



# General syllabus for the Third-cycle Programme in Ethnology

Swedish title: Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå  
i etnologi

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**Note:** This document is a translation of the Swedish original “Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i etnologi”. If the English version differs from the original, the Swedish version takes precedence.

## 1 Learning outcomes

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 education 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)

### 1.1 Licentiate degree

According to the System of Qualifications, Annex 2 to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), for the licentiate degree 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 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;



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- 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 Ethnology, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge of the history, methods and theoretical perspectives of ethnology and how these relate to other cultural studies; and
- demonstrate knowledge of the relevant area of research and be able to relate it to a research context in ethnology and cultural studies.

### *Competence and skills*

- demonstrate the ability to autonomously and critically use methods and theories within cultural studies in the writing of a licentiate thesis.

### *Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflective approach to their own research tasks – that is, to critically review their own research process, their role in the production of knowledge as well as the potential significance or impact of their own research findings on interested parties; and
- demonstrate the ability to apply a sustainability perspective to their own research tasks.

## 1.2 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 the academic community and society in general;



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- 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 Ethnology, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate broad and in-depth knowledge of the history, methods and theoretical perspectives of ethnology and how these relate to other cultural studies;
- demonstrate broad and in-depth knowledge of the relevant area of research and be able to relate it to a research context in ethnology and cultural studies autonomously and critically.

### *Competence and skills*

- demonstrate the ability to autonomously and critically use methods and theories within ethnology and cultural studies in the writing of a doctoral thesis.

### *Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflective approach to their own research tasks – that is, to critically review their own research process, and their role in the production of knowledge as well as the potential significance or impact of their own research findings on interested parties;
- demonstrate the ability to apply a sustainability perspective to their own research tasks.

## 2 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 Swedish Higher Education Ordinance).

### 2.1. 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 Swedish Higher Education Ordinance).



## 2.2. Specific entry requirements

A person meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes in ethnology if the person has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising 30 credits on second-cycle level in ethnology, or the equivalent second-cycle course. A very good knowledge of English is required to be able to benefit from the studies.

## 3 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 study results (scope, specialisation and quality); and
- the quality of a submitted research plan/sketch, where appropriate assessed in relation to the host department's research profile.

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 Swedish 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.

## 4 Programme structure and content

### 4.1. Programme structure

The Third-cycle Programme in Ethnology 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 intermediate objective.

For a licentiate degree, the Third-cycle Programme in Ethnology 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 Ethnology 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 is drawn up for each third-cycle student, detailing funding, supervision, courses, thesis work, etc. This study plan is reviewed and updated annually. The plan is approved by the Head of Department following a report by the Director of third-cycle studies.

All third-cycle students must be affiliated to a graduate school. Students will usually be affiliated to the Faculty of Arts Doctoral College. In the event that a 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.



## 4.2. Contents

### 4.2.1 Courses

#### *Licentiate degree*

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree:

- A course in theory of ethnology, 7.5 credits
- A course in methodology of ethnology, 7.5 credits

The student is to complete courses of at least 7.5 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses are found in the graduate school's programme syllabi.

During their studies, the licentiate student is also expected to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences in the main field of study, as well as in the activities of the relevant graduate school, including seminars, workshops and overnight conferences. The licentiate student shall present ongoing work at seminars within the main field of study, as well as at a compulsory final seminar. This is to be documented and reviewed in the individual study plan.

A manuscript review is to be carried out prior to publication of a thesis by a head of academic discipline or person appointed in their place.

7.5 credits of individual course/s are determined jointly by the student and supervisor.

#### *Doctoral degree*

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree:

- A course in theory of ethnology, 7.5 credits
- A course in methodology of ethnology, 7.5 credits
- A course in history of ethnology, 7.5 credits

The student is to complete courses of at least 10 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses are found in the graduate school's programme syllabi.

During their studies, the third-cycle student is also expected to participate in seminars, workshops and conferences in the main field of study, as well as in the activities of the relevant graduate school, including seminars, workshops and overnight conferences. The third-cycle student shall present ongoing work at seminars within the main field of study, as well as at compulsory mid-point and final seminars. This is to be documented and followed up on in the individual study plan.

A manuscript review is to be carried out prior to publication of a thesis by a head of academic discipline or person appointed in their place.

The remaining credits (usually 27.5 credits) consist of elective courses, either supervised courses, individual courses chosen from existing reading lists, or courses jointly decided on by the student and supervisor as individual reading courses. Teaching and learning in higher education courses can be included as elective courses, 1.5 credits per course week, maximum 7.5 credits. Courses must be completed in order to be reported as an elective course.

Knowledge tests: The following knowledge tests apply to third-cycle studies: examination can take place both orally and in writing. The tests are awarded the grade of Pass or Fail. The grade is to be determined by a specially appointed member of teaching staff (examiner).



## 4.2.2 Licentiate thesis/doctoral thesis

Licentiate or 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.

A compilation thesis is to include an introductory chapter written by the third-cycle student. It must clearly state what the third-cycle student's own contribution is, and (if such is the case) what materials have been contributed by others.

A doctoral thesis is to consist of 3–5 articles. Normally, at least two articles are to have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. A licentiate thesis is to consist of at least two articles. Normally, at least one article is to have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. For further information on compilation theses, see the “Guidelines for compilation theses at the Faculty of Arts” and the “Handbook for doctoral studies” at the Faculty of Arts.

A licentiate thesis must be defended publicly at a 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 Degree

A Licentiate Degree of Ethnology is awarded when the third-cycle student has completed a third-cycle programme comprising 120 credits in ethnology 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 Ethnology is awarded when the third-cycle student has completed a third-cycle programme comprising 240 credits 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 will be issued upon application to the Degree Evaluation Office at the Student Services Office.

## 6 Other instructions

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

- The Swedish Higher Education Ordinance: Chapter 5 (Employment of doctoral students, etc.), Chapter 6 (Courses and study programmes), Chapter 7 (Admission to courses and study programmes), 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 qualification at Umeå University (FS 1.1-2561-21).