



GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN LAW

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

1 Subject area

Education at post-graduate level in Law aims to develop independent researchers, first and foremost in the fields of natural resource law and environmental law. In environmental law this means among other things advancement in and analysis of the relationship between legal rules and impact on the external environment. A central issue is whether the law is properly designed so as to protect environmental values of different kinds. This includes investigating whether and how environment policy objectives can be achieved by means of legal instruments (legal measures of control) and investigating various kinds of legal obstacles to implementing environmental policy in legislation and in legal principles with other purposes than environmental protection.

In the field of natural resource law, the focus is on the use of natural resources of various kinds. Such issues may be treated in the same way as described above or in a purely environmental law perspective, but also with points of departure pertaining to civil or public law and in general with a clear linkage to real estate law.

The legal research method in the thesis may vary according to the individual thesis subject. A legal dogmatic method is applied when the research purpose is to describe valid law. If the purpose is to closely relate ecology or related sciences to the legal rules, it is necessary to closely integrate the findings in such sciences in the legal reasoning. In the same way, other social sciences may also be of importance in the thesis work.

The legal rules that are studied may be Sweden's legal system, the legal systems of other countries, international environmental law, and the EU's environmental legislation that is becoming increasingly important.

Subject to the conditions described below, a student may be admitted to education in Law to study an area of law other than natural resource law and environmental law.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Law 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 30 higher education credits and a licentiate thesis that gives 90 higher education credits.

Education at post-graduate level in Law 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 120 higher education credits and a doctoral thesis that gives 120 higher education credits.



The student's supervisor decides which courses will be included in the programme in consultation with the individual post-graduate student. The courses must aim to give the student advanced knowledge in legal theory and method in general and (normally) theory and method in environmental law in particular. Courses shall also reflect the individual student's choice of subject. The courses shall, if possible, be studied early on in the education. This applies in particular to those courses in theory and method.

The thesis work is done independently but in continuous contact with the student's supervisor.

The presentation of his/her theories and findings and actively participating in seminars both at Luleå University of Technology and other institutions of higher education are an integral part of the student's education. During the period of study the student shall endeavour to forge contacts with such players outside academia who have linkages to the thesis subject and present his/her research findings also in this context.

An individual study programme is drawn up for every postgraduate 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 Law, 60 credits/90 higher education credits at basic level or Master of Laws degree.

For applicants who achieved basic eligibility before 1 July 2007:

Bachelor's degree with main subject as above or Bachelor of Laws degree.

Very good skills in oral and written communication in Swedish or 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

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 Law 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 Law, 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 Law receives the degree title of Licentiate of Laws.

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

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.