Syllabus for the PhD programme in Educational Work

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

Established: General syllabus in Swedish established by the Faculty of Arts 24/08/2017.

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

1.1 Licentiate Degree
According to the Higher Education Ordinance, third-cycle students shall, for a Licentiate Degree:

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research 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 field of research 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 his or her 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 his or her ongoing learning.

The following requirements shall also apply for a licentiate degree in educational work (local learning outcomes). Licentiate students shall:

Knowledge and understanding
- demonstrate familiarity with the research development within educational work and adjacent disciplines and fields of knowledge nationally and internationally, and
- demonstrate substantially deepened knowledge about the field specific to the dissertation.

Competence and skills
- have developed the ability to carry out scientific analysis and synthesis as well as the ability to critically examine and assess complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- have developed the requisite skills to independently handle, analyse and critically examine varied materials, and
- have developed substantial skills to plan and with appropriate methods and theoretical tools carry out qualified research tasks within predetermined time frames.

Judgement and approach
- be able to apply a critical and scholarly approach, and
- demonstrate the ability to argue for, and concretely illustrate, the importance of educational work to analyses of aspects of society.

1.2 Doctoral Degree
According to the Higher Education Ordinance, PhD students shall, for the Degree of Doctor:

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 scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research 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 dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the
formation of knowledge through his or her 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.
• demonstrate specialized insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

The following requirements shall also apply for a doctoral degree in educational work (local learning outcomes). Doctoral students shall:

Knowledge and understanding
• demonstrate familiarity with the research development within educational work and adjacent disciplines and fields of knowledge nationally and internationally,
• demonstrate substantially deepened knowledge about the field specific to the dissertation, and
• actively have contributed to the formation of knowledge within this field via the dissertation.

Competence and skills
• have developed the ability to carry out scientific analysis and synthesis as well as the ability to critically examine and evaluate complex phenomena, questions and situations,
• have developed the substantial skills to independently handle, analyse and critically examine varied materials,
• have developed substantial skills to plan and with adequate methods and theoretical tools carry out qualified research tasks within predetermined time frames,
• have developed skills in national and international contexts to present his or her own findings as well as others' research results in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
• have knowledge about and experiences of research in Sweden and internationally that provide the prerequisites for an independent formation of a relevant professional career.

Judgement and approach
• be able to apply a critical and scholarly approach,
• demonstrate the ability to argue for, and concretely illustrate, the importance of educational work to analyses of aspects of society, and
• demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics
2 Eligibility and prior knowledge required

To be admitted to studies at the 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 teaching 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, 7 chapter, 39 §)

2.2 Specific eligibility requirements

In order to meet the specific eligibility requirements for admission to studies in educational work at the third-cycle level, the applicant must have a teaching degree, two years of professional experience, and a completed 15-credit essay. 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 of applicants who meet the entry requirements will be made with reference to their ability to benefit from PhD studies, and is mainly based on the following assessment criteria:

- previous study results and
- the quality of a submitted research plan, where relevant related to the research profiles of the department in question.

However, the sole circumstance that an applicant is deemed to have previous educational or professional experience accredited for these studies may not give the applicant priority over other applicants. (Swedish Higher Education Ordinance, 7 chapter, 41 §)

Licentiate studies are aimed primarily at those who are employed and who wish to develop their competence with studies at the third-cycle level. A decision about admission to studies at the 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 to the faculty board (Umeå University’s admission regulations).

A decision about admission to studies at the PhD 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 research studies, following consultation with the professors (or with other representatives) within the relevant main field of study.

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 needs to be shown in the individual study plan with a time and funding plan.

4 Structure and content of the studies

4.1 Structure
Studies in educational work at the third-cycle level conclude with a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree. Studies consist of 120 credits for a licentiate degree and 240 credits for a doctoral degree. A doctoral student who has been admitted to studies at PhD 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 educational work at the third-cycle level that conclude with a licentiate degree span two years of net studying time, and consist of a course element worth 37.5 credits and a licentiate dissertation worth 82.5 credits.

Studies in educational work at the third-cycle level that conclude with a doctoral degree span four years of net studying time, and consist of a course element worth 75 credits and a doctoral dissertation worth 165 credits.

As soon as possible after admission, the head of department appoints a main supervisor and an assistant supervisor, following a report by the director of research studies. The main supervisor needs to have gone through supervision training or by the faculty board be deemed to have a corresponding competency. At least one of the supervisors needs to be at minimum Associate Professor.

For every doctoral student, an individual study plan is drawn up, in which funding, supervision, courses, thesis work, etc. are detailed. The plan is established by the head of department following a report by the director of research studies. The study plan is reviewed and updated at least once a year.

Teaching comes in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. Active participation in research seminars is a prerequisite. This entails, among other things, that the PhD student will undertake tasks such as critically examining papers or dissertation chapters presented by other seminar participants.

It is desirable that the PhD student during the period of research training establishes contact with the international research community, for example by spending time at a department abroad or by participating in international conferences. This is particularly applicable to those whose aim is to take the doctoral degree.
All students at the third-cycle level must be affiliated with a graduate school. Students are normally affiliated with the Faculty of Arts Doctoral College. In cases where a 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 educational work at the third-cycle level that conclude with a licentiate degree, or that has a licentiate degree as an intermediate objective has a course element consisting of 37.5 credits, which are divided into 30 credits worth of obligatory courses and 7.5 credits worth of optional courses. *Information about obligatory courses is given by the relevant department and the research school with which the student is affiliated. Optional courses are selected by the student in consultation with the supervisor.*

*Doctoral Degree*

Studies in educational work at the third-cycle level has a course element consisting of 37.5 credits, which are divided into 30 credits worth of obligatory courses and 7.5 credits worth of optional courses. *Information about obligatory courses is given by the relevant department and the research school with which the student is affiliated. Optional courses are selected by the student in consultation with the supervisor.*

*Knowledge tests for licentiate and doctoral degrees*

For the courses at the third-cycle level, the following knowledge tests apply: active participation as well as oral or written examinations. Tasks are given the grades pass or fail. The grade is to be determined by an especially appointed teacher (examiner).

4.2.2. Licentiate dissertation/Doctoral thesis

The licentiate/doctoral dissertation can take the form of either a single, continuous scientific work (a monograph) or a compilation of scientific articles with an introduction to and summary of these (dissertation by publication). Normally, at least one article in a licentiate dissertation by publication and two articles in a doctoral dissertation by publication need to be accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

For the licentiate degree the PhD student shall produce an academic dissertation corresponding to 82.5 credits. The licentiate dissertation must be defended orally at a public seminar. It is assessed as either a pass or a fail. The final grade is based on both the content of the dissertation and its defense.

For the doctoral degree the PhD student shall produce an academic dissertation corresponding to 165 credits. The doctoral dissertation must be defended orally at a public seminar. It is assessed as either a pass or a fail. The final grade is based on both the content of the dissertation and its defense.
5 The degree
A licentiate degree in educational work is achieved once the doctoral student has completed studies at the 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 educational work is achieved once the doctoral student has completed studies at the 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 defense, 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
The provisions that apply in respect to third-cycle studies can be found in:

- The Swedish Higher Education Ordinance: 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 the third-cycle level at Umeå University (500-1168-11)
- Local degree ordinance at Umeå University (dnr 500-2958-11)