



General syllabus for the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature

Swedish title: Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i litteraturvetenskap

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Please note: This document is a translation of the Swedish original "Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i litteraturvetenskap". If the English version differs from the original, the Swedish version takes precedence.

1 Specialisations

There are two specialisations in the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature: (a) comparative literature; and (b) didactics of comparative literature.

In addition to general theories and methods of comparative literature, the didactics specialisation also looks at didactic theory and the relationship between reading and teaching in schools, higher education institutions and educational activities in society.

2 Programme objectives

Third-cycle courses and study programmes shall be based fundamentally on the knowledge acquired by students in first- and second-cycle courses and study programmes, or its equivalent. In addition to the requirements for first- and second-cycle courses and study programmes, third-cycle courses and study programmes shall develop the knowledge and skills required to be able to undertake autonomous research (Chapter 1, Section 9a of the Swedish Higher Education Act, SFS 1992:1434).

2.1 Licentiate degree

According to the System of Qualifications, Annex 2 to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), for a licentiate degree of the third-cycle student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the research field 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 research field in particular.

Competence and skills

- 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



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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

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of the student's 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 the student's own ongoing learning.

For a Licentiate Degree of Comparative Literature, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge of the theories and methods of comparative literature and the history thereof; and
- demonstrate knowledge of their own research field and the ability to analyse literary works.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the necessary competence and skills to autonomously and critically apply methods and theories to the writing of a licentiate thesis.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflexive approach to their own research; and
- demonstrate the ability to apply a sustainability perspective to their own research.

2.2 Doctoral degree

According to the System of Qualifications, Annex 2 to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a doctoral degree the third-cycle student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field 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 research field in particular.

Competence and skills

- 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 doctoral thesis the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through the student's 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



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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

- 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.

For a Doctoral Degree of Comparative Literature, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge of the history, methods and theoretical perspectives of comparative literature; and
- demonstrate a breadth and depth of knowledge of their own research area nationally and internationally and the ability to critically relate this to other literary research.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the necessary competence and skill to autonomously and critically apply the theories and methods of comparative literature to the writing of a doctoral thesis.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflexive and critical approach to their own research; and
- demonstrate the ability to apply a sustainability perspective to their own research.

3 Entry requirements and prior knowledge required

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes are that the applicant meets the general and specific entry requirements that the Faculty Board may have laid down, and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme (Chapter 7, Section 35 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

3.1 General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if the person has been awarded a second-cycle qualification, has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad. The Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds (Chapter 7, Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

3.2 Specific entry requirements

A person meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes in comparative literature if the person has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising 30 credits



on second-cycle level in comparative literature or acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

4 Selection

In selecting between applicants who meet the general and specific entry requirements, their ability to benefit from the course or the study programme shall be taken into account based on the following assessment criteria:

- previous credits awarded; and
- the quality of the submitted research plan/sketch.

However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants (Chapter 7, Section 41 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

The licentiate programme is largely aimed at professionals seeking to develop their careers through third-cycle studies. The decision to admit a student to third-cycle studies with a licentiate degree as the final objective rests with the Dean and may not be delegated further.

The decision to admit a student to third-cycle studies with a doctoral degree as the final objective rests with the Head of the department in question and is made based on a proposal by the Director of third-cycle studies.

If a third-cycle student who has graduated with a licentiate degree is readmitted to study for a doctoral degree, the deduction corresponding to time and funding from previous third-cycle studies must be stated in the individual study plan's timetable and funding plan.

5 Programme structure and content

5.1 Programme structure

The Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature concludes with a licentiate degree or doctoral degree. The programme covers courses comprising 120 credits for a licentiate degree and 240 credits for a doctoral degree.

A third-cycle student admitted to third-cycle studies intended to conclude with a doctoral degree may, if they so wish, complete a licentiate degree as an interim objective.

For a licentiate degree, the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature covers a two-year period of actual study and consists of courses comprising 30 credits and a licentiate thesis of 90 credits.

For a doctoral degree, the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature covers a four-year period of actual study and consists of courses comprising 60 credits and a doctoral thesis of 180 credits.

At the earliest opportunity after admission, the Head of Department will appoint a principal supervisor and assistant supervisor based on a proposal by the Director of third-cycle studies. An individual study plan must be drawn up for each student specifying the courses included in the programme, the degree project and how the doctoral student is to be funded and supervised. Individual study plans are reviewed and revised on an annual basis. The individual study plan is established by the Head of



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Department based on a proposal by the Director of third-cycle studies.

All third-cycle students must be affiliated to a graduate school. Students in the Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas will usually be affiliated to the Faculty of Arts Doctoral College. In the event that the third-cycle student is to be affiliated to another graduate school, this must be stated when they are admitted and when formulating their individual study plan.

5.2 Content

5.2.1 Courses

Licentiate degree

For a licentiate degree, either as an interim or final objective, the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature consists of courses comprising 30 credits, 22.5 of which are awarded for compulsory courses and 7.5 for elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree specialising in comparative literature (22.5 credits):

- An Introduction to Comparative Literature Theory, 7.5 credits
- Advanced Course in History of Literature, 7.5 credits

The doctoral student is required to take courses for a minimum of 7.5 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses can be found in the graduate school's programme syllabus.

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree specialising in didactics (22.5 credits):

- An Introduction to Comparative Literature Theory, 7.5 credits
- Classics of Literature Didactics, 7.5 credits

The doctoral student is required to take courses for a minimum of 7.5 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses can be found in the graduate school's programme syllabus.

Elective courses for a Licentiate Degree of Comparative Literature (7.5 credits):

Elective courses are chosen by the doctoral student in consultation with their supervisor and to a large extent may be adapted to the doctoral student's interests and specialisation. Courses given within the framework of a Doctoral Degree of Comparative Literature, as well as third-cycle courses in related subjects, may also be credited to a licentiate degree subject to approval by the examiner.

Doctoral degree

For a doctoral degree, the Third-cycle Programme in Comparative Literature specialising in didactics consists of courses comprising 60 credits, 40 of which are awarded for compulsory courses and 20 for elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree specialising in comparative literature (40 credits):

- An Introduction to Comparative Literature Theory, 7.5 credits
- Theory of Comparative Literature: Individual Specialisation, 7.5 credits
- Advanced Course in History of Literature I, 7.5 credits
- Advanced Course in History of Literature II, 7.5 credits

The third-cycle student is required to take courses for a minimum of 10 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses can be found in the graduate school's programme syllabus.



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Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree specialising in didactics (40 credits):

- An Introduction to Comparative Literature Theory, 7.5 credits
- Classics of Literature Didactics, 7.5 credits
- Advanced Course in History of Literature I, 7.5 credits
- Advanced Course in History of Literature II, 7.5 credits

The student is required to take courses for a minimum of 10 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses can be found in the graduate school's programme syllabus.

If compulsory courses at the graduate school comprise over 10 credits, it may be possible to reduce the scope of compulsory courses in comparative literature by the corresponding amount; however, this does not apply to An Introduction to Comparative Literature Theory (7.5 credits) or Classics of Literature Didactics (7.5 credits).

Elective courses for 20 credits are chosen by the third-cycle student in consultation with their supervisor and to a large extent may be adapted to the student's interests and specialisation. Third-cycle courses in related subjects may be credited to the programme subject for approval by the examiner. Courses in teaching and learning in higher education may be included as elective courses at 1.5 credits per course week up to a maximum of 7.5 credits. At least one course must be completed for credits to be reported as an elective course.

Modes of assessment: Third-cycle courses may be examined orally and/or in writing. The grading scale is Pass (G) or Fail (U). Grades are determined by a specially appointed teacher (examiner).

5.2.2 *Licentiate or doctoral thesis*

Licentiate and doctoral theses are to be designed either as a unified, cohesive scientific work on a single subject or aspect of a subject (monograph) or as a compilation of scientific papers with an introduction and summary (compilation thesis). All compilation theses must have an introductory chapter written by the author alone. This must clearly describe the doctoral student's own contribution and, where applicable, the contributions of other authors.

A compilation thesis for a doctoral degree must consist of between three and five articles, at least two of which should normally have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. A compilation thesis for a licentiate degree must consist of at least two articles, at least one of which should normally have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. For further information about writing a compilation thesis, please refer to the *Guidelines for Compilation Theses at the Faculty of Arts* and the *Handbook for Doctoral Students* on the internal web.

Any thesis published in Swedish must include a summary in English. A brief abstract in English must be attached to each thesis.

A licentiate thesis must be defended orally at a public seminar. The thesis will be graded as either a Pass (G) or Fail (U). In assessing the grade, consideration must be given to the content of the thesis and to the defence.

A doctoral thesis must be defended orally at a public defence. The thesis will be graded as either a Pass (G) or Fail (U). In assessing the grade, consideration must be given to the content of the thesis and to the defence.

5.2.3 Type of instruction



Instruction is given in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. Lectures are given subject to available resources.

6 Degree

A Licentiate Degree of Comparative Literature is awarded when the third-cycle student has completed a third-cycle programme comprising 120 credits in comparative literature and has thus achieved a passing grade in all examinations included in the programme, and has written and publicly defended a licentiate thesis at a seminar and received a passing grade from the examining committee.

A Doctoral Degree of Comparative Literature is awarded when the third-cycle student has completed a third-cycle programme comprising 240 credits in comparative literature and has thus achieved a passing grade in all examinations included in the programme, and has written and publicly defended a doctoral thesis and received a passing grade from the examining committee.

A degree certificate is issued upon application to the Degree Evaluation Office at the Student Services Office.

7 Other instructions

Provisions concerning third-cycle courses and programmes can be found in:

- Higher Education Ordinance: Chapter 5 (Employment of doctoral students, etc.), Chapter 6 (Courses and study programmes), Chapter 7 (Admission to courses and study programmes), and Annex 2 (System of Qualifications);
- Admission regulations for doctoral education at Umeå University (FS 1.1-861-21);
- Rules for doctoral education at Umeå University (FS 1.1-1212-22); and
- Local system of qualifications at Umeå University (FS 1.1-2561-21).