



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Doctoral Curriculum

Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in Comparative Literature at Karlstad University

Approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Education on 7 June 2007 (Reg.No FAK4 2007/81) and on 7 April 2011 (Reg.No FAK4 2011/37). Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 16 May 2013 (Reg.No HS 2013/224).

Curriculum Approval

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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

Comparative Literature was introduced as an academic discipline at the Karlstad branch of Gothenburg University in 1968 (later Karlstad University College) and was approved as a doctoral discipline in 1998. The first doctoral students were admitted in 1999.

Comparative literature in Karlstad has a focus on different forms of *Transgression* in terms of theme, content, and interdisciplinarity. Research is pursued in several areas such as literature in education, narratology, intermediality and media history, gender theory, drama/theatre and modernist poetry and the avant-garde, nationally and internationally. Researchers in the department actively contribute to the faculty multidisciplinary research group in cultural studies and to the Centre for Language and Literature Education, and maintain close contacts with other universities in the country. Postgraduate seminars are open to doctoral students and teachers of other subjects.

The discipline is boundary-crossing and often interacts with related disciplines in the humanities, the arts and social sciences on the basis of the extended concept of text, encouraging studies of fictional forms and literary expressions in other media.

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, attachment 2, SFS 2006:1053*):

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of Licentiate research students must

- 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 research students must

- 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.

Skills and abilities

For a degree of Licentiate research students must

- 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 research students must

- 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 research students must

- 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 research students must

- 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 dissertation

For a degree of Licentiate the research students must have received a pass grade on a scholarly dissertation of at least 90 ECTS credits.

For a degree of Doctor the research students must have received a pass grade on a doctoral dissertation of at least 180 ECTS credits.

Subject Specific Objectives

In addition to the objectives stated above, doctoral students in comparative literature must also demonstrate in-depth understanding of the aesthetic nature of literature and its social position in different historical epochs as well as substantial and extended readings. Doctoral students with an emphasis on the teaching of literature must demonstrate in-depth understanding of the place and function of literature and reading in the education system and broad knowledge of theories and methods of teaching literature.

Doctoral studies in Comparative Literature will prepare students for an academic career and provide the qualifications necessary for professions requiring expert knowledge and methodological skills in the humanities field, for instance, the public cultural sector, publishing, the media, libraries or archives.

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 judged to have the capacity otherwise required successfully to pursue the programme. (*Higher Education Ordinance*, Ch.6)

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 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 (*Higher Education Ordinance*, Ch.6).

3.2. Special eligibility

A person who has 30 ECTS credits in Comparative Literature at Master's level including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr. has eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in Comparative Literature. Good knowledge of Swedish and English is indispensable for successful completion of doctoral studies in Comparative Literature. Knowledge of a third language is valuable.

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.

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 the programme. In the ranking and selection of candidates, special attention will be paid to the previous study achievements with an emphasis on the quality of the independently written degree projects at Bachelor's and Master's levels as well as to the applicants' command of language, expected ability to actively contribute to the departmental research environment and the degree to which the applicant's research interests match existing supervisory capacity.

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 60 ECTS credits of course work. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 30 ECTS credits of course work.

6.1 Courses

Subject-specific courses

Doctoral students in comparative literature shall take courses totalling 60 ECTS cr:

- *Literary Theory and Method* (15 ECTS cr), required course.
- *Literary History Specialisation Course* (15 ECTS cr), required course designed in consultation with the supervisor. The course may have a focus on specific genres, epochs, styles, themes etc.
- *Elective courses* (30 ECTS cr) must be related to comparative literature and/or the dissertation and are chosen in consultation with the supervisor.

Doctoral students in comparative literature pedagogy shall take courses totalling 60 ECTS cr:

- *Literary Theory and Method* (15 ECTS cr), required course.
- *Literary History Specialisation Course in an Educational Perspective* (15 ECTS cr), required course designed in consultation with the supervisor.
- *Elective courses* (30 ECTS cr) must be related to comparative literature and/or the dissertation and are chosen in consultation with the supervisor.

For a degree of Licentiate in comparative literature or in comparative literature pedagogy, the research student must complete the first two courses for the respective fields, that is, *Literary Theory and Method*, *Literary History Specialisation Course* or *Literary History Specialisation Course in an Educational Perspective*.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Dissertations

Doctoral students are required to write a dissertation for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a compilation thesis. Candidates are required to defend their

licentiate dissertation at a seminar and their doctoral dissertation at a public examination. Further information is provided by the policy documents “Doctoral Dissertation Requirements” and “Licentiate Dissertation Requirements”.

Doctoral and Licentiate dissertations may be written in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian or English.

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to advisors 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 advisors. 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 dissertations are examined in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch.6, §§ 40-47) and Karlstad University’s current policy document.