



GENERAL CURRICULUM FOR EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

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

1 Subject area

Political Science is an established discipline at the universities in Sweden and internationally. At the same time, there are many different research specialisations in political science. Central to the subject area are issues relating to the functioning outcome of democracy, the development and role of political parties and the form and outcome of the societal decision making processes under various institutional conditions at local, national and international levels. Against such a general background, Political Science in Luleå has primarily focused its research on how natural resources, energy and environmental conflicts and arrangements of various kinds have been handled by individuals, interest groups and the political and administrative systems in general. The research is often conducted in a multidisciplinary environment where, in addition to Political Science, History, Economics and Jurisprudence are prominent. Collaborative research is also regularly conducted with other academic disciplines from the Faculty of Science and Technology. We also endeavour to give both our education and our research a distinct international stamp.

2 Programme curriculum

Education at post-graduate level in Political Science 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 Political Science 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 in Political Science given at Luleå University of Technology is directly in line with the strategic build-up of knowledge that the University Council has prioritised within the multidisciplinary field of sustainable resource use. In this way students of Political Science at Luleå University of Technology will always gain an insight early into other academic disciplines in the research fields of both social sciences and technology/science and training in interacting with post-graduate students and researchers in these fields.

The competence of both the principal supervisor and the assistant supervisor shall complement each other so that the dissertation subject's empirical application and theoretical and methodological grounding are represented.

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 supervisors 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

Degree of Master with Political Science as main subject/main area, 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](#).

For selection for education at post-graduate level in Political Science the following selection criteria apply:

- Extensive knowledge of the Political Science subject
- Extensive knowledge relevant to the research project in question
- High quality of the applicant's degree project
- A formulated research plan
- Work experience
- 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

The courses that constitute the post-graduate education are stated in the individual study programme. Students are often given individual tuition in those courses that are highly specialised within the framework of the thesis subject while the more general courses in Political Science and those that have a more methodological and theoretical thrust are normally taught in groups and often in cooperation with other universities in Sweden and in other countries. Examinations are both written and oral. Post-graduate students from Luleå also attend post-graduate courses arranged at other universities in Sweden and abroad, which guarantees a high level of quality. Another element in assuring high quality of the education is that leading specialists in the subject are regularly engaged for teaching and examining on courses arranged in Luleå.

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 Political Science 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 Political Science, a post-graduate student who has been admitted to a doctorate has the possibility to take a licentiate degree after completing 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 Political Science receives the degree title of Licentiate in Philosophy.

A post-graduate student who takes a doctorate in Political Science 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.