

Faculty board

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Sociology

The general syllabus for third-cycle studies in sociology was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2 May 2019, reg. no U 2019/64.

Studies in accordance with the present general syllabus can lead to one of the following degrees:

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Licentiate of Philosophy in Sociology

1 Subject description

Sociology is a broad subject area that involves research on social and societal processes and structures in different formats and contexts. The research discipline covers a broad field – from global issues, to events and relationships between individuals and groups.

Research in sociology is always based on theories aimed at generating new theoretical and/or empirical knowledge about social and societal issues. The research tools used within sociology can be qualitative or quantitative, or involve historical analyses of current issues and phenomena within different areas of society.

Current research areas at the Department of Sociology can be found on the department website.

2 Objective and outcomes of third-cycle studies

The objective of third-cycle studies in sociology at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, is to provide students with specialised knowledge in sociology and to train them to become independent and critical researchers with broad knowledge of social science theory, methodological skill and judgement, and the ability to conduct research projects.

2.1 Degree of Doctor

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field of sociology 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 the third-cycle 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 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

2.1 Degree of Licentiate

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research of sociology 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

Competence and skills

For the 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

Judgement and approach

For the 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

3 Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and programmes 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 course or programme.

3.1 General admission requirements

A person meets the general admission requirements for third-cycle courses and programmes if he or she

1. has been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
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 may permit an exemption from the general admission requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

3.2 Specific admission requirements

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third-cycle studies in sociology if he or she has a second-cycle degree in sociology or substantially equivalent knowledge acquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad. The degree must include independent projects amounting to at least 30 credits or the equivalent, half of which must be from the second cycle.

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 the director

of third-cycle studies approves the previous programme for transfer. Credit transfer is assessed individually following a request by the student.

4 Admission and selection

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy. A Licentiate degree can be taken after two years as part of the programme. Under special circumstances, students can be admitted to a two-year programme leading to a Licentiate degree.

Admission of research students takes place in accordance with the Lund University admission rules for third cycle education and Regulations for third cycle education at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

4.1. Admission

The faculty aims to admit research 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.

Primarily, applicants who are appointed to a doctoral studentship are admitted to third-cycle studies. Research students must have funding in the form of a doctoral studentship or alternative funding in accordance with the Lund University admission rules. The Faculty Board is responsible for ensuring that a careful review of the funding is executed.

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 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.

The selection involves an assessment of the applicant's previous credits awarded, research qualifications, publications and research plan, in addition to their professional experience. First and second cycle degree projects are accorded special weight. The most important criteria are the applicant's skills and evidence of originality, in addition to the quality of research and feasibility.

The assessment of the applicants' qualifications is made by a specially appointed group of experts (admissions committee) who will draw up a written proposal. The decision on admission is made by the head of department, based on the proposal.

Diversity is a desired goal of the faculty. Gender equality must always be taken into account. In cases of equally qualified applicants, priority will be given to the under-represented gender, relative to the gender representation among research students in the subject at Lund University, unless there are valid reasons to the contrary.

5 The programme of study

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

5.1 Programme details

The programme leading to a degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits divided into courses worth 75 credits and a thesis (PhD thesis) worth 165 credits. The programme leading to a degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits divided into courses worth 37.5 credits and a thesis (Licentiate thesis) worth 82.5 credits. Tuition is provided in the form of courses and seminars, as well as individual supervision of the thesis. Moreover, general seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a PhD the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the PhD thesis. For a Licentiate the doctoral student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the Licentiate 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 an associate professor and be employed at Lund University. The individual study plan shall specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors. Doctoral students are entitled to supervision during the time deemed necessary for completing the programme. Supervision comprises both help with the orientation of studies and thesis work, as well as support throughout the studies. Doctoral students who so request shall be allowed to change supervisors.

5.3 Individual study plan

At the start of the programme, the student shall draw up an individual study plan in consultation with his or her supervisors specifying the undertakings of the University and the student and a time plan for the programme of study. The individual study plan shall be followed up annually. Doctoral students must register 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 in the programme may be courses offered by the home department, faculty-wide courses or courses offered by other departments at or outside Lund University.

Courses offered at Lund University must have a course syllabus specifying the learning outcomes, content and number of credits. The credits available for transfer from courses taken at other faculties or higher education institutions are 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 an associate professor. Course examinations generally take place during or in connection with tuition, but can take place at another time, on the student's request.

5.4.1 Courses

The courses include compulsory components for both the degree of Doctor and Licentiate in Sociology. For the degree of Doctor, the student shall have passed at least 7.5 credits for each of (a) theory of science, (b) qualitative methods, (c) quantitative methods, (d) classical sociological theory, (e) modern sociological theory, and at least 3 credits for (f) research ethics.

For the degree of Licentiate, the student shall have passed at least 7.5 credits for each of (a) theory of science, (b) classical sociological theory, (c) modern sociological theory, at least 6 credits for each of (d) qualitative methods, (e) quantitative methods, and at least 3 credits for (f) research ethics.

5.4.2 Research seminars and other components

As part of their third cycle programme, doctoral students shall participate in seminars on the research activities of the department and the thesis work of other doctoral students.

Prior to the defence of their doctoral thesis, the doctoral student is to present their PhD or Licentiate thesis project at the beginning, middle and end of their third cycle studies in an: ideas seminar, mid-way seminar and final seminar.

Doctoral students have opportunities to gain international experience within the third-cycle programme in the form of courses, conference participation and other exchanges.

5.5 PhD thesis

The PhD thesis is the most important component of the programme, and amounts to 165 credits. The thesis is to be based on an independently pursued research project.

The PhD thesis can be designed either as a unified research study (monograph thesis) or as a number of research papers accompanied by an introductory general and reflecting summary placing the different papers in a context (compilation thesis).

A work by two or more authors may be approved as a PhD thesis or part of a PhD thesis if the contributions of the different authors are specified in a way that enables individual assessment.

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

5.6 Licentiate thesis

The Licentiate thesis is to be defended at a public seminar. It is awarded one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail* by an examining committee.

5.7 Departmental duties

A doctoral student can take on departmental duties for up to 20 per cent of full-time working hours. The doctoral student is to be compensated with a corresponding extension of the total study period. Departmental duties are to be specified in the individual study plan.

Doctoral students teaching on first- or second-cycle study programmes must have completed two weeks of introductory training in teaching and learning in higher education.

6 Further information

See Regulations for third cycle education at the Faculty of Social Sciences on the faculty website.

Information about admission and application dates are available from the department.