



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Human Geography

General syllabus for third-cycle studies for the degree of Doctor in *Human Geography/Economic Geography and Geography specialising in Human Geography*

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 31 May 2007, reg. no G 11 S 2007/216.

1 Subject description

Research at the Department of Human Geography has three specialisations: Human Geography (focusing on urban and landscape geography), Economic Geography and Development Geography.

Current research areas are described on the departmental website www.keg.lu.se.

2 Objectives

The research studies programme in human geography/economic geography and geography aims to train independent, critical and discerning researchers with a broad knowledge of social science theory, methodological skills and the ability to conduct research projects. On completion of the programme, the students shall be prepared for independent research and teaching, both within and outside higher education.

On completion of the research studies programme in human geography/economic geography students are awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

For the degree of Doctor, doctoral students shall demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field of human geography/economic geography 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 the degree of Doctor of Philosophy the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as the ability 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 advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a thesis 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 the degree of Doctor of Philosophy 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.

3 Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to third-cycle studies are that the applicant meets the general and specific admission requirements and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the programme.

3.1 General admission requirements

A person meets the general admission requirements for third-cycle studies if he or she:

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

The faculty board (or a body to whom the authority has been delegated) may permit an exemption from the general admission requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

Transitional provision: Those who meet the general admission requirements for doctoral programmes before 1 July 2007 will also be considered to meet the general admission requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes after that, however, until no later than the end of June 2015.

3.2 Specific admission requirements

The specific requirements for admission to third-cycle studies in human/economic geography include 30 second-cycle credits in human/economic geography

including a second-cycle degree project worth 15 credits, or a corresponding qualification acquired in Sweden or abroad.

3.3 Credit transfer

If a student has successfully completed a second-cycle higher education study programme or equivalent, he or she is entitled to transfer the credits awarded for the study programme to the third-cycle programme, on condition that an examiner approves the course or programme for transfer. Credit transfer is assessed on request by the student and on an individual basis.

4 Admission and selection

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a PhD degree in which a degree of Licentiate after two years may be a stage. If there are valid reasons, students may be admitted to two years of full-time study leading to a degree of Licentiate.

Admission to third-cycle studies is regulated by the Lund University admission rules for third-cycle studies (18 December 2006), reg. no I G 9 6251/2004, http://www5.lu.se/upload/regelverket/utbildning/admission_arrangements_relating_061218.pdf and Regulations for third-cycle studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences (31 May 2007), reg. no A 10 S 2007/196.

4.1 Admission

The faculty aims to admit doctoral students once a year, following a general advertisement of doctoral studentships at a set time of year. Students admitted to licentiate studies must re-apply in order to pursue studies for a PhD.

Only applicants who are appointed as doctoral students or have been awarded a doctoral grant can be admitted to third-cycle studies. Applicants with alternative means of finance can, however, be admitted if the department deems that the funds will last throughout the programme and that the applicant will be able to complete the programme for a PhD degree within eight years.

A funding plan must be available on admission. The plan must specify the doctoral student's funding throughout the entire programme of study.

4.2 Selection

A selection among applicants must be made if there are a limited number of places. The criteria for selection are the qualifications of the applicant at the time of application. The overriding criterion is the applicant's ability to benefit from the doctoral programme. Special emphasis is placed on the applicant's capacity to pursue research in the social sciences. The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or to be given credit for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

In the selection, the applicant's previous study results, research qualifications, papers and documented professional experience will be considered. First- and second-cycle degree projects are accorded special weight.

The gender aspect must always be taken into account. Priority will be given to the under-represented gender, in cases of equally qualified applicants, unless there are valid reasons to the contrary. Diversity is a desired goal of the faculty.

5. PhD programme

Third-cycle studies comprise four years of full-time study (240 credits). Part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) may be pursued but must be completed within eight years. Doctoral students are entitled but not obliged to complete a licentiate degree (120 credits) as part of their third-cycle studies.

5.1 Programme details

The programme comprises 240 credits divided into courses worth 90 credits and a thesis (PhD thesis) worth 150 credits. Tuition is provided in the form of courses and seminars and individual supervision. Moreover, general seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a PhD degree the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the PhD thesis.

5.2 Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be nominated as the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor must have the qualifications of a reader and be employed at Lund University. The individual study plan must specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors. Doctoral students are entitled to supervision during the time deemed necessary for studies comprising 240 credits or four years when the programme is pursued full-time. Supervision comprises both help with the orientation of studies and thesis work and support throughout the studies. A doctoral student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor.

5.3 Individual study plan

When initiating their studies, doctoral students are to draw up an individual study plan of their studies in consultation with the supervisor. The individual study plan is to be revised once a year. The study plan specifies how the studies are to be structured for the individual student. Regulations and a template for individual study plans are available in the faculty's regulations for third-cycle studies.

Research students must enrol at the beginning of each semester and, in consultation with the supervisor, specify the degree of activity for the semester.

5.4 Courses and other components

The courses that can be included may be offered by the home department or by other departments at or outside Lund University.

For second-cycle courses at the Faculty of Social Sciences syllabi are available specifying the learning outcomes, content and number of credits. For courses at other faculties or higher education institutions, the number of credits available for transfer will be determined by the examiner. The courses to be taken by the individual student and to be included in the degree are to be specified in the individual study plan.

One of the grades Pass or Fail will be awarded for the thesis and other examinations within the programme. The examiner of courses is to be a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of a reader.

a) Research seminars and other components

As part of their studies and thesis work, doctoral students shall participate in seminars on the research activities of the department and the thesis work of doctoral students. Doctoral students shall have the opportunity to present memoranda on issues of theory and/or method in the research project, submit plans, papers and thesis chapters, or critically review the papers of fellow doctoral students.

Doctoral students shall present their thesis work at no less than three seminars: a thesis memorandum after one year, after two years and a final seminar.

Doctoral students shall also critically review the work of other doctoral students and have the opportunity to present memoranda on theoretical and/or methodological issues in the thesis work and/or preliminary findings.

To the extent possible in terms of planning and financial resources, the programme is to include field studies preferably conducted abroad.

b) Courses

Out of the 90 credits available for courses, 60 credits should be for PhD courses. The remaining 30 credits are to include a passed thesis memorandum (7.5 credits) and active participation in seminars and PhD forums (7.5 credits). Furthermore, written and oral presentations at seminars and conferences, text exams, field courses and other components judged equivalent by the examiner can make up 15 credits. The selection of courses and reading should not be strictly limited to the thesis project but also provide the student with broad knowledge within the field. The selection of specialisations and courses is to be made in consultation with the supervisor.

At least half of the credits for courses must be within the field of human/economic geography. Courses outside the main field must be selected in consultation with the supervisor.

5.5 Thesis

The PhD thesis is the most important component of the doctoral programme. The thesis is to be based on an independently pursued research project.

The PhD thesis is to be designed as a unified research study (monograph thesis) or as a number of research papers accompanied by a summary (compilation thesis) in accordance with the departmental guidelines (www.keg.lu.se/Riktlinjer_sammanlaggningsavhandling.pdf).

If several authors have produced the (monograph or compilation) thesis the contributions of the different authors must be clearly specified in the introduction or preface to the thesis.

The thesis is to be defended orally at a public defence. It is awarded one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail*. The grade is set by a grading committee.

5.6 Departmental duties

A doctoral student may engage in departmental duties corresponding to a maximum of 20% of full-time working hours. The duties will be compensated for by a corresponding extension of the period of study.

Doctoral students who engage in first- or second-cycle tuition must have completed two weeks of foundation training in teaching and learning in higher education.

6 Further information

Regulations for third-cycle studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences were approved by the faculty board on 31 May 2007.

Information on admission and application deadlines can be obtained from the department.