher education institution arranges doctoral studies.

The selection of applicants for doctoral studies is to be prepared in such a way that enables participation by a representative appointed by the students.

Under Chapter 7, Section 41, third paragraph HEO, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits for prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

### **3.5 Admission**

Decisions on admission to doctoral studies are to be made in writing and otherwise include the provisions of the rules determined by the Vice-Chancellor in the Rules for Doctoral Education – *Doktorandreglerna*.

Appeals cannot be made against decisions regarding an applicant not being admitted to doctoral studies; Chapter 12, Section 2 HEO.