



# GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN POLYMERIC COMPOSITE MATERIALS

TFN Chair, 2007-09-10

## 1 Subject Area

Polymeric Composite Materials is a research area comprising the study of processes and mechanisms that influence the performance and properties of advanced polymeric composites, as well as the know-how regarding their manufacturing techniques.

## 2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Polymeric Composite Materials that concludes with a licentiate degree comprises a total of two years' full time study (120 higher education credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 35-45 higher education credits and a licentiate thesis that gives 75-85 higher education credits.

Education at post-graduate level in Polymeric Composite Materials that concludes with a doctorate comprises a total of four years' full time study (240 higher education credits) and consists of a study programme that gives 60-80 higher education credits and a doctoral thesis that gives 160-180 higher education credits. The thesis can be either in the form of a monograph or a compilation of a number of scientific articles. 2-3 articles are normally required for the licentiate thesis and 4-6 for the doctoral thesis.

The courses are both teacher-led and self-study courses. Depth is created through well-defined research questions and research is conducted systematically using modern tools and scientific methodology. Career paths are discussed early on and the student is given the opportunity to present his/her work at international conferences and to pursue his/her studies at universities and companies around the world for extended periods. The research work is conducted independently on the student's own responsibility but supervision is given, especially at the beginning of the study period. The research is reported by means of articles in scientific journals and the presentation of articles at scientific conferences.

The education is normally given within the framework of a position as predoctoral fellow. This means that at least 80% of the student's time can be devoted to courses and research projects as detailed in an individual study programme. The remaining time can be used for teaching or other departmental duties.

An individual study programme is drawn up for every post-graduate student (according to a fixed model) where the study programme is specified in detail. The individual study programme is followed up at least once a year by the post-graduate student and his/her supervisor and is then approved by the head of department, as delegated by the faculty board.

## 3 Eligibility and selection



### **3.1 General eligibility requirements**

As specified in Section 39 of Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance and the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology.

### **3.2 Specific eligibility requirements**

For applicants who achieved basic eligibility before 1 July 2007: Master of Science degree with specialisation in Mechanical Engineering / Materials Engineering/ Engineering Physics.

Good skills in oral and written communication in English.

### **3.3 Selection**

As specified in Section 41 of Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance and the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology.

For selection for education at post-graduate level in Polymeric Composite Materials the following selection criteria apply:

- Knowledge relevant to the project in question
- The quality of the applicant's degree project
- Personal qualities relevant to education at post-graduate level.

## **4 Examinations included in the education**

The education consists of courses and an academic thesis. Examinations included in post-graduate programmes are graded Fail or Pass. Course and licentiate thesis grades are decided by specially appointed teachers (examiners). Doctoral thesis grades are decided by a specially appointed grading committee.

### **4.1 Courses**

Courses deal with the composites' mechanics, material models including visco-elastic behaviour, damage mechanics, advanced experimental methods, and manufacturing methods.

Goal attainment is tested by means of the form of examination specified in the syllabus. Examination generally takes the form of continuous reporting or written examinations. Courses included in the education are specified in the individual study programme.

#### **4.1.1 Recognition of prior studies**

As specified in the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology.

### **4.2 Academic thesis**

An academic project in the form of a dissertation/thesis in Polymeric Composite Materials shall be presented as a homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph) or a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (composite thesis) that the post-graduate student has written alone or together with another person or persons.



Thesis manuscripts shall be presented at one or more research seminars or be subjected to equivalent review through the agency of the department.

The licentiate thesis is defended orally at a public licentiate seminar and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. The grade of a licentiate thesis is decided by an examiner appointed by the head of department.

The doctoral thesis is defended orally at a public disputation and is graded Pass or Fail. When the thesis is graded both the content of the thesis and the defence of the thesis are taken into consideration. The grade of a doctoral thesis is decided by a grading committee that is appointed for each thesis.

## **5 Degree**

In Polymeric Composite Materials, a post-graduate student who has been admitted to a doctorate has the possibility to take a licentiate degree after completing a portion giving at least 120 higher education credits of the education that will be concluded with a doctorate.

### **5.1 Degree objectives**

As specified in the degree description (Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2 – Degree Ordinance. See also the appendix below.

### **5.2 Degree title**

A post-graduate student who takes a licentiate degree in Polymeric Composite Materials receives the degree title of Licentiate in Technology.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Polymeric Composite Materials receives the degree title of Doctor of Technology.

Requests for another degree title are made according to established guidelines.

## **6 Entry into effect and interim regulations**

The previous general curriculum will cease to apply for post-graduate students who are admitted to education at post-graduate level after 1 July 2007. Post-graduate students admitted before this date may choose to either follow the previous curriculum or transfer to the present curriculum.



## **Qualifications ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2) Contents**

the qualifications that may be awarded in the third cycles, and the requirements to be fulfilled for the award of each qualification (qualification descriptors).

### **THIRD-CYCLE QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **General qualifications**

#### **Degree of Licentiate [Licentiatexamen]**

##### **Scope**

##### **A Degree of Licentiate is awarded**

either after a third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 120 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered,

or after a third-cycle student has completed one part comprising at least 120 credits of a study programme intended to conclude with the award of a PhD, if a higher education institution decides that a licentiate of this kind may be awarded at the institution.

##### **Outcomes**

##### **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.

##### **Competence and skills**

##### **For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have:**

- 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 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.

##### **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.

##### **Miscellaneous**



Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Licentiate with a defined specialisation.

## **Degree of Doctor**

### **Scope**

A Degree of Doctor is awarded after the third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 240 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered.

### **Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

##### **For the 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.
- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well 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 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.

#### **Research thesis (doctoral thesis)**

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

### **Miscellaneous**

Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Doctor with a defined specialisation. Ordinance (2008:132)

