



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Study Plan for Doctoral Studies in Working Life Science

Study Plan Approval

The study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 10 September 2020 and is valid from the autumn term 2020.

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

Working Life Science at Karlstad University is mainly oriented towards social sciences. The subject is based on analyses of human work and the forms of that work. The word “and” is important here: it refers to our ambition to take account of the relationship between actor and structure in working life, which also illustrates the orientation towards social sciences.

Within the PhD programme, we collaborate with working life science departments at other universities and university colleges, primarily in western Sweden. This takes place through joint courses and seminars. We also have international contacts that enable our doctoral students to place part of their studies abroad.

2. Aims and 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 System of Qualifications (Higher Education Ordinance, attachment 2):

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 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** 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 thesis/Doctoral thesis

*For a **degree of Licentiate** the third-cycle students shall have been awarded a pass grade for a 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 thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.*

(Higher Education Ordinance, attachment 2)

3. Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants to doctoral studies shall

1. meet the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements; and

2. be judged to have the ability otherwise required to pursue the programme successfully (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7, sect. 35).

3.1 General eligibility

General eligibility for admission at doctoral level applies to applicants who

1. have 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
2. who in some other way have acquired largely equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

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, Chap. 7, sect. 39).

3.2 Special eligibility

A person who has completed a Degree of Master (60 credits) and written a Bachelor's essay, Master's (60 credits) dissertation or Master's (120 credits) dissertation focusing on issues of working life has special eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in working life 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 to departmental research programme, supervision capacity and to the candidates' intention to be present and participate in the research environment.

6. Content and Outline

The doctoral programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. The licentiate degree two years or 120 ECTS credits, and the doctoral degree requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS credits.

The studies include course work as well as independent thesis work. To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 37.5 ECTS credits of course work and 82.5 ECTS credits for thesis work. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 75 ECTS credits of course work and 165 ECTS credits of thesis work.

6.1 Courses

Mandatory courses for a licentiate degree, total of 22.5 ECTS credits:¹

The classics of working life science, 7.5 ECTS credits

Classic workplace studies in working life science, 7.5 ECTS credits

Intensive research design (emphasis on quantitative methods), 7.5 ECTS credits, or

Extensive research design (emphasis on quantitative methods), 7.5 ECTS credits

In addition, there is room for 15 ECTS credits chosen in consultation with the examiner and supervisor based on the student's specialisation.

Mandatory courses for a doctoral degree, total of 30 ECTS credits:¹

The classics of working life science, 7.5 ECTS credits

Classic workplace studies in working life science, 7.5 ECTS credits

Intensive research design (emphasis on quantitative methods), 7.5 ECTS credits

Extensive research design (emphasis on quantitative methods), 7.5 ECTS credits

In addition, there is room for 45 ECTS credits chosen in consultation with the examiner and supervisor based on the student's specialisation.

Selected courses can be taken at Karlstad University or other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad where the area in question is studied. A course may also include individual literature studies.

The doctoral programme also includes participating in the doctoral seminars organised by the Department of Working Life Science. During the seminars, students are expected to present a plan for their thesis work, articles ready for submission and an outline of the introductory chapter. Students are also expected to act as opponent on several occasions and actively participate in discussions during the seminars.

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. 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 "Licentiate Thesis Requirements" and "Doctoral Thesis Requirements".

The theme of the thesis is selected in consultation with the supervisor and examiner.

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to a supervisor 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 consultation with their supervisors 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).

¹ The courses listed should not be seen as course names but rather as areas. Different courses may be included in each of them.

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 Karlstad University's current policy document.