



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

# General syllabus for doctoral studies in Working Life Science

(Studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i Arbetsvetenskap)

Decision	HS FN 2024-06-13	Reg.no.	HS2024/1062	Replaces	HS2020/941
Effective from	13 June 2024	until	further notice	Officer	Monica Eriksson

## Syllabus approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 10 September 2020 and effective from the autumn semester of 2020. Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 13 June 2024 and effective from this date.

General stipulations for third-cycle education are provided in the Higher Education Act and in the Higher Education Ordinance. The Licentiate/Doctoral 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. Programme outcomes

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):

#### ***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 a Degree of Doctor, the third-cycle 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 a **Degree of Doctor**, the third-cycle 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 third-cycle 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 a **Degree of Doctor**, the third-cycle 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 credits.*

(Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2)

### 3. Entry requirements

For admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes, the applicant must

1. meet the general entry requirements and specific entry requirements prescribed by the higher education institution, and
2. be considered in other respects to have the ability required to assimilate the course or study programme. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chap. 7, Sect. 35).

#### 3.1 General entry requirements

*A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if they have*

1. been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
2. satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chap. 7, Sect. 39)

#### 3.2 Specific entry requirements

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

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 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.

### 6. Programme curriculum and structure

The doctoral program offers the opportunity to earn either a doctoral degree or a licentiate degree. A Degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits, which correspond to two years of full-time study. A Degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits, which correspond to four years of full-time study.

The studies include course work as well as an independent project (licentiate or doctoral thesis). To earn a licentiate degree, the candidate is required to complete 30 credits of course work and a thesis comprising 90 credits. To earn a doctoral degree, the candidate must complete 60 credits of course work and a thesis comprising 180 credits.

## 6.1 Courses

Mandatory courses for a licentiate degree, total of 22.5 credits:<sup>1</sup>

The classics of working life science, 7.5 credits

Classic workplace studies in working life science, 7.5 credits

Qualitative methods, 7.5 credits, or

Quantitative methods, 7.5 credits

In addition, there is room for 7.5 credits selected in consultation with the examiner and supervisor based on the student's specialisation.

Mandatory courses for a doctoral degree, total of 30 credits:<sup>2</sup>

The classics of working life science, 7.5 credits

Classic workplace studies in working life science, 7.5 credits

Contemporary literature in working life science, 7.5 credits

Qualitative methods, 7.5 credits, or

Quantitative methods, 7.5 credits

Research ethics, 3 credits

### *Learning activities*

Mandatory learning activities, total of 2.5 credits:

- Presenting at a conference (national or international), 1.5 credits
- Active participation in the subject's seminar activities during at least one year (excluding mandatory presentations of the thesis plan, midway review and final seminar), 1 credit (1 credit/year).

In addition, there is room for 17 credits in course work, selected in consultation with the examiner and supervisor based on the student's specialisation. These credits may include:

- Doctoral courses with relevance to the student's thesis, offered by Karlstad University or other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad.
- Courses in higher education pedagogy, no more than 4.5 credits (120 hours).
- Active participation in the subject's seminar activities<sup>3</sup> (excluding mandatory presentations of the thesis plan, midway review and final seminar), no more than 2 credits (1 credit/year).
- Attending and presenting at conferences, additional 3 credits maximum (1.5 credits per conference)

### *Mandatory seminars*

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student must have a planning seminar within 3 months from the start of the PhD programme linked to the work with the ISP and present their ongoing thesis work at a public seminar with an internally or externally appointed reviewer when 50–80% of the thesis work has been completed.

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall present their ongoing thesis work at the following public seminars:

1. Planning seminar: within 3 months from the start of the PhD programme linked to the work with the ISP
2. Midway review: after completion of approx. 50% of the studies
3. Final seminar: after completion of approx. 80% of the studies

the reviewer at the planning seminar can be in-house (working at the subject), but the midway review and

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

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<sup>3</sup> Active participation in seminar activities may award a maximum of 3 credits in course work towards the doctoral degree. It is mandatory for the doctoral student to actively participate in the subject's seminar activities for at least 1 year of the doctoral studies (equivalent to 1 credit), continued active participation during the doctoral studies may award no more than 2 credits.

the final seminar usually requires an external reviewer. The main supervisor is responsible for appointing reviewers and decides when the doctoral student has fulfilled the requirements for 50% and 80% of the studies.

## **6.2 Doctoral and licentiate thesis**

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**

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**

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in consultation with their supervisors within six months. The study 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 and licentiate theses are assessed in accordance with Karlstad University’s current policy document.