



Karlstad University  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

# **Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in History**

## Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 6 February 2017 and is valid from the spring semester of 2017.

General stipulations for PhD programmes are provided in the *Higher Education Act* and in the *Higher Education Ordinance*. The doctoral programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding.

Revision

Replaces previous curriculum of 2016-05-02, HS 2016/343.

### 1. General Information

The core of History as an academic subject is to generate and disseminate knowledge of the past. The study of history is crucial to our ability to understand the contemporary local and regional scene as well as the national and global contexts. Contemporary life can only be understood in the light of the past and the future eludes us without a proper understanding of the present. The doctoral programme in history at Karlstad University (KaU) is closely linked to the social sciences and the department cooperates with several subjects regarding doctoral courses and supervision.

The doctoral programme centres on two profile areas

- *Region Building*. This area takes a contemporary historical approach to the impact of political, social and cultural change processes on local, regional, national and inter-national levels and processes of change in different historical contexts. Studies in this theme are primarily pursued in association with the Region Building research school.
- *History Education*. This profile area centres on praxis-related research on the role of education in a multicultural society and research on the teacher's professional practice. The programme is closely connected to the strategically important Teacher Education at Karlstad University and is primarily pursued in conjunction with the Centre for Social Science Education (CSD) at Karlstad University (see separate curriculum).

## 2. Aims and Objectives

### 2.1 General Objectives

The general objectives of licentiate or doctoral studies in terms of knowledge and understanding, competence and skills, and judgement and approach are specified as follows in the *Higher Education Ordinance, attachment 2 (SFS 2006:1053)*:

#### ***Knowledge and understanding***

For a degree of *Licentiate third-cycle* students shall

- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field and a deeper knowledge of scientific methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

For a degree of *Doctor third-cycle* students shall

- *demonstrate broad knowledge in and systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research; and*
- *demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

#### ***Competence and skills***

For a degree of *Licentiate third-cycle* students shall

- *demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision; to plan a limited research project and other advanced tasks and to carry them out using appropriate methods within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge; and to evaluate this work;*

- *demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts; and*
- *demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts.*

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis and in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations;*
- *demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to scrutinise and evaluate such work;*
- *demonstrate, in a dissertation, their ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge by their own research;*
- *demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;*
- *demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge; and*
- *demonstrate a potential to contribute to the development of society and support other people's learning, both in the field of research and education and in other advanced professional contexts.*

### ***Judgement and approach***

For a degree of *Licentiate* third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research;*
- *demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and*
- *demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.*

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research; and*
- *demonstrate deeper insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.*

### ***Licentiate dissertation/doctoral theses***

For a degree of ***Licentiate*** the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.

For a degree of ***Doctor*** the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade for a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.

## **2.2 Subject Specific Objectives**

The subject specific aims of doctoral studies in History at Karlstad University are as follows:

### ***Knowledge and understanding***

For a degree of *Licentiate* third-cycle students shall

- *demonstrate ability to carry out a limited research project, and work in different areas which require history expertise and/or research skills, and*
- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject history, including current expert knowledge in the specified area of the project undertaken, including relevant methods of analysis.*

For a degree of *Doctor* third-cycle students shall

- demonstrate systematic and critical understanding of the role of history as an agent of knowledge and identity formation in society,
- demonstrate deep and current expert knowledge in the defined area of the thesis, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods applied in the thesis in particular.

### ***Competence and skills***

For a degree of *Licentiate third-cycle* students shall

- demonstrate ability to identify and formulate relevant historical problems independently, creatively and with scholarly accuracy, and to plan, carry out within specified time limits and evaluate a limited research project applying adequate methods and thus contributing to the knowledge development in history,
- demonstrate the ability required to present and discuss historical research and findings clearly in writing and orally in dialogue with the academic community and society at large in national and international contexts, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development and to work independently in other qualified positions.

For a degree of *Doctor third-cycle* students shall

- demonstrate skills in scholarly analysis and synthesis, independent criticism and assessment of complex phenomena, issues and situations in historical contexts,
- demonstrate ability to identify and formulate problems independently, creatively and with scholarly accuracy, and to plan, carry out within specified time limits and evaluate a limited research project or other qualified tasks applying adequate methods,
- through the thesis demonstrate ability to significantly contribute to knowledge development in the subject history,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss historical research and findings with authority in writing and orally in dialogue with the academic community and society at large in national and international contexts, and
- demonstrate ability to identify their need of further historical knowledge from a socially relevant perspective, and
- demonstrate potentials for contributing to societal development and for supporting individual learning in research and education and other professional contexts.

### ***Judgement and approach***

For a degree of *Licentiate third-cycle* students shall

- demonstrate ability to make research ethical judgements in their own research,
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and our responsibility for its use, and
- demonstrate ability to identify their need for further historical knowledge from a socially relevant perspective and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

For a degree of *Doctor third-cycle* students shall

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly soundness, ability to make research ethical judgements and to demonstrate deep insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and our responsibility for its use.

Third-cycle students in the research school on Region Building shall demonstrate ability to treat and develop knowledge of region building in a multi-disciplinary context.

For a degree of *Licentiate* the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade on a research thesis of at least 70 ECTS credits.

For a degree of *Doctor* the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade on a doctoral thesis of at least 165 ECTS credits.

### **3. Admission Requirements**

*Applicants to doctoral studies must meet the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and be judged to have the ability otherwise required to pursue the programme successfully (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7, § 35).*

#### **3.1 General eligibility**

*A person who has earned a master's degree of at least 240 ECTS credits of which at least 60 ECTS cr are studies at master's level, or who in some other way in the country or abroad has acquired largely equivalent knowledge has general eligibility for admission. If there are special reasons for doing so, the higher education institution may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7, § 39).*

#### **3.2. Special eligibility**

A person who has completed courses in history totalling at least 120 ECTS cr, of which 30 ECTS cr are earned at Master-level and include a degree project of at least 15 ECTS cr has special eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in history.

A person who has a degree in teacher education with a major in history 90 ECTS credits, including an independent degree project, or equivalent qualifications earned in Sweden or abroad, is eligible for admission to doctoral studies in history education. In addition, professional experience, at least four years, is required.

Special eligibility for the history education specialisation requires a completed degree in teaching and at least 90 ECTS credits in history, including a degree project, or equivalent qualifications earned in Sweden or abroad. In addition, professional experience as a teacher for at least four years is required.

A person who, in some other way in the country or abroad has acquired equivalent qualifications as described above also has special eligibility.

### **4. Admission Procedure**

Applications for admission to doctoral studies are processed in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Board of Karlstad University.

### **5. Selection**

Candidates will be selected on the basis of their assessed capacity to successfully complete a programme at the doctoral level. In the ranking and selection of the candidates, special attention will be paid to the candidates' previous academic record, particularly the quality of previous research projects at Master's level, to the proposed research area, supervision capacity and to the candidates' intention to participate in the research environment on a daily basis.

### **6. Content and Outline**

The doctoral programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. The doctoral degree requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS credits, and the licentiate degree two years or 120 ECTS credits.

The studies include course work as well as independent thesis work. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 75 ECTS credits of course work and a thesis of 165 ECTS.cr. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 50 ECTS credits of course work and a thesis of 70 ECTS cr.

## 6.1 Courses

For the **Licentiate** degree:

Required courses

- *Course focusing on the Philosophy of Science corresponding to 7.5 ECTS cr. The choice of course is made in consultation with the examiner.*
- *History as a Science*, 10 ECTS cr. In-depth study of the emergence of history as a research field, its development, main analytical approaches and historiographical perspectives, including aspects of theory of science. (Subject-specific course)
- *Methodology*, 15 ECTS cr. In-depth study of current theoretical fields and methodological traditions with relevance to the social sciences and the humanities. Recommended courses are subject-specific courses or courses run by the Region Building research school, or courses of relevance to the student's thesis project at other universities.

Elective courses

- All licentiate candidates shall, in consultation with the examiner and the adviser, choose subject specific courses offered at Karlstad University or at other universities, and/or thesis related courses totalling 17.5 ECTS cr.

***Required courses for the Licentiate degree with a history education emphasis:***

- *The philosophy of science*, 7.5 ECTS cr (see above)
- *History as a science*, 10 ECTS cr
- *Methodology*, 15 ECTS cr
- *Subject-specific research and development*, 7.5 ECTS cr
- *History education*, 7.5 ECTS cr

Elective courses

All licentiate candidates shall, in consultation with the examiner and the adviser, choose subject-specific courses offered at Karlstad University or at other universities, and/or thesis related courses totalling 2.5 ECTS cr.

Licentiate students enrolled in the graduate school for professional history major teachers follow a specially designed curriculum (see curriculum CSD-FL)

For the **Doctor's** degree:

Required courses

- *Course focusing on the Philosophy of Science corresponding to 7.5 ECTS and no more than 12 ECTS cr. The choice of course is made in consultation with the examiner. This block may include 4.5 ECTS cr in forms of communicating/popularising science. The choice of course/s is made in consultation with the examiner*
- *Introduction to Region Building* 7.5 ECTS cr. Joint course for doctoral students associated with the Region Building research school. The state of research in the field of region building is introduced. The course also includes the art of thesis writing.
- *History as a Science*, 10 ECTS cr (Subject-specific course)
- *Methodology*, 15 ECTS cr. In-depth study of current theoretical fields and methodological traditions with relevance to the social sciences and the humanities. Recommended courses are subject-specific courses or courses offered by the Region Building research school, or courses of relevance to the student's thesis project at other universities.

- *Thematic course/s 7.5 ECTS cr.* This refers to courses relevant to the student's thesis. Recommended courses are primarily subject-specific courses or courses run by the Region Building research school, or courses of relevance to the student's thesis project at other universities.

#### Elective courses

- All doctoral candidates shall, in consultation with the examiner and the adviser, choose subject specific specialisation courses offered at Karlstad University or other universities and/or thesis related courses totalling 27.5 ECTS cr.

#### ***Required courses for the Doctor's degree with an history education emphasis:***

- *Course focusing on the Philosophy of Science corresponding to 7.5 ECTS and no more than 12 ECTS cr. The choice of course is made in consultation with the examiner. This block may include 4.5 ECTS cr in forms of communicating/popularising science. The choice of course/s is made in consultation with the examiner*
- *History as a science, 10 ECTS cr*
- *Methodology, 15 ECTS cr*
- *Subject-specific research and development, 7.5 ECTS cr*
- *History education, 7.5 ECTS cr*
- *History of education. 7.5 ECTS cr*

#### Elective courses

- All doctoral candidates shall, in consultation with the examiner and the adviser, choose subject specific specialisation courses offered at Karlstad University or other universities and/or thesis related courses totalling 20 ECTS cr.

Doctoral students, who have completed a Licentiate degree in the research school for professional history major teachers, shall, in consultation with the examiner and the adviser, choose subject-specific specialisation courses totalling 20 ECTS cr,

In addition to the components specified above, doctoral students are expected to participate actively in seminars and are encouraged to attend seminars and lecture series in other disciplines and to teach history in undergraduate courses.

Doctoral students are also advised to study higher education pedagogy corresponding to 15 ECTS cr.

The examiner decides which courses to include in the respective degree programmes.

### **6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Theses**

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a compilation thesis. Candidates are required to defend their licentiate thesis at a seminar and their doctoral thesis at a public examination. Further information is provided by the policy documents "Doctoral Dissertation Requirements" and "Licentiate Dissertation Requirements".

The thesis topic is chosen in consultation with the adviser and the examiner.

### **6.3 Supervision**

Doctoral students are entitled to advisers in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University. For doctoral students in history the rule applies that at least two advisers should be appointed. The main adviser should be employed at the institution where the student is placed.

### **6.4 Individual Study Plan**

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the advisors within six months. The plan should include a realistic estimate of time for course work, thesis work and

supervision as well as an introduction to the proposed research field, problem, aim, methodological and theoretical frames, and relevant ethical considerations.

The individual study plan is subject to continual written revision (at least once a year). For doctoral students in history, the individual study plan also regulates the intervals of submission of thesis proposal, plan and chapters to the seminar.

## **6.5 Examination**

Doctoral students are examined in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus. Doctoral or licentiate theses are examined in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch.6, §§ 33-34) and Karlstad University's current policy document.