



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Syllabus for the PhD programme in Sociology

Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i sociologi

- Scope: 240 credits/120 credits
- Degree: Doctor of Philosophy/Licentiate of Philosophy
- Level: Doctoral
- Approval: 1 November 2023
- Valid from: 1 November 2023
- Responsible body: Faculty of Social Sciences

1. Programme goals

1.1 Doctoral degree

To be awarded a Doctoral degree, the System of Qualifications stipulates that the doctoral student must

Comprehension and knowledge

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of sociology and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a more narrowly defined area of sociology;
- demonstrate thorough familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with specific sociological methods in particular;

Ability and proficiency

- demonstrate an ability for scientific analysis and synthesis, independent critical analysis and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions and situations;
- demonstrate the ability to critically, autonomously and creatively identify and formulate questions with scholarly precision and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined timeframes and to review and evaluate such work;
- demonstrate the ability, with a thesis and through their own research, to substantially contribute to the development of knowledge;
- demonstrate the ability, in both national and international contexts, to authoritatively present and discuss, orally and in writing, research and research findings in dialog with the scientific community and society at general;
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge;
- demonstrate the potential to contribute to society's development and support the learning of others within research and education and in other qualified professional contexts.

The logic of inquiry

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity as well as the ability to assess research ethics;
- demonstrate in-depth insight about the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and the responsibility of individuals for how it is used.



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For doctoral degrees in sociology, the following requirements also apply

- demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on and review societal relations.

1.2 Licentiate degree

To be awarded a licentiate degree, the System of Qualifications stipulates that the doctoral student must

Comprehension and knowledge

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in sociology including relevant specialist knowledge within a defined part of the subject and in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology in general and specific sociological methods in particular.

Ability and proficiency

- demonstrate the ability to critically, autonomously and creatively identify and formulate questions with scholarly precision and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined timeframes 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;
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in other qualified activities.

The logic of inquiry

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of individuals for how it is used;
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for acquiring additional knowledge.

2. Entry requirements and prerequisite qualifications

For admission to postgraduate studies, the applicant is to meet both the general entry requirements and the programme-specific entry requirements defined by the faculty board and be considered in other respects to have the ability required to assimilate and benefit from the programme (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 35).

2.1. General entry requirements

To meet the general entry requirements, applicants must have a master's degree, have completed studies for at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded at the master's level, or have completed a corresponding programme in Sweden or in some other country or have equivalent qualifications. The Faculty Board may, for an individual applicant, grant exceptions to



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the general entry requirements if there are special grounds for doing so. (HEO, Chapter 7, Section 39).

2.2. Specific entry requirements

To fulfil the specific eligibility requirements for admission to doctoral education in Sociology, the applicant must have a bachelor's education in Sociology totalling at least 90 credits and 60 credits from a master's education in Sociology or other education of a corresponding scope and depth. The specific entry requirements are considered met by individuals who have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

3. Selection

The following are considered when selecting applicants for open positions for doctoral studies:

- their ability to assimilate and benefit from the programme;
- previous grades awarded;
- the quality of the submitted thesis plan, and, if relevant, how it relates to the department's research profiles.

The following criteria are used to assess the ability to benefit from the studies:

- Analytical skills
- Written and oral communication skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Autonomy
- Ability to perform within specified timeframes.

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

A student with other funding sources than a doctoral studentship may only be admitted if their qualifications are judged equivalent to the qualifications of applicants who qualify for a doctoral studentship.

Gender equality should be considered when selecting between applicants.

Based on a proposal by the department's preparatory and planning body, the head of department decides admission to doctoral studies with a doctoral degree as the ultimate goal.

4. Programme structure and content

4.1. Programme structure

The PhD programme in Sociology concludes with a licentiate or doctoral degree. The programme is to include 120 credits for the licentiate and 240 credits for the doctorate. A doctoral student admitted to the programme leading to a doctorate may, if the student wishes, complete a licentiate as a step towards a doctorate.



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The PhD programme in Sociology leading to a licentiate comprises two years of net study time and consists of coursework comprising 37.5 credits and a licentiate thesis comprising 82.5 credits.

The PhD programme in Sociology leading to a doctorate comprises four years of net study time and consists of coursework comprising 75 credits and a doctoral dissertation comprising 165 credits.

An individual study plan is drawn up for each doctoral student. The plan specifies funding, supervisor, courses, dissertation work and other information.

4.2. Contents

4.2.1 Courses

Doctoral degree

The PhD programme in sociology consists of course work totalling 75 credits (37.5 credits from compulsory courses and 37.5 credits from electives, including participation in seminars).

Compulsory courses for a doctoral degree: 7.5 credits philosophy of science, 15 credits sociological theory, 15 credits scientific method with a focus on both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Elective courses for a doctoral degree: Reading or special courses in areas closely related to the subject totalling 37.5 credits, including seminar participation. Reading courses are designed in consultation with the supervisor and the person in charge of the doctoral programme.

Special courses are chosen in consultation with the supervisor and the director of doctoral studies. Up to 7.5 credits may come from Centre for Educational Development courses or equivalent.

Participation in research seminars can give 15 credits (0.75 credits per seminar). Of these 20 seminars, at least five must take place in an assigned group of discussants consisting of doctoral students. See the document "Syllabus supplement" for more detailed information. For credit from the research seminars, active participation in the specified group is required.

Dissertation work must be presented on at least three occasions at the department's seminar series:

- Within six months (preferably earlier) of the start of doctoral studies, a thesis plan adhering to the guidelines specified by the doctoral programmes board must be presented. The review is conducted by two internal discussants.
- After two years of doctoral studies, thesis work is to be presented at a mid-way seminar. The presentation is to include the written material compiled within the framework of working with the thesis as well as an oral presentation of the work. A discussant reviews the work at the seminar.
- In connection with the completion of the thesis work, a final seminar is held where all parts of the thesis are presented. At the final seminar, a discussant is appointed to review the work.

Examinations: Examination takes the following forms for doctoral courses given by the Department of Sociology: Writing reports according to instructions for each course. The



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examinations are assessed using the grades of Pass or Fail. The grade is determined by a specifically appointed teacher (examiner).

Degree of Licentiate

The doctoral programme in Sociology with a licentiate degree as the partial goal or ultimate goal consists of course work totalling 37.5 credits (30 credits for compulsory courses and 7.5 credits for electives).

Compulsory courses for the licentiate degree: 7.5 credits philosophy of science, 15 credits scientific method with a focus on both quantitative and qualitative methods and a 7.5 credit course in sociology.

Elective courses for the licentiate degree: 7.5 credits

The thesis work must be presented on at least two occasions at the department's seminar series:

- Within six months of beginning the doctoral education, present a thesis plan that follows the guidelines specified by the doctoral programmes board. The review is conducted by an appointed group of discussants.
- In connection with the completion of the thesis work, a final seminar is held where all parts of the thesis are presented. At the final seminar, a discussant is appointed to review the work.

4.2.2 Doctoral thesis/Licentiate thesis

The doctoral/licentiate thesis may either be a uniform, cohesive scholarly work (monograph dissertation) or be made up of academic articles with an introduction and a short summary of these articles (compilation thesis). A compilation thesis is to have four articles or equivalent.

The minimum requirement is that the doctoral student is to be the lead author of two articles and at least co-lead author for the other two articles in their thesis. A licentiate thesis is to have two articles or equivalent. The minimum requirement is that the doctoral student is to be the lead author of one article and at least co-lead author for the other article.

For each article, the doctoral student's responsibility and the responsibility of other authors must be able to be determined from an author declaration. This declaration can be included in each article or in the summary chapter. For more information, see "Syllabus supplement".

A public oral defence of the doctoral dissertation is to be held.

It is assessed using the grades of Pass or Fail. In assigning a grade, consideration is to be given to the content of the dissertation and to its defence.

The licentiate thesis is to be orally defended at a public seminar. It is assessed using the grades of Pass or Fail. In assigning a grade, consideration is to be given to the content of the thesis and to its defence.

5. Degree

The doctoral degree in Sociology is awarded once the doctoral student has completed their doctoral studies comprising 240 credits as per this syllabus and thereby achieved a passing grade on the



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assessments included in the education and the doctoral student has written and publicly defended a doctoral dissertation approved by the examining committee.

The licentiate degree in Sociology is awarded once the doctoral candidate has completed the doctoral programme comprising 120 credits in Sociology and thereby achieved a passing grade on the examinations included in the programme, as well as having written and defended a licentiate thesis that was approved by the examining committee.

Degree certificates are issued after successful application to the relevant unit at Umeå University.