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General syllabus for the Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas

Swedish title: Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i idéhistoria

Established by: The Board of the Faculty of Arts on 13 May 2020, revised on 8 February 2022.
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Please note: This document is a translation of the Swedish original "Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i idéhistoria". If the English version differs from the original, the Swedish version takes precedence.

1 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).

1.1 Licentiate degree

According to the System of Qualifications, Annex 2 to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100), for a 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;
- 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 History of Science and Ideas, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

Knowledge and understanding

- relative to earlier cycles, possess broader and deeper knowledge of the history of science and ideas;
- demonstrate good awareness of developments in research within their own subject and related disciplines and areas of knowledge in Sweden and internationally;
- possess significantly deeper knowledge within the subject area of their thesis;
- have basic knowledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's sustainability competencies; and
- have basic knowledge of how sustainability and sustainable development are dealt with within the humanities in general and the history of science and ideas in particular.

Competence and skills

- have developed the ability to autonomously and creatively identify and formulate research questions;
- have developed the capability for scientific analysis and synthesis, as well as for probing and assessing complex phenomena, issues and situations;
- have developed solid competence in autonomously processing, analysing and critically reviewing various types of sources;
- have developed solid competence in planning and implementing qualified research within a given timeframe using adequate methods and theoretical tools; and
- demonstrate the ability to analyse sustainability issues from humanistic and history-of-ideas perspectives.

Judgement and approach

- master an approach based on the history of science and ideas and demonstrate good ability to argue in favour of and substantiate the importance of the historical dimension in social analysis; and
- otherwise be able to apply an explorative scientific approach.

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:

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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;
- 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 History of Science and Ideas, the third-cycle student shall also (locally determined outcomes):

Knowledge and understanding

- relative to earlier cycles, possess broader and deeper knowledge of the history of science and ideas;
- demonstrate good awareness of developments in research within their own subject and related disciplines and areas of knowledge in Sweden and internationally;
- possess significantly deeper knowledge within the subject area of their thesis;
- have actively contributed to developing the research field by writing a doctoral thesis;
- have basic knowledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's sustainability competencies; and
- have basic knowledge of how sustainability and sustainable development are dealt with within the humanities in general and the history of science and ideas in particular.

Competence and skills

- have developed the ability to autonomously and creatively identify and formulate research questions;
- have developed the capability for scientific analysis and synthesis, as well as for probing and assessing complex phenomena, issues and situations;
- have developed solid competence in autonomously processing, analysing and critically reviewing various types of sources;
- have developed solid competence in planning and implementing qualified research within a given timeframe using adequate methods and theoretical tools;
- have developed the necessary competence to expertly present research results in writing and orally and in dialogue with the national and international scientific community and society at large;
- have knowledge and experience of research that provides the conditions for autonomously staking out a relevant career path; and
- demonstrate the ability to analyse sustainability issues from humanistic and history-of-ideas perspectives.

Judgement and approach

- master an approach based on the history of science and ideas and demonstrate good ability to argue in favour of and substantiate the importance of the historical dimension in social analysis and otherwise be able to apply a proven scientific approach; and
- demonstrate the ability to evaluate and relate to the complex human and cultural dimensions of sustainability issues in society during different eras.

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 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 Higher Education Ordinance).

2.2 Specific entry requirements

A person meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes in the history of science and ideas if the person has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising 30 credits on second-cycle level, including a degree project of at least 15 credits. Students who have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad may be admitted after an assessment.

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 credits awarded; and
- the quality of the 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 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 after consultation with the professors (or other representatives) within the main field of study.

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.

4 Programme structure and content

4.1 Programme structure

The Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas concludes with a licentiate degree or doctoral degree. The programme covers courses comprising 120 credits for a licentiate degree and 240 credits for a Degree of Doctor.

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 History of Science and Ideas covers a two-year period of actual study and consists of courses comprising 45 credits and a licentiate thesis of 75 credits.

For a doctoral degree, the Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas 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 after consultation with the professors (or other representatives) within the main field of study.

After consultation with the third-cycle student and their supervisors, an individual study plan shall be drawn up specifying the courses included in the programme, the degree project and how the third-cycle 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 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.

4.2 Content

4.2.1 Courses

Licentiate degree

For a licentiate degree, either as an interim or final objective, the Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas consists of courses comprising 45 credits, 22.5 of which are awarded for compulsory courses and 22.5 for elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree:

- Theory, 7.5 credits
- Methodology, 7.5 credits

(If equivalent courses are offered at the Faculty or elsewhere, these may be taken instead of the compulsory courses subject to approval by the supervisor.)

The third-cycle 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:
The choice of elective courses is made by the student in consultation with their supervisor. The range of courses offered at the faculty and department will vary. Information on which courses are being offered during coming semesters can be found on the department's website.

Doctoral degree

For a doctoral degree, the Third-cycle Programme in History of Science and Ideas consists of courses comprising 60 credits, 25 of which are awarded for compulsory courses and 35 for elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree:

- Theory, 7.5 credits
- Methodology, 7.5 credits

(If equivalent courses are offered at the Faculty or elsewhere, these may be taken instead of the compulsory courses subject to approval by the supervisor.)

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.

Elective courses for a doctoral degree:
The choice of elective courses is made by the student in consultation with their supervisor. The range of courses offered at the faculty and department will vary. Information on which courses are being offered during coming semesters can be found on the department's website.

Modes of assessment for a licentiate degree and doctoral degree:

For courses in third-cycle programmes, modes of assessment include active participation as well as oral and written examinations. The grading scale is Pass (G) or Fail (U). Grades are determined by a specially appointed teacher (examiner).

4.2.2 Licentiate or doctoral thesis
Licentiate and doctoral theses are to be designed either as a unified, cohesive scientific work (monograph) or as a compilation of scientific papers with an introduction and summary (compilation thesis). For compilation theses, normally at least two of the papers in a doctoral thesis and one of the papers in a licentiate thesis should have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

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 Degree

A Licentiate Degree of History of Science and Ideas is awarded when the third-cycle student has completed a third-cycle programme comprising 120 credits 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 History of Science and Ideas 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 is issued upon application to the Degree Evaluation Office at the Student Services Office.

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6 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).