



**GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE  
LEVEL  
IN  
ROCK MECHANICS AND ROCK ENGINEERING**

**TFN Chair, 2007-09-10**

*The research subject has been designated a new name with effect from 2014-06-17 (Vice Chancellor 132-14)*

**1 Subject area**

The subject comprises rock and rock masses' mechanical and physical properties, rock and rock masses' behaviour and construction in rock. The subject comprises basic experimental and theoretical studies, the development of models, and applications in the areas of mineral mining, infrastructure construction and energy.

**2 Programme curriculum**

Education at post-graduate level in Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering 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 Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering 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.

Up to the licentiate degree, the education consists of literature studies within the field of research and gaining the knowledge and skills required for the research work. Examples of such aids are mathematics, statistics and numerical methods. The first part of the education also includes individual research by the student that may consist of data and observations made by the student or others (for example from the literature study) but also relatively advanced analyses, depending upon the type of problem that the project concerns. The latter part of the education primarily focuses on developing ideas from the first part but also independently learning to identify important problems and seeing the parts in a larger perspective. Other themes that are emphasised in the latter part of the education are pedagogical training, leadership and network building. Courses are chosen for each individual as needed.

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.

Contact with the world around normally takes place by means of different kinds of reference groups and technical committees with representatives of industry and society. Theses, articles and reports are published by Luleå University of Technology, in journals and compilations of conference papers.

### **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**

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 Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering the following selection criteria apply:

- Knowledge relevant to the project in question.
- 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**

No courses are compulsory.

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 Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering 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 Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering, 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 Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering receives the degree title of Licentiate in Technology.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering 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)