



HS 2014/503

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in Working Life Science at Karlstad University

Curriculum Approval

The curriculum was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 30 October 2014 and effective from this date.

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

1. General Information

The subject Working Life Science at Karlstad University is a social science discipline as opposed to the traditionally technology-based ergonomics. It is built on studies of working people and forms of work. The word “and” is significant: it refers to our ambition to consider the relation between actor and structure in the workplace, something which also emphasises the social science direction.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 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, annex 2, SFS 2006:1053*):

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle students 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.

For a Degree of Doctor the third-cycle students 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 a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle students 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.

For a Degree of Doctor the third-cycle students shall

- 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

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle students 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.

For a Degree of Doctor the third-cycle students must

- demonstrate intellectual independence 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.

Licentiate thesis/doctoral thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 credits.

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

3. Eligibility

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.

3.1 General admission requirements

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 faculty board may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility (*Higher Education Ordinance*, Ch.7. §39).

3.2. Specific admission requirements

A person who has a Master's degree and has written a degree thesis on issues related to work at Bachelor or Master (60 or 120 cr) levels meets the specific admission requirements for doctoral studies in Working Life Science.

3.3. Transitional Provisions

Students who met the general admission requirements for admission to doctoral studies before 1 July 2007 shall be considered generally eligible for admission to the doctoral level until 30 June 2015 (SFS 2006:1053).

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 proposed research area and its relevance to the departmental research profile, the degree to which it matches the department's supervision capacity and the candidates' 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 licentiate degree can be seen as a step towards the doctor's degree and be included in it. 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 plus 165 ECTS credits of thesis work. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 37.5 ECTS credits of course work and 82.5 ECTS cr of thesis work.

6.1 Courses

For the **Licentiate** degree, courses totalling 22.5 ECTS cr in areas listed below are mandatory:

Theory traditions in working life science, 7.5 ECTS cr

Thesis writing in theory and practice, 7.5 ECTS cr

Intensive research design (focus on qualitative methods), 7.5 ECTS cr, or *extensive research design* (focus on qualitative methods). 7.5 ECTS cr

Further courses of 15 ECTS cr are chosen in consultation with the examiner and advisor on the basis of the licentiate candidate's research area.

For the **Doctor's** degree, courses totalling 22.5 ECTS cr in areas listed below are mandatory:

Theory traditions in working life science, 7.5 ECTS cr

Thesis writing in theory and practice, 7.5 ECTS cr

Intensive research design (focus on qualitative methods), 7.5 ECTS cr, or *extensive research design* (focus on qualitative methods). 7.5 ECTS cr

Communicating Science, 4.5 ECTS credits

Further courses of 40.5 ECTS cr are chosen in consultation with the examiner and advisor on the basis of the licentiate candidate's research area.

Elective courses can be taken at Karlstad University or any other institution of higher education in Sweden or abroad where there is expertise in the relevant area. A course can also be individual literature studies.

Doctoral students are required to participate in the doctoral seminars arranged continuously, and expected to present their thesis plan, articles to be published and the thesis frame text. Students are also required to serve as reviewers on several occasions and to participate actively in the seminar discussions in the course of the programme.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate thesis

Doctoral students are required to write a dissertation for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, Dissertations should either be a monograph or a collection of previously published papers with an introductory chapter. The department recommends the latter. 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 advisor and examiner.

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to advisors in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University.

6.4 Individual Study Plan

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the advisors at the start of the programme. 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 revision (at least once a year).

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 Karlstad University's current policy document.