



GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN PHILOSOPHY

Board of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
2007-09-17

Admission to third-cycle level education in Philosophy has ceased from 2018-06-25.

1 Subject area

The Philosophy subject studies the more or less conscious prerequisites that we use when we reason, value and draw conclusions in different areas. By focusing on very basic questions, philosophy conveys important contact surfaces to and between subjects pertaining to both the social sciences and technology. Philosophy is traditionally divided into several sub-disciplines of which ethics, theory of science, logic and decision theory are areas of focus at Luleå University of Technology.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Philosophy 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 45 higher education credits and a licentiate thesis that gives 75 higher education credits.

Education at post-graduate level in Philosophy 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 90 higher education credits and a doctoral thesis that gives 150 higher education credits.

The education at post-graduate level takes place in close cooperation with appointed supervisors, often in the form of a project within a research project initiated by the main supervisor. In normal cases, the objective is that the student will write articles for international publication. Active participation in seminars, conferences and other occasions for oral discussion are also important elements of the programme.

The courses in the student's programme are chosen in consultation with his/her supervisor. Where possible, participation in courses at other universities is encouraged.

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.

Main subject/main area Philosophy, 80 credits/120 higher education credits at advanced level.

Very good skills in oral and written communication in Swedish and 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](#).

4 Examinations included in the education

The education consists of courses and an academic thesis. Examinations included in post-graduate programmes are graded 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

For both licentiate and doctorate *compulsory* courses are to be studied, equivalent to 22.5 higher education credits for a licentiate degree and 45 higher education credits for a doctorate. The compulsory courses are: Logic, Moral Philosophy, Original Texts in Philosophy, and Popular Science Writing.

Other general courses in Philosophy shall contribute to a general orientation in the subject and are chosen in consultation with the student's supervisor. Courses at basic level may be recognised up to a maximum of 7.5 higher education credits for a licentiate and a maximum of 15 higher education credits in the case of a doctorate. Courses at basic level may only be included if they treat areas of knowledge relevant to the subject at the same time as they do not constitute eligibility requirements.

Upon completion of a doctoral programme, a student shall have acquired sound knowledge in the fields of philosophy of science, logic and/or other formal methods, and moral philosophy wither through the courses studied in the programme or by other means.

Other courses that the professor/supervisor and student together judge to be of importance for the thesis work may also be included in the course programme for a licentiate or doctorate (and in such cases take the place of a general course in Philosophy or literature in the field of the thesis). Such credit-carrying activities may be individual literature courses, qualified input to the department's research activities or other qualified academically related activity. For such activity to be recognised, prior agreement between professor/supervisor and student is required. The number of credits shall be stated in the student's individual study programme. Other credit-carrying activities may be included to a maximum of 7.5 higher education credits for a licentiate and 15 higher education credits in the case of a doctorate.

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 Post-graduate Education at Luleå University of Technology](#).

4.2 Academic thesis

An academic project in the form of a dissertation/thesis in Philosophy 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 Philosophy, a post-graduate student who has been admitted to doctoral studies 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 Philosophy receives the degree title of Licentiate in Philosophy.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Philosophy normally receives the degree title of Doctor of Philosophy.

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.



Appendix

THIRD LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

Objectives (Higher Education Ordinance, SFS 1993:100)

1. Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of Licentiate (Licentiatexamen), 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field and a deeper knowledge of scientific methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.

For a degree of Doctor (Doktorsexamen), 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate broad knowledge in and a systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research; and
- demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.

2. Skills and abilities

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision; to plan a limited research project and other advanced tasks and to carry them out using appropriate methods within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge; and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts; and
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis and in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations;
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and proceeding with scientific precision, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to scrutinise and evaluate such work;
- demonstrate, in a dissertation, their ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge by their own research;
- demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;



- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge; and
- demonstrate a potential to contribute to the development of society and support other people's learning, both in the field of research and education and in other advanced professional contexts.

3. Judgement and approach

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits, research students must

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research; and
- demonstrate deeper insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

4. Scholarly essay

For a degree of Licentiate, 120 HE credits,

- research students must have received a passing grade on a scholarly essay worth at least 60 higher education credits.

For a degree of Doctor, 240 HE credits,

- research student must have received a passing grade on a scholarly dissertation (doctoral dissertation) worth at least 120 higher education credits.