



General syllabus for studies in Philosophy at third-cycle level

This is a translation of *Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i filosofi*. If different meanings between the Swedish and English syllabus occurs, the Swedish version has precedence.

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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 licentiate 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 philosophy (local learning outcomes). Research students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- in relation to lower education levels demonstrate broadened and deepened proficiency in the central areas of philosophy (history of philosophy, logic, moral philosophy, theory of knowledge and scientific theory, philosophy of language, metaphysics, social philosophy),
- have deeper knowledge of one of the areas of philosophy (history of philosophy, logic, moral philosophy, theory of knowledge and scientific theory, philosophy of language, metaphysics, social philosophy), and
- have significantly deeper knowledge within the thesis-specific subject area,

Skills and abilities

- have developed an ability to independently and creatively identify and formulate scientific issues,
- have developed ability in scientific analysis and synthesis, and probing research and assessment of complex phenomena, questions and situations,
- have developed sound skills in planning and using adequate methods and theoretical tools to carry out advanced research tasks within given timeframes, and

Judgement and approach

- otherwise be able to apply a probing scientific attitude.

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 philosophy (local learning outcomes). Research students shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- in relation to lower education levels demonstrate broadened and deepened proficiency in the following central areas of philosophy: history of philosophy, logic, moral philosophy, theory of knowledge and scientific theory, philosophy of language, metaphysics, social philosophy,
- have deeper knowledge of one of the areas of philosophy (history of philosophy, logic, moral philosophy, theory of knowledge and scientific theory, philosophy of language, metaphysics, social philosophy),
- have considerably deepened knowledge within the thesis-specific subject area and have actively contributed to the development of knowledge within this area by writing a thesis,

Skills and abilities

- have developed an ability to independently and creatively identify and formulate scientific issues,
- have developed ability in scientific analysis and synthesis, and probing research and assessment of complex phenomena, questions and situations,
- have developed sound skills in independently dealing with, analysing and critically reviewing various forms of sources,
- have developed sound skills in planning and using adequate methods and theoretical tools to carry out advanced research tasks within given timeframes, and
- have developed skills – in both national and international contexts – in presenting research and research findings with expert knowledge, both orally and in writing, in dialogue with the scientific community and society, and have knowledge and experience of research work that provides the necessary conditions for independently shaping a relevant professional career, and

Judgement and approach

- otherwise be able to apply a probing scientific attitude.

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

In order to meet the specific eligibility requirements for admission to studies in philosophy at third-cycle level, the applicant must have completed at least 30 credits in philosophy, practical philosophy or theoretical philosophy at second-cycle level, with an independent project worth at least 15 credits. Students who have acquired equivalent knowledge in some other way, either within Sweden or abroad, may be admitted for third-cycle studies after assessment.

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 faculty board (may not be delegated), and may only be made when the applicant has submitted a written request for this to the faculty board (Umeå University's admission regulations).

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 studies following consultation with the professors (or with other representatives) within the main subject area in question.

If a doctoral student who has taken a licentiate degree and is readmitted with the ultimate aim of taking a doctoral degree, a corresponding reduction of time and funding from the student's previous third-cycle studies be shown in the individual study plan with schedule and funding plan.

4 Composition and content of the studies

4.1 Composition

Studies in philosophy 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 philosophy 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 45 credits and a licentiate dissertation worth 75 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 90 credits and a doctoral thesis worth 150 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 following consultation with the professors (or with other representatives) within the main subject area in question.

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

Studies in philosophy at third-cycle level with a licentiate degree as the subsidiary/ultimate objective consist of a course element worth 45 credits, of which 37.5 credits consist of compulsory courses and 7.5 credits consist of elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a licentiate degree:

1. History of philosophy, 7.5 credits
2. 22.5 credits in total in the areas of (i) logic, (ii) theory of knowledge and scientific theory, (iii) metaphysics, (iv) philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, (v) moral philosophy, (vi) social philosophy, of which a maximum of 7.5 credits in one of the areas. 7.5 credits in logic are however mandatory for students who have not studied logic at first- or second-cycle level.
3. Active participation in 2 terms of advanced seminars in the subject of philosophy, 2.5 credits
4. 5 credits within the framework of a graduate school.

A student who has previously attained 30 credits in history of philosophy may in consultation with his or her supervisor replace course 1 with an elective course from one of the areas (i)-(vi) listed under 3. (Metaphysics here and henceforth refers to subjects conventionally included in well-used introductions, works of reference and handbooks and includes, among much else, free will, philosophy of action, personal identity, realism, anti-realism, reductionism and naturalism and the existence of God.)

Elective courses for a licentiate degree:

Elective courses worth 7.5 credits are chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The courses offered at the faculty and the department will vary from time to time. Please see the department website for the latest information about which courses will be offered during the coming semesters.

Doctoral degree

Studies in philosophy at third-cycle level consist of a course element worth 90 credits, of which 60 credits consist of compulsory courses and 30 credits consist of elective courses.

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree:

1. History of philosophy, 7.5 credits
2. Logic, 7.5 credits

3. 22.5 credits in total in the areas of (i) theory of knowledge and scientific theory, (ii) metaphysics, (iii) philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, (iv) moral philosophy, (v) social philosophy, of which a maximum of 7.5 credits in one of the areas.
4. Active participation in 5 terms of advanced seminars in the subject of philosophy, 7.5 credits
5. Teaching methods, 5 credits Courses in university teaching can be credited within this element. The element can also be made up of courses in philosophical method, philosophy of education, or philosophical courses in learning and cognitive development.
6. 10 credits within the framework of a graduate school.

A student who has previously attained 30 credits in history of philosophy may in consultation with his or her supervisor replace course 1 with an elective course from one of the areas (i)-(v) listed under 3. A student who has previously attained 15 credits in logic may in consultation with his or her supervisor replace course 2 with an elective course from one of the areas (i)-(v) listed under 3.

Elective courses for a doctoral degree:

Elective specialisation courses worth a total of 30 credits are chosen by the student in consultation with the supervisor. The courses offered at the faculty and the department will vary from time to time. Please see the department website for the latest information about which courses will be offered during the coming semesters.

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 (compilation thesis). In a compilation thesis, at least two of the essays in a doctoral thesis and one of the essays in a licentiate dissertation should have been accepted for publication in referee-reviewed scientific publications, or the essays included should be of such quality that they can be accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international journals.

A thesis that is published in Swedish should contain an introduction in English. Every thesis is to include a short abstract in English.

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 philosophy 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 philosophy 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 (1.1.2-25-14)
- Local degree ordinance at Umeå University (ref. 1.1.2-482-14)