

Faculty board

## General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Psychology

The general syllabus for third-cycle studies in psychology was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 3 May 2018, reg. no U 2018/222.

Studies in accordance with the present general syllabus can lead to one of the following degrees:

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Licentiate of Philosophy in Psychology

### 1 Subject description

The department's research is generally organised into divisions. The areas covered by divisions are work and organisational psychology, clinical psychology, cognitive psychology, neuropsychology, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology. Research is also conducted within cross-boundary networks.

Current research areas at the Department of Psychology can be found on the department website, [www.psy.lu.se](http://www.psy.lu.se).

### 2 Objective and outcomes of third-cycle studies

The objective of third-cycle studies in psychology at the Department of Psychology, Lund University, is to provide students with specialised knowledge in psychology and to train them to become independent and critical researchers with broad knowledge of social science theory, methodological skill and judgement, and the ability to conduct research projects.

The outcomes of the programme are for students to attain the knowledge and skills required to independently conduct research in the field of psychology and to contribute to the development of knowledge in the discipline through an academic thesis.

A further aim of the programme is to develop the doctoral students' ability to convert the acquired scientific skills and knowledge into continuing research or other advanced professional activities. The doctoral student is to have assimilated sound knowledge of the planning and execution of research projects. Furthermore, the programme is to develop the doctoral students' communication and teaching skills in the sense of being able to express themselves well in speech and writing

within and outside academic contexts. The third-cycle programme is to enable international contacts, participation in international conferences and possible stays at higher education institutions abroad.

To be awarded a third-cycle degree in psychology, the student must meet the requirements stated in Annex 2 (Qualifications Ordinance) of the Higher Education Ordinance regarding third-cycle degrees as well as achieve the specific outcomes of the programme listed below.

## **2.1 Degree of Doctor**

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to have acquired the following knowledge and skills (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance):

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- 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 research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular

### *Competence and skills*

For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as the ability 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 advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a thesis 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*

For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of 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 it is used

## 2.1 Degree of Licentiate

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to have acquired the following knowledge and skills (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance):

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- 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*

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- 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*

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- 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

## 3 Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and programmes are that the applicant meets the general and specific admission requirements, and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or programme.

### **3.1 General admission requirements**

Pursuant to Chapter 7 Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance, a person meets the general admission requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes if he or she

1. has been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or
3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the general admission requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

### **3.2 Specific admission requirements**

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third-cycle studies in psychology if he or she has passed at least 30 second-cycle credits in the main field of psychology, including a second-cycle degree project worth 15 credits, or equivalent knowledge acquired in Sweden or abroad.

### **3.3. Credit transfer**

If a student has successfully completed a second-cycle higher education study programme or equivalent, he or she is entitled to transfer the credits awarded for the study programme to the third-cycle programme, on condition that an examiner approves the course or programme for transfer. Credit transfer is assessed individually following a request by the student. Credit transfer is to be linked to a decision on reduction of funding corresponding to the number of credits transferred.

## **4 Admission and selection**

Admission of research students takes place in accordance with the Lund University Admission Rules for Doctoral Education and the Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### **4.1. Admission**

The faculty aims to admit research students once a year, following a general advertisement of doctoral studentships at a set time of year. Students admitted to licentiate studies must re-apply in order to pursue studies for a PhD.

Primarily, applicants who are appointed to a doctoral studentship are admitted to third-cycle studies. Research students must have funding in the form of a doctoral studentship or alternative funding in accordance with the Lund University Admission Rules. The Faculty Board is responsible for ensuring that a careful review of the funding is executed.

### **4.2 Selection**

A selection among applicants must be made if there are a limited number of places. The criteria for selection are the qualifications of the applicant at the time of application. The overriding criterion is the applicant's ability to benefit from the programme. Special emphasis is placed on the applicant's capacity to pursue

research in psychology. The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or to be given credit for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

The assessment of the applicant's ability to benefit from the programme is based on:

1. the quality of the applicant's previous research (e.g. Master's thesis, published research papers)
2. the research project plan attached to the application with regard to feasibility, theoretical support and innovative potential
3. experience of research, clinical work or similar experience of particular relevance to the research project plan, especially with regard to its feasibility

Diversity is a desired goal of the department. Gender equality must always be taken into account. In cases of equally qualified applicants, priority will be given to the under-represented gender, relative to the gender representation among research students in the subject at Lund University, unless there are valid reasons to the contrary.

## **5 The programme of study**

Third-cycle studies leading to a degree of Doctor comprise four years of full-time study (240 credits). Studies leading to a degree of Licentiate comprise two years of full-time study (120 credits). Part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) may be pursued but must be completed within eight years for a degree of Doctor and four years for a degree of Licentiate. Doctoral students are entitled but not obliged to complete a licentiate degree (120 credits) as part of their third-cycle studies leading to a degree of Doctor.

### **5.1 Programme details**

The programme leading to a degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits divided into courses worth 75 credits and a thesis (PhD thesis) worth 165 credits. The programme leading to a degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits divided into courses worth 37.5 credits and a thesis (Licentiate thesis) worth 82.5 credits. Tuition is provided in the form of courses and seminars, as well as individual supervision of the thesis. Moreover, general seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a PhD the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the PhD thesis. For a Licentiate the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the Licentiate thesis.

### **5.2 Supervision**

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be nominated as the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor must have the qualifications of an associate professor and be employed at the Lund University Department of Psychology. A requirement for appointment as principal supervisor or supervisor of a new research student is completed introductory training for third-cycle supervisors.

Supervisors are appointed by the head of department in consultation with the director of third-cycle studies and following a conversation with the third-cycle student, whose wishes are to be accommodated to the greatest extent possible.

The individual study plan shall specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors. Doctoral students are entitled to supervision during the time deemed necessary for completing the programme. Supervision comprises both help with the orientation of studies and thesis work, as well as support throughout the studies. Doctoral students who so request shall be allowed to change supervisors. The request is to be made to the director of third-cycle studies and the decision is taken by the head of department. A change of supervisor is to be recorded in the individual study plan and followed up in future revisions.

### **5.3 Individual study plan**

At the start of the programme, the student shall draw up an individual study plan in consultation with his or her supervisors specifying the undertakings of the University and the student and a time plan for the programme of study. The individual study plan shall be followed up annually.

Doctoral students must register at the beginning of each semester and, in consultation with the supervisor, specify the degree of activity for the semester.

### **5.4 Courses and other components**

The courses that can be included in the programme may be courses offered by the home department, faculty-wide courses or courses offered by other departments at or outside Lund University.

Courses offered at Lund University must have a course syllabus specifying the learning outcomes, content and number of credits. The credits available for transfer from courses taken at other faculties or higher education institutions are determined by the examiner. The courses to be taken by the individual student and to be included in the degree are to be specified in the individual study plan.

One of the grades Pass or Fail will be awarded for the thesis and other examinations within the programme. The examiner of courses is to be a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of an associate professor.

#### *5.4.1 Courses*

The following courses are compulsory for both a degree of Doctor and a degree of Licentiate:

- The general series of seminars at the department (7.5 credits)
- Kickstart to Academic Life: Information Management and Publication Process for Social Scientists (4.5 credits)
- Research Ethics (3 credits)

Independent study courses of 7.5 credits can be drawn up in consultation with the director of studies and lecturer in charge.

The courses that can be included in a degree of Doctor are determined by the examiner in consultation with the research student and supervisor/s.

#### *5.4.2 Research seminars and other components*

The doctoral student is to present their thesis work at no less than three seminars. The first seminar is, in the case of full-time study, to take place in the first year. The midway review is to take place when the doctoral student has completed four

semesters of full-time study, and aims to present information about the scope and quality of the doctoral student's studies and to provide the doctoral student with constructive feedback for their future work on the thesis. The midway review is an internal seminar including the doctoral student, the supervisors and two researchers with the qualifications of associate professors, one of whom is to be from another division than the doctoral student. The third seminar is the final seminar, in which the manuscript of the thesis is reviewed prior to the public defence of the thesis, by a lecturer with the qualifications of an associate professor and special expertise in the particular area of research.

Furthermore, doctoral students are to present results from the thesis project at no less than one international conference.

Students studying for a degree of Licentiate are to present their thesis project at a planning seminar and a final public defence.

### **5.5 PhD thesis**

The PhD thesis is the most important component of the programme. The thesis is to be based on an independently pursued research project.

The PhD thesis can be designed either as a unified research study (monograph thesis) or as a number of research papers accompanied by an introductory summary unifying the components (compilation thesis).

The doctoral student is to be the lead author of at least two of the papers in a compilation thesis. The papers included in a compilation thesis are to be accompanied by the form Co-author declaration and confirmation.

A work by two or more authors may be approved as a PhD thesis or part of a PhD thesis if the contributions of the different authors are specified in a way that enables individual assessment.

The thesis is to be defended orally at a public defence. It is awarded one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail*. The grade is determined by an examining committee.

### **5.6 Licentiate thesis**

The Licentiate thesis is to be defended at a public seminar. It is awarded one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail*. The grade is determined by an examining committee.

### **5.7 Departmental duties**

A doctoral student can take on departmental duties for up to 20 per cent of full-time working hours. The doctoral student is to be compensated with a corresponding extension of the total study period. Departmental duties are to be specified in the individual study plan.

Doctoral students teaching on first- or second-cycle study programmes must have completed two weeks of introductory training in teaching and learning in higher education.

## **6 Further information**

Information on admissions and application deadlines are provided by the Department of Psychology.