



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

# Curriculum for doctoral studies in English

(Studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i engelska)

Decision:	FN 2022-10-20	Reg. no	HS 2022/1060	Replaces:		Reg. no	HS 2019/1073
Applies from:	20 October 2022	until:	further notice	Officer:	Monica Eriksson		

## Curriculum Approval

Approved by the Faculty Council on 23 November 1998. Revised by the Faculty Board on 4 October 2000 and on 11 December 2003, by the Faculty Board of Arts and Education on 7 June 2007 and on 7 April 2011, by the Committee for Third-Cycle Studies by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on 27 October 2016, and by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 11 June 2019, and on 22 October 2022. The doctoral programme is offered to the extent permitted by available resources. General stipulations for third-cycle education are provided in the Higher Education Act and in the Higher Education Ordinance.

### 1. General Information

Doctoral studies in English can be pursued in linguistics or in literature. Linguistic students can, for instance, focus on language acquisition and teaching methodology, conversation analysis, semantics and syntax in their theses. In literature, students can study literature in English thematically or theoretically with diverse approaches, such as narratological, postcolonial, feminist, contextual and generic.

Researchers in the department actively contribute to multidisciplinary research groups at Karlstad University in areas related to language and literature education and cultural studies. Discussion and cooperation with other departments in Sweden and abroad on postgraduate courses, supervision and research issues are ongoing. Students are encouraged to study abroad for a period and to establish international networks.

In accordance with Karlstad University's equal opportunities policy, gender issues are addressed throughout the programme. In accordance with Karlstad University's promotion of sustainable development, this perspective is also included. Doctoral students should also gain insights into multidisciplinary working methods and experience of meetings across traditional subject boundaries.

### 2. Aims and Objectives

The general outcomes 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, Annex 2, SFS 2006:1053):

#### ***Knowledge and understanding***

*For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student 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 the **Degree of Doctor**, the doctoral student 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 student 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 the **Degree of Doctor**, the doctoral student 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 doctoral student 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 the **Degree of Doctor**, the doctoral student shall

- *demonstrate intellectual autonomy 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 a **Degree of Doctor** the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.*

### ***Subject-Specific Objectives***

Students are expected to demonstrate specialised as well as broad knowledge of the subject English in terms of methodological skills and the scholarly approach required to solve a major research problem and present the result in a licentiate or doctoral thesis.

Doctoral studies in English will prepare students for further research and provide the qualifications necessary for professions requiring expert knowledge and methodological skills in the field of English, in, for instance, academia, education, archives, libraries, mass media, and publishing companies.

## **3. Admission Requirements**

*The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes are that the applicant meets the general and specific entry requirements, and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme.*

**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.7, section 39).*

**3.2 Special eligibility:** A person who has 30 ECTS credits in English at Master's level including a degree project of 15 ECTS credits has eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in English. It is generally recommended that the Master-level degree project be in the same field as the doctoral programme applied to (linguistics and literature respectively) as applicants will then have a better chance of demonstrating their qualifications for a specific type of research.

#### 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 based on 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 degree of maturity and ability to evaluate and analyse critically as demonstrated in the independently written degree projects at Bachelor's and Master's levels as well as to the applicants' command of English in speech and writing. Consideration will also be given to the degree to which the applicant's research interests match existing supervisory capacity and to their 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 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 an independent project (licentiate or doctoral thesis). The licentiate and doctoral degree require course work of 45 and 60 ECTS credits respectively.

##### 6.1 Courses

Cross-faculty courses may be included in the doctoral programme in English.

Subject-specific courses for the Licentiate degree:

##### ***6.1.1 Linguistic specialisation***

Mandatory courses:

- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits
- Courses in the field of theoretical linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Courses in the field of applied linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Courses in linguistic methods, 7.5 ECTS credits

Optional courses, 4.5 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner.

##### ***6.1.2 Literary specialisation***

Mandatory courses:

- Scientific Theory and Method (12 ECTS credits)
- Two literature courses (7.5 ECTS credits each) on Anglophone literary works from different periods and geographical areas, combined with historical, critical and theoretical works, totalling 15 ECTS credits
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner.

Subject-specific courses for the doctoral degree

### ***6.1.3 Linguistic specialisation***

Mandatory courses:

- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits
- Courses in the field of theoretical linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Courses in the field of applied linguistics, 15 ECTS credits
- Courses in linguistic methods, 15 ECTS credits

Optional courses, 12 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner.

### ***6.1.4 Literary specialisation***

Mandatory courses:

- Literary Theory and Method, 12 ECTS credits
- Five literature courses (7.5 ECTS credits each) on Anglophone literary works from different periods and geographical areas, combined with historical, critical and theoretical works, totalling 37.5 ECTS credits
- Seminars and research presentation, 3 ECTS credits

Optional course, 7.5 ECTS credits, designed or chosen in consultation with the supervisor and examiner.

## **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. 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 and public defence procedures” and “Regulations licentiate thesis”.

The topic of the licentiate or doctoral thesis is chosen in consultation with the supervisor and the examiner. The licentiate or doctoral thesis shall be of the same standard as would generally be demanded for publication in international journals and publications. Theses shall be written in English and be defended orally in English.

## **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.

## **6.4 Individual Study Plan**

At the start of the studies, the student shall draw up an individual study plan (ISP) in consultation with their supervisors. The plan should include a realistic time plan for coursework, thesis work and supervision. It should also include 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), with potential written comments and corrections.

## 6.5 Examination

Doctoral students are assessed 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, Sect. 40-47) and Karlstad University's current regulations.