



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Study Plan for Doctoral Studies in Educational Work

Decision	2024-03-21	Ref.no	HS2024/726	Replaces	HS2020/838
Effective from	2024-03-21	until	Until further notice	Officer	Monica Eriksson

Study Plan Approval

The study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Learning in School and Working Life on 2001-11-05 and was revised by the Faculty Board of Learning 2004-06-09 and by the Teacher Education Board 2012-12-12. Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 2017-12-06, 2020-06-11 and 2024-03-21.

The research programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding. General stipulations for research programmes are provided in the Higher Education Act and in the Higher Education Ordinance.

1. General information

Educational work is an interdisciplinary research field with practical orientation concerned with issues related to the school system and other forms of education. Some of the central research areas are the work done by pupils and their teachers, the socialisation of children and teens, as well as practice-based aspects of education.

The third-cycle programme in Educational Work is offered in close collaboration with the various centres for subject-specific education at Karlstad University, as well as national and international graduate schools/doctoral programmes in educational sciences.

In accordance with Karlstad University's policy for gender equality, the gender perspective shall be taken into account in postgraduate education. Doctoral students shall also gain experience of collaborations across disciplines and insight into interdisciplinary ways of working.

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*

Academic paper/ Thesis

*For a **degree of Licentiate** the research students must have received a pass grade on a thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.*

*For a **degree of Doctor** the research students must have received a pass grade on a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.*

Subject specific objectives – in addition to the general objectives

Knowledge and understanding

*For a **degree of Licentiate** research students must*

- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the connection between teaching and learning and individual, social and contextual conditions for learning;*

- demonstrate relevant specialist knowledge within a clearly-defined part of this field, and;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the connection between teaching and learning and individual, social and contextual conditions for learning;
- demonstrate deep and relevant specialist knowledge within a clearly-defined part of this field, and;
- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences.

Skills and abilities

For a *degree of Licentiate* research students must

- demonstrate skills and abilities to, with the support of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences, conduct research within a defined part of the educational system.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate skills and abilities to, with the support of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences, conduct research within the educational system.

Judgement and approach

For a *degree of Licentiate* research students must

- demonstrate the ability to critically approach and evaluate the potential and limitations of educational science research, as well as its role and responsibility in issues that relate to the school system or learning in working life and organisations.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate a deeper ability to critically approach and evaluate the potential and limitations of educational science research, as well as its role and responsibility in issues that relate to the school system or learning in working life and organisations.

Postgraduate education in Educational Work shall partly prepare for an academic research career, and partly provide professional skills to perform work tasks within the education system outside the academic community. Possible professional areas can be found within, for example, development and evaluation activities within the education system both locally and centrally.

Important elements of the postgraduate programme are partly that the doctoral students gain experience of collaborating with other researchers and thereby establish contacts both nationally and internationally, and partly to actively contribute to the development of a stimulating research environment at Karlstad University.

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.

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 higher education institution may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility (Higher Education Ordinance, Chap. 6).

3.2 Special eligibility

A person who has a completed degree in education has eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in Educational Work. A person who has acquired equivalent qualifications in some other way in the country or abroad also has 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 will be selected on the basis of their assessed capacity to successfully complete a programme at the doctoral level. Selection is based on the applicant's previous study results with emphasis on the quality of the independent projects of research or investigative nature included in the education, especially at second-cycle level. In the ranking and selection of the candidates, special attention will also 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 research programme can lead to a doctoral or licentiate degree. A degree of doctor requires four years of study, the equivalent of 240 ECTS credits, and a degree of licentiate two years, the equivalent of 120 ECTS credits. The studies include course work as well as independent thesis work. To earn a degree of doctor, the candidate must complete 90 ECTS credits of course work and a thesis of 150 ECTS credits. To earn a degree of licentiate, the candidate is required to complete 45 ECTS credits of course work and a thesis of 75 ECTS credits.

6.1 Courses

Courses for a degree of Licentiate must total at least 45 ECTS credits:

- 25,5 ECTS credits mandatory courses:
 - Information retrieval and publishing strategies, 3 ECTS credits
 - Educational Work as Research Arena 7.5 ECTS credits
 - Research methodology in Educational Sciences, 15 ECTS credits
- 19.5 ECTS credits specialisation courses

Courses for a degree of Doctor must total at least 90 ECTS credits:

- 37.5 ECTS credits mandatory courses:
 - To Communicate science, 4.5 ECTS credits
 - Information retrieval and publishing strategies, 3 ECTS credits
 - Research methodology in Educational Sciences, 15 ECTS credits
 - Educational Work as Research Arena 7.5 ECTS credits
 - Knowledge and learning, 7.5 ECTS credits
- 52.5 ECTS credits specialisation courses

Students will actively participate in a general research seminar in educational work throughout the programme. Specialisation courses are chosen in consultation with the supervisor in relation to the student's specialisation and research interest.

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 doctoral thesis at a public examination and their licentiate thesis at a seminar. Further information is provided by the policy documents "Doctoral Thesis Requirements" and "Licentiate Thesis Requirements".

Theses are normally written in Swedish or English.

The thesis project should be presented in least three seminars – a planning seminar, a seminar while the thesis is in progress and a third seminar when the thesis is more or less finished (final seminar).

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to supervisors in accordance with the principles stated in the admission regulations for research programmes at Karlstad University. For doctoral students in educational work, supervision hours are divided equally between individual supervision and joint seminar supervision in accordance with the policy for supervision in education and educational work.

6.4 Individual study plan

Upon admission, 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

Students are assessed in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus. Doctoral or licentiate theses are assessed in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (Ch. 6, sect. 40-47) and Karlstad University's current policy document.