

General study plan for

Doctoral studies in English

Regulations concerning doctoral studies are stated in the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434), the Higher Education Ordinance (HF; SFS 1998:1003), Admissions regulations for doctoral studies (2014-12-05, Dnr SU FV-1.1.2-3204-14), Regulations for doctoral studies at Stockholm University (2014-12-18 dnr SU FV-1.1.2-0138-14) and revised on May 23, 2013 (SU FV-1.1.2-1414-13) and Regulations for doctoral studies at the Faculty of Humanities (2015-06-02, Dnr SU FV-4.1.1-2492-13).

1 Enactment of the current study plan

The current general study plan for doctoral studies in English was approved by the Faculty Board of Humanities at Stockholm University on 11 December 2007 and revised on 5 November 2015.

The study plan is valid from 1 January 2016.

Doctoral students who started their doctoral studies before 1 January 2016 in English according to an earlier established general study plan are entitled to complete their studies according to that study plan as long as they comply with regulations in the Higher Education Ordinance and the Regulations of Stockholm University and Faculty of Humanities.

Those admitted to doctoral studies in English according to an earlier study plan have the right to apply to have their studies transferred to and completed according to the now current, revised study plan.

2 Educational objectives

National aims

For a *degree of Doctor of Philosophy*, the doctoral student must demonstrate the following:

- broad knowledge in, and a systematic understanding of, the field of research, together with deep and current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research
- a deep knowledge of scholarly methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular
- an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to engage in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations
- an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively; to plan and conduct research

and other advanced tasks using appropriate methods with precision and within specified time limits; and to scrutinize and evaluate such work

- an ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge through their own research in a dissertation
- 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
- an ability to identify areas where further knowledge is required
- 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
- intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research
- insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and our responsibility for how it is used.

3 Requirements for admission and eligibility

The applicant must fulfill the basic eligibility requirements as well as the special eligibility requirements. In addition, the applicant must demonstrate the potential to benefit from the doctoral studies.

3.1 Basic eligibility

An applicant has basic eligibility for doctoral studies if he or she

1. has taken a Master level degree (comprising at least 60 higher education credits on advanced level),
2. has completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, including at least 60 higher education credits at advanced level, or
3. has acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

The Faculty Board may permit exemption from the requirements of basic eligibility in the case of an individual applicant if there are special grounds.

3.2 Special eligibility

An applicant fulfills the special eligibility requirements for doctoral studies in English if he or she

1. has received a passing grade on course work of at least 30 higher education credits in English at the advanced level, including a thesis of at least 15 higher education credits.
2. can document proficiency in English as measured by one of the following internationally recognized language proficiency tests: the TOEFL, including TWE, with a result of at least 630 points (written test), 267 points (computer-based test)/109 points (internet-based test); Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency (A or B); or the IELTS with a total score of at least 7.5 (and no part below 7); or an equivalent.

The eligibility requirements may also be achieved by an applicant who has acquired equivalent proficiencies either within Sweden or abroad, but it is the Department of English that decides what counts as an equivalent.

4 Admission and selection

The Department Board at the Department of English decides upon admission of applicants to doctoral studies in the English literature and English linguistics programmes. The Department Board cannot delegate to another body decisions concerning admission to doctoral studies. The Department Board can only admit applicants who will be employed as doctoral students. Decisions on admittance of applicants with private funding to doctoral or licentiate studies are made by the Faculty Board of Humanities.

A doctoral student who has previously been admitted to studies up to licentiate level only and wishes to complete a PhD must apply when a doctoral position is announced and will, if successful, be admitted only for the remaining time needed to complete a PhD.

Selection from among applicants meeting the requirements set out in section 3 is to be made with reference to their ability to benefit from the programme. The selection is made by the Department Board. The Faculty Board determines the criteria to be used when assessing the applicant's potential to benefit from the programme.

The fact that an applicant is eligible to transfer credits for previous education or work experience does not alone give the applicant precedence over other applicants in the selection process.

The Department Board selects applicants in relation to an assessment of their potential to benefit from the educational programme. The selection is made with regard to the following criteria:

I. QUALIFICATIONS

1. Education in general.

Assessment of both depth and breadth of previous education.

2. Scholarly production.

Based on a Bachelor's thesis, a Master's thesis or other academic papers, the potential of the applicant to benefit from the education is to be considered in relation to the following assessment criteria:

Critical ability
Analytical ability
Creativity
Independence
Scholarly rigour

The assessment should also take into consideration the aspect of time, that is, to what extent the applicant has shown the ability to meet his or her previous scholarly obligations within given time constraints. In addition, the extent to which the applicant provides evidence of developing academic proficiency is considered.

II. RESEARCH PLAN

The applicant must enclose a research plan which should cover the research problem and an outline of the research project. The research plan is to be assessed according to

Relevance
Originality
Potential for completion within given time constraints (that is full-time work during a four-year period of doctoral studies)

III. ABILITY TO COLLABORATE

The ability of the applicant to collaborate with others is to be determined by personal references, certificates or interviews.

IV. OTHER

The applicant's mastery of written and spoken English at the level necessary for completing the PhD programme is to be assessed by means of the essays submitted and interviews.

When admitting and selecting applicants for doctoral studies in English, the Department Board will heed Faculty regulations.

5 The outline and content of the doctoral programme

5.1 General

The programme is planned to cover four academic years of full-time doctoral studies. Students should devote themselves entirely to their studies and use tuition and supervision efficiently.

For all doctoral students, the time of study will be extended in proportion to the time the doctoral student has taught or been otherwise employed outside of doctoral studies within the department. For part-time students it will also be extended in proportion to the decreased activity rate.

Doctoral studies in English is offered in the following specializations:

1. English literature
2. English linguistics

The programme comprises course work and the writing of a dissertation. The course work comprises 60 higher education credits, the equivalent of two semesters of full-time study. The dissertation work amounts to 180 higher education credits, equalling six semesters of full-time study.

5.2 Individual study plans

All active doctoral students in English must have individual study plans, passed by the Department Board. The Board reviews and, where appropriate, approves the plans, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (HF 6 kap 36§), the *Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University* and the further regulations of the Faculty of Humanities. If a plan is not approved, the doctoral student concerned must revise and resubmit.

5.3 Course work

Course work comprises full-time studies during two semesters (60 higher education credits) and should be designed to meet the objectives of the programme according to section 2 above.

Each course is documented with a full reading list, course requirements, course goals and forms of examination.

The courses will be listed in the individual study plan. The department will appoint an examiner for each course.

The courses within doctoral studies in English literature are designed so as to fulfill the stated goals: broad knowledge in the field of research; a deep knowledge of methods in the specific field of research and knowledge of scholarly methods and ethics in general; the ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis; and the insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and our responsibility for how it is used. More specifically, the courses are planned to give broad knowledge of English-language literature from a historical and social perspective, which implies that they normally have the form of period courses that cover the different literary forms and the different relations between literature and other cultural and social practices from the Renaissance to the present. Methodology and other goals are integrated in these historical courses. However, if opportunities of collaboration or of drawing on local or external expertise present themselves, these goals may be dealt with in separate courses. The courses within the literary programme will be designed so as to make the best of opportunities for collaboration with other departments and universities.

The courses within doctoral studies in English linguistics are selected and designed so as to fulfill the stated goals: broad knowledge in the field of research; a deep knowledge of methods in the specific field of research and knowledge of scholarly methods and ethics in general; the ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis; and the insight into the potential and limitations of linguistic scholarship, and its role in society. The courses are selected and designed to give a broad knowledge of English linguistics, which implies that all core areas of linguistics are covered, such as English phonology, syntax, and semantics. Methodology and other goals may be integrated in these courses. However, if opportunities of collaboration or of drawing on local or external expertise present themselves, these goals may be dealt with in separate courses. The courses within

the linguistic programme will be designed so as to make the best of opportunities for collaboration with other departments and universities.

5.3.1 Teaching and the university pedagogics course

Doctoral students may be given the opportunity to teach at the Department of English within their field of study. This teaching should be specified in advance in the Individual Study Plan. The teaching component must not exceed the equivalent of one year's full-time employment, which means a total of 20 per cent of a doctoral position. Doctoral students who teach will take a course in University pedagogics before or in conjunction with their teaching. The pedagogics course and the teaching will count towards an extension of the doctoral studies in direct proportion to the time assigned for the course and the teaching.

5.3.2 Obligatory seminars and mock disputation

In the course of the programme, the doctoral student must attend the higher seminars of the chosen specialization (literary or linguistic) during at least four semesters. The student will also be obliged to present his or her own research within the framework of the higher seminars on at least four separate occasions. One of these occasions must be a 50 per cent seminar. (50 per cent is defined as 50 per cent of the written dissertation.)

As part of the final preparations for the disputation (see section 7 below), the doctoral student will submit a full draft of the dissertation for a "mock disputation" in which an outside expert will examine the dissertation, and the doctoral student will respond to questions and criticism.

5.4 Dissertation

The subject for the doctoral dissertation is chosen in consultation with the supervisors at the start of the doctoral studies. A point of departure may be the research plan the doctoral student submitted in the application for doctoral studies.

The quality and contents of the dissertation should reflect the ability of the doctoral student to complete the chosen task in a scholarly and independent manner – with or without collaboration – in such a manner that parts of the aims under section 2 are met.

The dissertation is to be designed either as a uniform scholarly work (monograph dissertation) or as an assemblage of academic papers including an extended introduction and conclusion (compilation dissertation) written by the doctoral student alone or in collaboration with somebody else.

The research task and the results achieved are to be presented in such a way that the dissertation (including the papers in the compilation thesis) qualitatively reaches a level commensurable with requirements for acceptance to a scholarly series or peer reviewed journal. If the task is carried out as part of a collaboration, it must be possible to distinguish clearly the achievements of the doctoral student. In addition the following requirements must be completed for approval of the dissertation:

The dissertation is a result of independent scholarship which contributes significantly to the development of knowledge.

The purpose of the dissertation, the research issues and the appropriate methods are clearly specified and motivated.

The method is applied accurately.

Previous scholarship is described in such a way that it is clearly separated from the contribution of the doctoral student in the research field.

The source material is described and the way the material has been delimited is specified and explained.

The notes, references, tables and diagrams etc. are accurately employed according to high scholarly standards.

The dissertation is clearly and consistently organized.

The dissertation is acceptable in terms of language use.

The results achieved are summarized.

5.4.1. The doctoral dissertation in English is to be written in English

The doctoral dissertation must include a summary in Swedish. The scope of the summary should be such as to allow a reader without knowledge of the dissertation's language to gain a clear understanding of the aims and main content of the dissertation, the methods used and the results achieved. References should be made to the different chapters of the dissertation. The main supervisor will be responsible for the summary conforming to these requirements. In the grading, the assessment of the summary will be a part of the overall assessment of the dissertation.

An abstract in English, comprising no more than 2000 characters, including spaces, must be attached to a doctoral dissertation. The abstract should do the following:

- state the title of the dissertation, the language it is written in, the name of the author/authors and the name of the university and the department.
- review the contents of the dissertation in accordance with the disposition: research issues, methods, results.
- include key words and other information crucial for internet-based searches.

6 Supervision

A doctoral student admitted to doctoral studies has the right to supervision for the total amount of time that is assumed to be needed to finish the programme of 240 higher education credits, unless the Vice-Chancellor has decided that the student is not entitled to supervision or other resources in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 6, section 30.

At the beginning of the doctoral studies at least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student, with one of them designated as the main supervisor. Supervisors are appointed by the Department Board at the Department of English. The main supervisor is always an employee of the Department. Both supervisors must hold a PhD and at least one of them must be at least docent.

A doctoral student is allowed to change supervisor on request. The request shall be submitted to the Department Board or, if the Board has delegated the responsibility, to the head of the department.

The quantity of supervision may vary depending on how far along in the studies a doctoral student has come. The Faculty Board has established that at least 80 working-hours annually should be allocated to supervision of each doctoral student. Of these 30-40 hours ought to be contact-time. Both the division of time and responsibilities of the supervisors shall be specified in the individual study plan. The number of meetings with the supervisors each semester should also be specified.

The requirements that should be met for satisfactory supervision are as follows:

- On an annual basis, the supervisor and the doctoral student should review what has been accomplished in relation to the most recent individual study plan and establish a detailed schedule for the following academic year.
- The main supervisor shall provide for the delimitations of the subject of the dissertation in such a way that the doctoral studies can be completed within the specified time of study.

- The doctoral student shall pursue his or her doctoral studies with the activity rate established in the individual study plan and get in touch with the supervisors as soon as any problems arise.

Regarding the individual study plan for each doctoral student see above section 5.2.

7 Examinations; public defence of doctoral dissertation

Courses and the doctoral dissertation are to be graded either pass or fail.

Examiners of course work within doctoral studies in English are teachers specially appointed by the Department Board.

A doctoral student may be entitled to transfer credit from another institution and an examiner specially appointed by the Department board is to decide whether previous education or activities can be accepted for credit. A student who has successfully completed part of his/her doctoral studies in English at another Swedish university is entitled to credit for doctoral studies in English at Stockholm University. A doctoral student may also be entitled to credits for previous studies from a university outside Sweden. Other educational programmes as well as knowledge and skills from employment experience may be given credits if they are of such a nature and of such a scope that they essentially correspond to the doctoral studies towards which they are intended to give credit. It is, upon the doctoral student's request, for the Department Board to decide if previous education should be counted towards the degree.

The dissertation must be defended orally at a public defence. The language used during the public defence is to be English.

The defence must follow the current guidelines of the Faculty of the Humanities.

8 Licentiate Intermediate

A doctoral student in English may initiate his/her doctoral studies with a licentiate degree, comprising studies during four semesters for full-time students or eight semesters for half-time students.

The Licentiate degree shall comprise no less than 120 higher education credits.

8.1 Educational objectives

National objectives

For a *Degree of Licentiate of Arts* the doctoral student must demonstrate the following:

- knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field as well as familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular
- an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively; to plan and conduct a limited research project and other advanced tasks, using appropriate methods with precision and within specified time limits, thereby contributing to the production of knowledge; and to scrutinize and evaluate such work.
- an ability to present and discuss research and research results clearly, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts
- the skills required to independently participate in research and development and to work independently in other advanced contexts.
- an ability to make ethical assessments in their own research

- insight into the possibilities and limitations of science and scholarship, their role in society and our responsibility for how they are used
- an ability to identify areas where further knowledge is required and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

8.2 The outline and content of the education

The education within the licentiate intermediate comprises a 60-credit course work component and a 60-credit thesis, corresponding to 2x2 semesters of full-time studies.

8.2.1 Compulsory seminars

During the four-semester programme the doctoral student shall follow the general seminars for doctoral studies.

8.2.2 Course work

The course work component consists of two semesters of full-time studies, i. e. 60 higher education credits. It comprises courses from the course work in the programme for doctoral studies in accordance with section 5.3 above, and shall be designed so that it partially fulfils the objectives under section 8.1 above.

8.2.3 Licentiate thesis

Within the licentiate studies the doctoral student must write an academic paper of 60 credits, the licentiate thesis. The research subject should be selected at the start of the studies and be planned in such a way that the paper can be completed during two semesters of full-time studies.

Doctoral students who have decided not to limit their doctoral studies to the licentiate degree ought to choose a research subject that is possible to broaden into a dissertation. The academic paper is assumed to reach such quality that it can be published in a peer-review journal.

The paper shall be written in English.

The licentiate thesis must include a summary in Swedish. The scope of the summary should be such as to allow a reader without knowledge of the language of the thesis to gain a clear understanding of the aims and main content of the thesis, the methods used and the results achieved. References should be made to the different chapters of the thesis. The main supervisor will be responsible for the summary conforming to these requirements. In the grading, the assessment of the summary will be a part of the overall assessment of the thesis.

8.3 Examinations and thesis

Examinations of course work and the licentiate thesis are graded either as pass or fail. To pass the licentiate it is required that the doctoral student has received a pass grade for both the course work examinations and the licentiate thesis. The student must also have participated in the compulsory seminars.

Grading of examinations of course work within the licentiate degree is done by examiners appointed by the department board (see section 7).

The licentiate thesis must be defended orally at a public defence. The grade is to be determined by an examiner especially appointed by the Department Board for each thesis. The grading of the thesis shall be made with regard to its contents as well as the student's defence of it.

The principal supervisor (or another department teacher appointed by the board if this is not possible) will act as chairperson at the public seminar. The examiner may consult the supervisor(s) but the supervisor has no

formal right to intervene in the grading of the thesis.

The licentiate thesis defence must follow the current guidelines of the Department of English and the Faculty of the Humanities.

8.4 Other

The licentiate degree is not compulsory and it is not required that the doctoral student upon admission to doctoral studies decide whether or not he or she wishes to complete the licentiate degree or not. Doctoral students who do not clearly wish to limit their studies to an intermediate exit point are recommended to outline their doctoral studies with an aim to a doctoral degree. Such an outline need not be an obstacle if later during the programme the student wishes to complete the licentiate degree as either a final or intermediate goal.