



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Curriculum for doctoral studies in Political Science

(Forskarutbildning i Statsvetenskap)

Curriculum Approval

Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 7 Feb. 2018.

Doctoral programmes are offered to the extent allowed by available resources. General stipulations for doctoral programmes are provided in the Higher Education Act and Higher Education Ordinance.

1. General Information

The doctoral programme in Political Science can lead to a licentiate or doctor's degree.

The doctoral programme is offered in Political Science or in Political Science with specialisation in Region Building (as part of the Research School on Region Building).

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 in the Qualification Ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 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 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 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 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 /doctoral thesis

*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 Additional Subject-Specific Objectives

The doctoral programme in Political Science prepares students for further national/international academic careers and also for qualified professional work requiring Political Science expertise. The objectives below apply both to the licentiate and doctor's degree and are related to the general objectives above to clarify the level of each degree.

For a degree of **Licentiate and Doctor** in Political Science at Karlstad University, students must

- demonstrate broad and deep knowledge of Political Science as an international discipline and research tradition,
- demonstrate specialist knowledge in a research area of Political Science or in an application area,
- demonstrate ability to conduct research in Political Science and/or qualified investigatory work in Political Science application areas independently,
- demonstrate ability to analyse current social issues and political problems academically,
- demonstrate ability to discuss social and political issues in writing in public debate and

- present research results in a written, accessible form,
- demonstrate insight on multidisciplinary methods and gain experience of meetings across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

As part of the Research School on Region Building, students must demonstrate ability to treat and develop knowledge of region building in a multidisciplinary context.

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

För a degree of **Doctor** students must have received a pass grade on a scholarly thesis of at least 150 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, Sec. 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 Sweden 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. 7, Sec. 39).

3.2 Special Eligibility

A person who has been awarded a master-level degree with a major in Political Science and completed courses in Political Science totalling at least 120 ECTS credits, of which 30 ECTS credits are earned at master's level and include a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits, has special eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in Political Science. Courses in Political Science taken as part of degree programmes such as Public Administration or teacher training also give eligibility.

A person who has gained the prerequisite knowledge described in the two paragraphs above in another manner in Sweden or abroad, for example through studying relevant cross-disciplinary subjects, also has special eligibility to the doctoral programme in Political Science.

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 proposed research area and its relevance for the subject's research programme, supervision capacity and the candidates' intention to be present and participate in the research environment. Eligible candidates in Political Science will be selected on the basis of their *assessed capacity to successfully complete a doctoral programme in Political Science* by attaining its objectives (see section 2 above).

6. Content and Outline

The doctoral programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. The doctor's 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 coursework as well as independent thesis work. To earn a doctor's degree, the candidate must complete 90 ECTS credits of coursework and a thesis of 150 ECTS credits. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 60 ECTS credits of coursework and a thesis of 60 ECTS credits.

The research school programme consists of joint courses (see section 6.1) and a research seminar at which students present their texts for response and comments in discussion with students and supervisors from all the participating disciplines as well as their own.

Mandatory seminar presentations for the licentiate degree in Political Science

Students present their work on at least three occasions:

- Thesis idea (within three months)
- One-year seminar (within a year after admission)
- Final seminar

Mandatory seminar presentations for the doctor's degree in Political Science

Students present their work on at least four occasions:

- Thesis idea (within three months)
- One-year seminar (within a year after admission)
- Midway seminar
- Final seminar

6.1 Courses

University-wide mandatory courses

- For the **doctor's** degree
- Communicating Science 4.5 ECTS cr.

Joint mandatory courses for the research school

(for both licentiate and doctor's degrees)

- Thematic course on Region Building, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Subject-specific courses for the licentiate degree

Subject-specific courses for the licentiate degree must total 22.5 ECTS credits of which 15 credits are for methodology courses and 7.5 credits for a disciplinary course.

Subject-specific courses for the doctor's degree

Subject-specific courses for the doctor's degree must total 48 ECTS credits of which 15 credits are for methodology courses, 15 credits for disciplinary courses and 18 credits for specialisation courses.

Subject-specific courses for both licentiate and doctor's degrees are selected as follows:

Methodology courses

Methodology courses must comprise 15 ECTS credits and must include foundational Political Science issues, theoretical perspectives, methodological traditions and analytical approaches.

Disciplinary courses

Disciplinary courses in the main empirical areas of Political Science must be included as follows: two courses totalling 15 ECTS credits for the doctor's degree and one course totalling 7.5 ECTS credits for the licentiate degree. Credits for courses with similar content taken at other institutions in Sweden or abroad may be transferred.

Specialisation courses

Specialisation courses are only taken for the doctor's degree. Students select courses of relevance to their thesis work in consultation with their supervisors and/or examiners for a total of 18 ECTS credits. Specialisation courses may be taken in the discipline, in other disciplines, or as multidisciplinary and thematic courses offered by other Political Science departments.

Coursework totals 60 ECTS credits for the licentiate degree and 90 ECTS credits for the doctor's degree, so students also have to select optional courses in consultation with their supervisors and examiners. The examiner determines which credits for courses may be transferred to the licentiate or doctor's degree.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Theses

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a unified collection of previously published papers. 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 "Licentiate Thesis Requirements", "Regulations on Doctoral Thesis and Public Defence Procedures" and "Guidelines for a Compilation Thesis in Political Science".

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

6.3 Supervision

Students admitted to the doctoral programme are entitled to supervision in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University (Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6, Sec. 28).

6.4 Individual Study Plan

Within six months of admission to the doctoral programme, each student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the supervisors. The plan should include a realistic time plan for coursework, 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), taking the form of written comments and corrections, if applicable.

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 Sec. 33–35) and Karlstad University's current policy documents.