



GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN PHYSICS

TFN Chair, 2007-09-10

Admission in Physics has ceased

1 Subject area

Education at post-graduate level in Physics may be carried on in most of the subject's subfields. The research can be roughly divided into two specialities: "space" and "materials". In the "space" speciality the emphasis is on theoretical astrophysics with subprojects in theoretical particle physics and quantum physics. On the "materials" side, research is primarily carried on in carbon-based materials and biophysically interesting materials and objects of nanometre size. The research is conducted using advanced measuring and analysis instruments. On the theoretical side, the materials research consists of studies and simulations of the properties of solid materials, for example superconductivity, metals and magnetic phenomena.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Physics 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 50-60 higher education credits and a licentiate thesis that gives 60-70 higher education credits.

Education at post-graduate level in Physics 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 60-90 higher education credits and a doctoral thesis that gives 150-180 higher education credits.

The course part of the education chiefly consists of discipline-specific courses, but courses in other subjects may also be included. Participation in international summer schools and conferences may be recognised in either the course part or the academic part of the education, depending on the content and the student's own involvement.

The research is presented in articles in international scientific journals with referee assessment, or in printed reports from international conferences where the student has participated and given a lecture.

At the end of the study period, the research is summarised in a licentiate thesis or doctoral thesis, often in the form of a composite thesis of which the published articles form the foundation. Unpublished articles may also be included but they must be of such quality that it is judged that they would be likely to be accepted for publication. The requirements regarding the content of a



licentiate thesis are somewhat lower, but the material must be so scientifically relevant that it can be developed into a doctoral thesis after further research.

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 in Engineering with specialisation in Engineering Physics or Space Technology.

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](#).

For selection for education at post-graduate level in Physics the following selection criteria apply (in no special order):

- 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 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

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 and 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 Physics shall be presented as a homogenous, cohesive academic work (monograph) or a brief summary – comprehensive summary – of academic essays (composite thesis) published in academic media 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 Physics, 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 Physics receives the degree title of Licentiate in Technology.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Physics normally 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)