



GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR THIRD-CYCLE PROGRAMMES

IN

MATEMATICS EDUCATION

FFN chair 2018-04-24

1 Subject Area

Mathematics Education investigates practices relating to education, learning and mathematics in and outside schools. The purpose of the research is to create a scientific basis for developing and strengthening the teaching of mathematics in different types of schools and institutions. Mathematics Education is a multidisciplinary research area which has its foundation in mathematics, benefitting from a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, and is closely related to educational research in the natural sciences and technology.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at third-cycle level in Mathematics Education that concludes with a Degree of Licentiate is comprised of a total of two years' full time study (at least 120 credits) and consists of a study programme that results in 30–60 credits and a licentiate thesis that results in 60–90 credits.

Education at third-cycle level in Mathematics Education that concludes with a Degree of Doctor is comprised of a total of four years' full time study (240 credits) and consists of a study programme that results in 60–120 credits and a doctoral thesis that results in 120–180 credits.

The education in Mathematics Education aims at that a third-cycle student acquires in-depth knowledge of mathematics and the learning of mathematics as well as knowledge of other subjects that are relevant to research in the field of Mathematics Education. The student will also develop knowledge how to independently plan, implement, and publish research results as well as to critically review and evaluate existing research results. After completion of the programme, the student should be able to participate in research projects at international level, be able to disseminate research results, and be able to interact with actors at different levels of education.

An individual study plan is drawn up for every third-cycle student (according to a fixed model) where the study programme is specified in detail. A follow-up of the plan is held at least twice a year by the third-cycle student and his/her supervisor and is approved by the Head of Department at least once a year, as delegated by the Vice-Chancellor.

3 Eligibility and selection

3.1 General eligibility requirements

An individual fulfils the general eligibility requirements for the third-cycle educational programme when he or she 1) has completed a second-cycle degree, 2) has completed higher education courses worth at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 are for second-cycle courses, or 3) in some other manner, in this country or abroad, has acquired the equivalent qualifications. The faculty board may permit an exemption from the requirement of basic eligibility in the case of an individual applicant, if there are special grounds as written in Chapter 7, Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance (2010:1064). Also refer to the local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Third-cycle Education at Luleå University of Technology.

3.2 Specific eligibility requirements

90 credits in Mathematics, or equivalent.

Good command of oral and written communication in English and/or Swedish.

3.3 Selection

Selection from among applicants meeting the requirements shall be made with reference to their ability to benefit from the education. The mere fact that an applicant is deemed able to receive credit towards the education for previous education or working activities may not alone give the applicant precedence over other applicants in the selection process, as per Chapter 7, Section 41 of the Higher Education Ordinance (2010:1064). Also refer to local guidelines laid down in the Admission Rules for Third-cycle Education at Luleå University of Technology.

In the selection of third-cycle education in Mathematics Education the following applies to the selection criteria:

- Knowledge relevant for the actual project
- The quality of the applicant's degree project
- Experience from empirical research within relevant subject
- Knowledge of mathematics at advanced level
- Personal qualities and prospects relevant for third-cycle education

4 Examinations included in the education

The education consists of courses and an academic thesis. Examinations included in third-cycle programmes are graded as either Pass or Fail. 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

The courses will comprise general and topic-specific courses and depends on the prior knowledge of the doctoral student. The courses are determined in consultation between the student and the supervisor and are regulated in the individual study plan. In some cases, the

courses can be read at another institution or other university. The following courses should be included, unless the corresponding knowledge is already available:

- Courses discussing fundamental concepts and trends in research in mathematics education
- Course in research methodology
- Course in theory of science
- Course in research ethics

Goal attainment is tested by means of the form of examination specified in the syllabus.

4.1.1 Recognition of prior studies

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

4.2 Academic thesis

An academic project in the form of a dissertation/thesis in Mathematics Education shall be presented as a homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph) or a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (composite thesis) that the third-cycle 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 as either 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. Grades for a doctoral thesis should be decided by a grading committee that is appointed for each thesis.

5 Degree

In Mathematics Education, a third-cycle student who has been admitted to a Degree of Doctor has the possibility to take a Degree of Licentiate after completing one part comprising at least 120 credits of a study programme intended to conclude with the award of a Degree of Doctor.

5.1 Degree objectives

As specified in the Qualifications Ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2 – Degree Ordinance). See also the Annex below.

5.2 Degree title

A third-cycle student who takes a Degree of Licentiate in Mathematics Education receives the degree title of Licentiate of Philosophy.

A third-cycle student who takes a Degree of Doctor in Mathematics Education normally receives the degree title of Doctor of Philosophy.

Requests for other degree titles are made according to established guidelines.

6 Entry into effect and interim regulations

The general syllabus for Mathematics education ref. no. LTU-495-2018 applies for admission of third-cycle students after 2018-04-24. The previous general curriculum (2007-09-18, Special board for teacher education) will cease to apply for third-cycle students who are admitted to studies at third-cycle level after 2018-04-24.

If agreed between the third-cycle student and the supervisor, the new general syllabus (ref. no. LTU-495-2018) may be used as a steering document for a previously admitted third-cycle student. It must then be documented in the third-cycle student's individual study plan which general syllabus that applies.

APPENDIX

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

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 Degree of Doctor, 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:

- demonstrate the skills 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 skills 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 skills 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 skills 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.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the skills 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 dissertation the skills to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
- demonstrate the skills 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 skills 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)