



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 December 2018 and is valid from the spring semester of 2019.

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 2017-02-06, HS 2017/158.

1. General Information

History is an academic discipline about human beings and society through centuries. The core of historical study of continuity and change at the local, national and international levels is empirical analysis and source critical awareness. Historical knowledge and insight into the methodological specificity of historical scholarship are central to our understanding of contemporaneity.

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 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*, *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 in history**, 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 in history**, 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

In addition to the general objectives, the subject specific objectives of doctoral studies in History at Karlstad University are as follows:

For a degree of Licentiate, third-cycle students shall

Competence and skills

- *demonstrate ability to identify and formulate relevant historical problems critically, independently, creatively and with scholarly accuracy, and to plan and author limited research project of 70 ECTS credits, applying adequate methods;*
- *demonstrate ability to carry out and evaluate a research project and other skilled tasks within specified time limits and thus contributing to the knowledge development in history.*

For a degree of Doctor, third-cycle students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- *demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the history discipline and deep and current expert knowledge in a delimited area of the historical research; and*
- *demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods applied in the thesis in particular.*

Competence and skills

- *demonstrate ability to identify and formulate relevant historical problems critically, independently, creatively and with scholarly accuracy, and to plan and carry out research and*

- other skilled tasks applying adequate methods within given time limits and to review and evaluate such projects
- demonstrate research ability to contribute considerably to knowledge development in history through a thesis of 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's 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, 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 are 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 is 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 **Doctor's** degree:

Required courses, 30 ECTS credits

- Critical Perspectives on History, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- Historical Theory, 7.5 ECTS cr.

- Methods for Historians, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- Communicating Science, 4.5 ECTS credits plus international conference participation and presentation, 3 ECTS cr.

Elective courses, 45

A maximum of 15 ECTS credits can be completed for individual directed reading courses. At least 7.5 credits must include a course that is thematically and chronologically outside of the thesis area. A further 7.5 ECTS credits shall comprise methods courses beyond the required course work. The remaining credits should preferably broaden the programme, or include specialisation course of benefit to the thesis project. 2.5 ECTS credits may be earned for participating in and presenting at a Swedish history conference.

Examples of elective courses:

- Thematic courses in areas of social history, political history, cultural history or history education.
- Methods courses
- Specialisation courses at a university in Sweden or abroad.

For the **Licentiate** degree:

Required courses, 30 ECTS credits

- Critical Perspectives on History, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- Historical Theory, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- Methods for Historians, 7.5 ECTS cr.
- Communicating Science, 4.5 ECTS cr plus international conference participation and presentation, 3 ECTS cr.

Elective courses, 20

A maximum of 5 ECTS credits can be completed for individual directed reading courses. 2.5 ECTS credits may be earned for participating in and presenting at a Swedish history conference.

- Thematic courses in areas mentioned above for the doctor's degree
- Methods courses
- Specialisation courses at a university in Sweden or abroad.

6.2 Doctoral/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".

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

The doctoral thesis-in-progress is reviewed continuously and especially on three occasions:

- 25 percent seminar
- 50 percent seminar
- 90 percent seminar

An external reviewer is recommended at the first seminar and required for the next two seminars. In addition, a panel of research colleagues at Karlstad university and another university is appointed for the last seminar. Prior to the public defence, the thesis is further reviewed by an external expert.

The licentiate thesis-in-progress is reviewed continuously and especially on three occasions:

- 25 percent seminar
- 50 percent seminar
- 90 percent seminar

An external reviewer is recommended at the first seminar and required for the next two seminars. In addition, a panel of research colleagues at Karlstad university and another university is appointed for the last seminar. Prior to the final seminar, the thesis is further reviewed by an external expert.

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.