Syllabus for PhD-programme in Ethnology

This is a translation of Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i etnologi. If there are discrepancies between the English and Swedish versions, the latter takes precedence and is the legally binding document.

Established: This syllabus was decided by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts on 8 February 2018.

Enters into force: 8 February 2018

1 Learning outcomes

Studies at third-cycle level shall essentially build upon the knowledge gained by students within studies at first- and second-cycle levels or equivalent knowledge. In addition to what applies for studies at first- and second-cycle levels, studies at third-cycle level shall develop the knowledge and skills needed in order to carry out research independently. (Swedish Higher Education Act, 1 chapter 9, §a)

1.1 Licentiate degree

According to the Higher Education Ordinance’s degree ordinance, research students shall, for a licen-
tiate degree:

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the research field, including current specialist knowledge within a defined area of this field and in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific research field in particular.

Skills and abilities
• demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate questions with scientific accuracy, to plan and carry out – with adequate methods – limited research work and other advanced tasks within given timeframes and thereby contribute towards the development of knowledge, and to evaluate this work,
• demonstrate an ability – in both national and international contexts – to clearly present and discuss research and research results, both orally and in writing, in dialogue with the scientific community and society as a whole, and
• demonstrate the skills required in order to participate independently in research and development work, and to work independently in other advanced operations.

Judgement and approach
• demonstrate an ability to carry out research ethics assessments in their own research,
• demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society and mankind’s responsibility for how it is used, and
• demonstrate an ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for the development of their knowledge.
The following requirements shall also apply for a licentiate degree in ethnology (local learning outcomes). Research students shall:

**Knowledge and understanding**
- demonstrate knowledge of the history, methods and theoretical perspectives of ethnology and their relations to other culture sciences
- demonstrate knowledge of the thesis-specific area and be able to relate it to research contexts of ethnology and other culture sciences

**Skills and abilities**
- have developed an ability to independently and critically use methods and theories of culture sciences in the process of writing of a licentiate thesis

**Judgement and approach**
- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflexive attitude to the own research task – that is, to critically analyse the research process, the own role in the production of knowledge and the effects the own research results can have for parts involved

### 1.2 Doctoral degree
According to the Higher Education Ordinance’s degree ordinance, research students shall, for a doctoral degree:

**Knowledge and understanding**
- demonstrate broad knowledge within – and a systematic understanding of – the research field, as well as in-depth and current specialist knowledge within a defined area of the research field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific research field in particular.

**Skills and abilities**
- demonstrate an ability for scientific analysis and synthesis, and for independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions and situations,
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific accuracy identify and formulate questions, to plan and carry out – with adequate methods – research work and other advanced tasks within given timeframes, and to review and evaluate this work, demonstrate with a thesis their ability to make a significant contribution towards the development of knowledge through their own research, demonstrate an ability – in both national and international contexts – to present and discuss research and research findings with authority, both orally and in writing, in dialogue with the scientific community and society as a whole,
- demonstrate an ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the necessary conditions for contributing towards the development of society and supporting other people’s learning, both within research and education and within other advanced professional contexts.

**Judgement and approach**
- demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity, and the ability to carry out research ethics assessments, and
- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society and mankind’s responsibility for how it is used.
The following requirements shall also apply for a doctoral degree in ethnology (local learning outcomes). Research students shall:

**Knowledge and understanding**
- demonstrate ow a deep knowledge of the history, methods and theoretical perspectives of ethnology and their relations to other culture sciences
- demonstrate a deep knowledge of the thesis-specific area and be able to relate it to research contexts of ethnology and other sciences of culture

**Skills and abilities**
- demonstrate an ability to independently and critically use methods and theories of culture sciences in the process of writing of a Ph.D. thesis

**Judgement and approach**
- demonstrate the ability to apply a reflexive attitude to the own research task – that is, to critically analyse the research process, the own role in the production of knowledge and the effects the own research results can have for parts involved

2 Eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible for admission to a programme at third-cycle level, the applicant must meet the basic eligibility requirements and any specific eligibility requirements stipulated by the faculty board, and must be deemed to have such abilities as are otherwise required in order to assimilate the education. (Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7, § 35)

2.1 Basic eligibility requirements
The basic eligibility requirements are having been awarded a degree at second-cycle level, having completed course requirements worth at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits must be at second-cycle level, or in some other way – either in Sweden or abroad – having acquired largely equivalent knowledge. The faculty board may grant dispensation from the basic eligibility requirements for individual applicants, if special reasons exist. (Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7, § 39)

2.2 Specific eligibility requirements
Admission also requires at least 30 ECTS credits in ethnology studies at second cycle (Masters) level. In order to gain from the education, good reading ability in English is required.

3 Selection

A selection shall be made of applicants who meet the eligibility requirements, taking into account their ability to assimilate third-cycle studies and mainly based on the following assessment criteria:

- previous study results, and
- the quality of a submitted research plan/sketch, related – where relevant – to the research profiles of the department in question.
However, the circumstance alone that an applicant is deemed to be able to have previous education or professional experience accredited for these studies may not give the applicant priority over other applicants on selection. (Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7, § 41)

Licentiate studies are aimed primarily at those who are in employment and who wish to develop their competence with studies at third-cycle level. A decision on admission for studies at third-cycle level with a licentiate degree as the ultimate objective will be made by the dean (may not be delegated).

A decision on admission for studies at third-cycle level with a doctoral degree as the ultimate objective will be made by the head of department at the relevant department, after a report by the director of third-cycle.

4 Composition and content of the studies

4.1 Composition
Studies in ethnology at third-cycle level conclude with a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree. Studies shall consist of 120 credits for a licentiate degree and 240 credits for a doctoral degree. A doctoral student who has been admitted for studies at third-cycle level with a doctoral degree as the ultimate objective may, if he or she so desires, take a licentiate degree as an intermediate objective.

Studies in ethnology at third-cycle level with a licentiate degree as the ultimate objective cover two years of net studying time, and consist of a course element worth 30 credits and a licentiate dissertation worth 90 credits.

Studies in philosophy at third-cycle level with a doctoral degree as the ultimate objective cover four years of net studying time, and consist of a course element worth 60 credits and a doctoral thesis worth 180 credits.

As soon as possible after admission, the head of department appoints a main supervisor and an assistant supervisor, after a report by the director of third-cycle studies.

For every research student, the main supervisor and the student shall draw up an individual study plan together, in which funding, supervision, courses, thesis work, etc. are detailed. This study plan is reviewed and updated annually. The plan is established by the head of department after a report by the director of third-cycle studies.

All research students must be affiliated with a graduate school. Students are normally affiliated with the Faculty of Arts Doctoral College. In cases where a research student is to be affiliated with another graduate school, this is stated when the student is admitted and when the individual study plan is drawn up.

4.2 Content
4.2.1 Courses
Licentiate degree

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree:
- One course in the area of ethnological theory (7.5 credits)
- One course in the area of ethnological methods (7.5 credits)
• At least 7.5 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses are listed in the curriculum of the graduate school.

While studying, the student is expected to take part in the activities of the graduate school, such as seminars, workshops and overnight stay courses. This shall be registered and followed up in the individual study plan.

7.5 credits individual reading course/s are decided jointly by student and supervisor.

**Doctoral degree**

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree:

• One course in the area of the scientific history of ethnology (7.5 credits)
• One course in the area of ethnological theory (7.5 credits)
• One course in the area of ethnological methods (7.5 credits)

• At least 10 credits within the framework of a graduate school. Current courses are listed in the curriculum of the graduate school.

While studying, the student is expected to take part in the activities of the graduate school, such as seminars, workshops and overnight stay courses. This shall be registered and followed up in the individual study plan.

The remaining 27.5 credits will be optional courses, either supervised courses, individual courses chosen from existing reading lists, or courses decided jointly by student and supervisor as individual reading lists.

Knowledge tests for licentiate and doctoral degrees: The following knowledge tests apply for courses within studies at third-cycle level: active participation and oral or written examinations. The tests are assessed as either a pass or a fail. The grade will be determined by a specially appointed member of teaching staff (examiner).

4.2.2 *Licentiate dissertation/Doctoral thesis*

The licentiate dissertation/doctoral thesis shall take the form of either a single, continuous scientific work (monograph) or a compilation of scientific dissertations with an introduction and a brief summary written individually by the student (compilation thesis). In a compilation thesis, what is the student’s contribution and what are contributions from other authors shall be clearly stated.

A compilation thesis for doctoral degree should comprise of 3-5 essays, whereof two of the essays should have been accepted for publication in referee-reviewed scientific publications. A compilation thesis for licentiate degree should comprise of at least 2 essays, whereof one essay should have been accepted for publication in referee-reviewed scientific publications.

The licentiate dissertation must be defended orally at a public seminar. It is assessed as either a pass or a fail. When grading, the content of the dissertation and its defence will be taken into consideration. The doctoral thesis must be defended orally at a public thesis defence. It is assessed as either a pass or a fail. When grading, the content of the thesis and its defence will be taken into consideration.
5 The degree

A licentiate degree in ethnology is achieved once the research student has completed studies at third-cycle level worth 120 credits and has received a pass grade in the tests included in the studies, and has written and defended at a seminar a licentiate dissertation, which has been passed by the examining committee.

A doctoral degree in ethnology is achieved once the research student has completed studies at third-cycle level worth 240 credits and has received a pass grade in the tests included in the studies, and has written and defended at a public thesis defence a doctoral thesis, which has been passed by the examining committee.

A degree certificate will be issued on application to Student Services/the Degree Evaluation Office.

6 Other instructions

Applicable provisions on studies at third-cycle level are detailed in:

- The Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (HF): Chapter 5 (Employment as Doctoral Student, etc), Chapter 6 (Studies) and Chapter 7 (Access to Education), Appendix 2 (Degree Ordinance) and transitional regulations
- Admission regulations for studies at third-cycle level at Umeå University (FS 1.1-859-17)
- Rules for studies at third-cycle level at Umeå University (FS 1.1-87-16)
- Local degree ordinance at Umeå University (FS 1.1-1044-16)