



Syllabus for the PhD program in Gender Studies

Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i genusvetenskap

- Scope: 240 credits/120 credits
- Education level: Degree of Doctor of Philosophy/Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy
- Study level: Third-cycle
- Established: 07-06-2017
- Enters into force: 01-09-2017
- Responsible body: Faculty of Social Sciences

1. Learning Outcome

Third-cycle education should substantially build upon knowledge students retained during first- and second-cycle studies or the equivalent. Third-cycle education shall, in addition to that which applies for first- and second-cycle education, develop the knowledge and skills necessary to independently conduct research.

Higher Education Act Ch. 1, Sect. 9 (Högskolelagen 1 kap 9 §)

1.1 Degree of Doctor

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, according to the degree ordinance, the third-cycle student shall have:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of gender studies, as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge, in a limited area of this research field, and
- demonstrate good familiarity with research development within gender studies as well as closely related disciplines and fields, in Sweden and internationally (local goal),
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology, in general, and the methods of the specific field of gender studies, in particular.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well be able 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 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 in 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, through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity,
- as well as have knowledge of research, in Sweden and internationally, that will provide the prerequisites for the independent designing of a relevant professional career (local goal).

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to assess 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 this is used.
- be able to apply an exacting and scientific approach (local goal) and,
- demonstrate a strong capacity to be able to make a credible case for, and concretely show, the significance of the gender study perspective to science and society (local goal).

1.2 Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy

For the degree of Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy, according to the degree ordinance, the third-cycle student shall have:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of gender studies, including advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as a deeper knowledge of research methodology, in general, and in the methods of the specific field of research in particular, and
- demonstrate good familiarity with research development, within their own field as well as in closely related disciplines and fields, in Sweden and internationally (local goal).

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively, and with good scientific meticulousness, be able to identify and formulate questions, plan and use appropriate methods to conduct limited research and other qualified assignments, within predetermined time frames, and thus, add to knowledge development as well as be able to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts, be able to verbally and in writing present and discuss research and research results in dialogs with the scientific community and society, in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development and to work independently in other advanced contexts.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to conduct research ethics assessments of their own research,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and the human responsibility for its use, and



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- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for the personal competence development.
- demonstrate a strong ability to argue for and concretely show, the significance of the gender studies research field to the scientific community and society (local goal).

2. Entry requirements and required prior knowledge

To be admitted to studies at the third-cycle level, the applicant is required to meet general entry requirements and special requirements that may have been stipulated by Faculty Board and is deemed to have such capacity, in general, as is needed to benefit from their studies (Higher Education Ordinance Ch 7, Sect. 35).

2.1. General entry requirements

An individual meets the general entry requirements if they have completed a second-cycle level degree or completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits are at second-cycle level, or in some other way, has acquired essentially equivalent knowledge within or outside of Sweden. The Faculty Board may grant exception to the general entry requirements if there is a special reason (Higher Education Ordinance Ch 7, Sect. 39).

2.2. Specific entry requirements

To fulfil the specific entry requirements for admission to third-cycle level gender studies, the applicant is required to have completed at least 90 credits within the field of gender studies or hold a Master's degree in gender studies of at least 60 credits. Specific entry requirements, according to the above, are considered to be fulfilled by applicants who, in some other system, either within Sweden or abroad, have acquired largely equivalent skill.

3. Selection process

A selection process involving applicants for available education spaces at the third-cycle level shall be done with respect to:

- their ability to benefit from third-cycle studies
- previous study results, and
- the quality of the submitted thesis plan, and where relevant, relatedness to the department's research profile.

The following assessment grounds are applied when determining ability to benefit from the studies:

- Analytical skills
- Communication skills, both oral and written
- Critical skills
- Independence
- Performance within specified timeframes.

Where it is assessed that an applicant can receive accreditation for previous education or professional activities, they may not be given preference over other applicants in the selection process. (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7, Sect. 41)



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A student with financing other than that of appointment as a doctoral student may only be accepted if his or her merits are deemed to be at least equivalent to the merits of applicants who are eligible for appointment as a doctoral student.

Gender equality shall be pursued during applicant selection.

4. Admission process

4.1 Decisions regarding admission concluding in a licentiate degree

According to Umeå University's delegation of authority, the dean decides on admissions to studies at the third-cycle level that conclude with a licentiate degree and, according to the admissions regulations, it can only occur upon the written request of the applicant.

4.2 Decisions regarding admission concluding in a doctoral degree

Decisions regarding admission to studies at the third-cycle level concluding with a doctoral degree are decided by the director of the Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (UCGS) following suggestions from the department's admissions committee.

Before the director decides on the matter, the dean shall approve financing of the studies as planned. The application for transfer of credits from previous studies is done in connection with admissions and study time is reduced by the corresponding amount of transferred credits. Applications involving transfer of 60 credits or more are prepared by the faculty's research committee, after which a decision is made by the dean. Courses accepted as transferrable are listed in the individual study plan and registered in LADOK.

5. Scheduling and content of the education

5.1. Scheduling of the education

Third-cycle education in gender studies concludes with a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree. The education shall consist of 120 credits for awarding of a licentiate degree and 240 credits for awarding of a doctoral degree. A doctoral student who is admitted for third-cycle studies that are to conclude with a doctoral degree can, if he/she so wishes, study for a licentiate degree as an intermediate goal. Gender studies at the third-cycle level that are to be concluded with a doctoral degree shall comprise a net study period of four years and consist of a course component of 60 credits and a doctoral thesis of 180 credits.

Gender studies at the third-cycle level that are to be concluded with a licentiate degree shall comprise a net study period of two years and consist of a course component of 30 credits and a doctoral thesis of 90 credits. As soon as possible after admission, the Director of UCGS will appoint a head supervisor and an assistant supervisor after presentation of the Director of Studies for third-cycle studies. At least one of the supervisors will be qualified as a docent.

Each doctoral student will receive an individual study plan where financing, guidance, courses, thesis work etc. is specified. The study plan is followed up and revised at least once per year. The plan is determined by the Director of UCGS after presentation of the Director of Studies for third-cycle studies.



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5.2. Content

5.2.1 Courses

Doctoral degree

Third-cycle gender studies consist of a course component of 60 credits that are divided so that 30 credits consist of mandatory courses and 30 credits are made up of optional courses.

Mandatory courses for the doctoral degree:

- Gender studies theories, 15 credits
- Research methods, 15 credits, with a specialisation in both qualitative and quantitative methods.

If courses with an equivalent specialisation are given at the university or at another institution of higher learning, they can be accepted in place of the mandatory courses, following approval of the supervisor/examiner.

Within the framework of offered optional courses, seminars totalling a maximum of 2.5 credits and courses with higher educational specialization totalling 5 credits can be included.

Thesis work shall be presented, on at least three occasions, at UCGS seminars:

- During the first year of third-cycle studies, an extended, detailed research plan, with a description of previous and continuing work, shall be presented at UCGS seminars and reviewed by specific readers.
- Two years after starting, a mid-term seminar shall be held, where the thesis is reviewed by a specific designated reader.
- In connection with completion of the thesis, a final seminar will be held, where all parts of the thesis are to be presented. At the final seminar, a specific reader will be assigned to review the work.

Licentiate degree

Third-cycle gender studies, where a licentiate degree is an intermediate/end goal, consist of 30 credits of coursework divided into 15 credits of mandatory courses and 15 credits of optional courses.

Mandatory courses for the licentiate degree:

- Gender studies theories, 7.5 credits
- Research methods, 7.5 credits.

If courses with an equivalent specialisation are given at the university or at another institution of higher learning, they can be accepted in place of the mandatory courses following approval of the supervisor/examiner. Optional courses for a licentiate degree are chosen by the student in consultation with their supervisor.



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- Within a year from the start of third-cycle studies, a detailed/extended thesis with a description of previous and continuing work shall be presented and reviewed by specific designated readers.
- In connection with completion of the thesis, a final seminar will be held, where all parts of the thesis are to be presented. At the final seminar, a specific reader will be assigned to review the work.

5.2.2 Doctoral thesis/Licentiate thesis

The doctoral/licentiate thesis may either take the form of a single coherent work (a monograph) or a compilation of a number of academic essays incorporating an introduction, a brief summary and discussion of the essays (compilation thesis). A compilation thesis shall consist of 4 articles or the equivalent (2 for a licentiate thesis). Normally, at least two of the academic papers in a doctoral thesis and one academic paper in a licentiate should have been accepted for publication by peer-reviewed scientific publication. The minimum requirement for theses is that the doctoral student must be the primary person responsible for two articles and at least an equal author of two other articles in their thesis. For licentiate theses, the minimum requirement for doctoral students is that they shall be the primary person responsible for one article and at least an equal author of a second article. Compilation theses' individual studies shall be introduced and summarised in a so-called introductory chapter ("kappa") that is solely authored by the doctoral student.

The doctoral thesis is to be defended verbally in public. The thesis is assessed with the following grades: G (Pass) or U (Fail). When setting the grade, attention will be paid to the content of the thesis and its defence. The licentiate thesis is to be defended verbally in a public seminar. The thesis is assessed with the following grades: G (Pass) or U (Fail). When setting the grade, attention will be paid to the content of the thesis and its defence.

6. Examination

A doctoral degree in gender studies can be awarded after the doctoral student has completed third-cycle studies equivalent to 240 credits within gender studies, and where the applicant has received a grade of pass on the tests included in the studies in addition to writing and publicly defending a doctoral thesis approved by the Examining Committee. With dual authorship, the main responsibility for each part of the thesis must be specified. A licentiate degree can be awarded after the doctoral student has completed third-cycle studies equivalent to 240 credits within gender studies, and where the applicant has received a grade of pass on the tests included in the studies in addition to having written and defended a licentiate thesis at a seminar approved by the Examining Committee.

Degree certificates are issued by applying to StudentCentrum/Examina.

7. Other instructions

The primary rule is that, from 1 July 2014, third-cycle students shall follow the new educational ordinance in order to receive a degree for studies at the third-cycle level. Students that are accepted to third-cycle studies before 1 January 2014 may request a transition to this general syllabus.



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The provisions that apply in respect to third-cycle studies can be found in:

- The Higher Education Ordinance: Ch. 5 (Employment of doctoral students), Ch. 6 (Courses and study programmes) and Ch. 7 (Admission to courses and study programmes), Annex 2 (Qualifications ordinance).
- Admission regulations for doctoral studies at Umeå University
- Local system of qualifications at Umeå University
- Regulations for doctoral studies at Umeå University
- Third-cycle studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) (compilation of Umeå University's and the faculty's regulations).