



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in English

Curriculum Approval

Approved by the Faculty Council on 23 November 1998. Revised by the Faculty Board on 4 October 2000 and on 11 December 2003, by the Faculty Board of Arts and Education on 7 June 2007 and on 7 April 2011, and by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 27 October 2016. The PhD programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding. General stipulations for PhD programmes are provided in the Higher Education Act and in the Higher Education Ordinance.

1. General Information

Doctoral studies in English can be pursued in linguistics or in literature. Linguistic students can, for instance, focus on language acquisition and teaching methodology, text analysis, conversation analysis and English syntax in their theses. In literature, students can study literature in English thematically or theoretically with diverse approaches, such as narratological, postcolonial, feminist, contextual and generic.

Researchers in the department actively contribute to multidisciplinary research groups at Karlstad University in areas related to language and literature education and cultural studies. Discussion and cooperation with other departments in Sweden and abroad on postgraduate courses, supervision and research issues are ongoing. Students are encouraged to study abroad for a period and to establish international networks.

In accordance with Karlstad University's equal opportunities policy, gender issues are addressed throughout the programme. Doctoral students are also introduced to multi-disciplinary approaches and involved in interdisciplinary experiences.

2. Aims and Objectives

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

Knowledge and understanding

*For a degree of **Licentiate** research 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 scholarly methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

*For a degree of **Doctor** research 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** research students shall*

- *demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scholarly 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** research 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 scholarly 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 thesis, 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** research students shall*

- *demonstrate an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research;*
- *demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of scholarship, 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** research 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 Thesis/Doctoral thesis

*For a degree of **Licentiate** the research students must have received a pass grade on a scholarly thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.*

*For a degree of **Doctor** the research students must have received a pass grade on a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.*

Subject-Specific Objectives

Students are expected to demonstrate specialised as well as broad knowledge of the subject English in terms of methodological skills and the scholarly approach required to solve a major research problem and present the result in a licentiate or doctoral thesis.

Doctoral studies in English will prepare students for further research and provide the qualifications necessary for professions requiring expert knowledge and methodological skills in the field of English, in, for instance, academia, education, archives, libraries, mass media, and publishing companies.

3. Admission Requirements

The requirements for admission to doctoral studies are that the applicant meets the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and is otherwise judged to have the ability required to pursue the programme successfully.

***3.1 General eligibility:** A person who has earned a Master's degree, completed courses of at least 240 ECTS credits of which at least 60 ECTS credits 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 faculty board may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility requirements. (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.6)*

***3.2. Special eligibility:** A person who has 30 ECTS credits in English at Master's level including a degree project of 15 ECTS credits has eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in English. It is generally recommended that the Master-level degree project be in the same field as the doctoral programme applied to (linguistics and literature respectively) as applicants will then have a better chance of demonstrating their qualifications for a specific type of research.*

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 complete the programme successfully. In the ranking and selection of the candidates, special attention will be paid to degree of maturity and ability to evaluate and analyse critically as demonstrated in the independently written degree projects at Bachelor's and Master's levels as well as to the applicants' command of English in speech and writing. Consideration will also be given to the degree to which the applicant's research interests match existing supervisory capacity and to their intention to be present and participate in the departmental research environment.

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 programme includes course work as well as independent thesis work. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 90 ECTS credits of course work. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 60 ECTS credits of course work.

6.1 Courses

Cross-faculty courses:

Cross-faculty courses designed for all doctoral students at Karlstad University may be included in the programme, as follows:

Optional course for the Licentiate degree:

The History and Philosophy of Science, 7.5 ECTS credits

Optional courses for the Doctoral degree:

The History and Philosophy of Science, 7.5 ECTS credits, and
Communicating Science, 4.5 ECTS credits

Subject-specific courses for the Licentiate degree:

6.1.1 *Linguistic specialisation*

- Theoretical Linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Applied Linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Linguistic Methods, 7.5 ECTS credits
- Elective courses, 19.5 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

6.1.2 *Literature specialisation*

- Literary Theory and Method, 15 ECTS credits
- Two literature courses (7.5 ECTS credits each) on Anglophone literary works from different periods and geographical areas, combined with historical, critical and theoretical works, totalling 15 ECTS credits
- Elective courses, 27 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

Subject-specific courses for the Doctoral degree:

6.1.3 *Linguistic specialisation*

- Theoretical Linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Applied Linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Linguistic Methods, 15 ECTS credits
- Elective courses, 42 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

6.1.4 *Literature specialisation*

- Literary Theory and Method, 15 ECTS credits
- Six literature courses (7.5 ECTS credits each) on Anglophone literary works from different periods and geographical areas, combined with historical, critical and theoretical works, totalling 45 ECTS credits
- Elective courses, 27 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

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 Thesis Requirements” and “Licentiate Thesis Requirements”.

Doctoral students select their thesis topic in consultation with the supervisor and examiner. The thesis shall be of the same standard as would generally be demanded for publication in international journals and publications. Theses shall be written in English and be defended orally in English.

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to supervision in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document.

6.4 Individual Study Plan

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the supervisors. The plan should include a realistic estimate of time allocated to 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 revision (at least once a year) in writing.

6.5 Assessment

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, §§ 33–35) and Karlstad University’s current policy documents.