

General Study Plan for Doctoral Studies in English

Regulations concerning doctoral studies are stated in the Higher Education Act (HL; 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 23 May 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. Official approval

This 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 23 January 2018. The study plan is valid from 1 February 2018.

2. Subject description

The doctoral programme in English comprises research on English-language literature and the English language. The programme offers two different specialisations, one in literary studies and one in linguistics.

3. Programme objectives

Studies at the doctoral level in English can be completed either with a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree. A doctoral student in English may present a licentiate thesis as a step towards a doctoral degree. The licentiate intermediary is however not a compulsory element for a doctoral degree in English.

3.1 Degree of Doctor

A doctoral degree will be awarded when the doctoral student has completed doctoral studies worth 240 higher education credits within one subject.

Knowledge and understanding

For a doctoral degree, the 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 delimited part of this field;

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familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Skills and abilities

For a a doctoral degree, the student must demonstrate the following:

an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis, as well as in independent, critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues, and situations;

an ability to identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, creatively, and with scholarly precision, as well as to plan and conduct research and other qualified tasks with appropriate methods and within specified time limits, and also to review and evaluate such work;

an ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge through their own research in a thesis;

an ability, in both national and international contexts, orally as well as in writing, to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general;

an ability to identify areas where further knowledge is required;

the potential to contribute to social development and support the learning of others, both in the fields of research and education and in other qualified professional contexts.

Scholarly approach and capacity for judgement

For a doctoral degree, the student must demonstrate the following:

intellectual independence and scholarly integrity, as well as an ability to make assessments of research ethics;

specialised insight into the potential and limitations of research, its role in society, and our responsibility for how it is used.

Academic thesis (doctoral thesis)

A doctoral degree will be awarded when the doctoral student has received a passing grade on an academic thesis (doctoral thesis) worth at least 120 higher education credits.



Additional information

Doctoral degrees with a particular specialisation are also subject to specific requirements determined by each higher education institution within the framework of the requirements of these qualification descriptors.

3.2 Degree of Licentiate

A licentiate degree will be awarded when the doctoral student has completed a third-cycle programme worth at least 120 higher education credits in a particular subject, or when the doctoral student has completed at least 120 higher education credits of a programme leading to a doctoral degree, provided that the higher education institution has decided that such licentiate degrees can be awarded.

Knowledge and understanding

For a licentiate degree, the student must:

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.

Skills and abilities

For a licentiate degree, the student must:

demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate research questions critically, independently, creatively, and with scholarly precision, as well as to plan and complete a limited research project and other qualified tasks with appropriate methods and within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate such work;

demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research findings clearly, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;

demonstrate the skills required to participate independently in research and development and to work independently in other advanced contexts.

Scholarly approach and capacity for judgement

For a licentiate degree, the student must:



demonstrate an ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research;

demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society, and our responsibility for how it is used;

demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

Academic thesis

In order to obtain a licentiate degree, the doctoral student must have received a passing grade on an academic thesis worth at least 60 higher education credits.

4. Eligibility and entry requirements

4.1 General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements for courses and study programmes at the doctoral level if he or she has:

1. been awarded a second-cycle qualification;
2. satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded at masters (advanced or second-cycle) level; or
3. acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in another way in Sweden or elsewhere.

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant under special circumstances.

4.2 Specific entry requirements

An applicant meets the special eligibility requirements for doctoral studies in English if he or she has received a passing grade on course work of at least 30 higher education credits in English at the advanced level (*alternatively* in linguistics or comparative literature), including a thesis of at least 15 higher education credits.

Additionally, the applicant must document proficiency in English as measured by one of the following internationally recognised 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.

5. Announcement and admission procedures

The Department Board at the Department of English decides upon admission of applicants to doctoral studies in English. 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 Board of the Faculty of Humanities. This applies also to admission of students aiming for double or multiple degrees.

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.

Doctoral positions in English may be announced up to twice a year on the Stockholm University website, with 15 April and 15 October as the application dates.

5.1 Assessment and selection criteria

Selection from among applicants meeting the requirements set out in section 4 is to be made with reference to their ability to benefit from the programme. The selection is made by the Council of Supervisors. The selection is made with regard to the following criteria:

1. Previous 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. 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. The scholarly production is judged with regard to critical and analytical ability, independence and creativity.
3. 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 its relevance, originality and feasibility within given time constraints (that is full-time work during a four-year period of doctoral studies or two years for a licentiate).
4. Availability of supervision.



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

6. 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 abide by Faculty regulations.

6. Programme content and structure

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. If a student requests it, they may be employed part-time, but not less than 50 per cent of a full-time employment, i. e. for a maximum period of eight years.

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 specialisations:

1. Literary studies
2. Linguistics

The programme comprises course work and the writing of a thesis. 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. All students admitted to the doctoral level in English must abide by the current general study plan. Collaborations in the form of cotutelle agreements, doctoral schools or externally funded projects can only affect the progression of studies on the individual level, as provided for by the individual study plan.

The details of the studies are noted under 6.3 and in the individual study plan.

6.1 Individual study plan

Each active doctoral student in English must have an individual study plan, passed by the Department Board. The Board reviews and, where appropriate, approves the plans, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (HF chap 6, 36§), the *Regulations for*



Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University and the further regulations of the Faculty of Humanities. The study plan must account for the responsibilities of the university and the student, the funding, and the timeline of the studies. The plan must be approved by the Department Board after consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors. The study plan must be revised at least once a year in consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors and will be adjusted by the university as required.

For further details on the drafting, management and revision of the individual study plans, please refer to HF chap 6 §§29 and 30, the *Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University* and the further regulations of the Faculty of Humanities.

6.2 Supervision and other resources

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 (120 credits for a licentiate degree).

At the beginning of the doctoral studies at least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student, one of them being 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 supervisors 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 the doctoral student has progressed in their studies. 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 their 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.

The doctoral student has a right to supervision until the completion of their studies, unless the vice-chancellor, with reference to the Higher Education Ordinance chap 6 §30, decides otherwise. The vice-chancellor may decide that a doctoral student is no longer entitled to supervision and other resources for doctoral studies if they to a considerable extent neglect their responsibilities as these are documented in the individual study plan. See *Regulations for doctoral studies at Stockholm University* and *Procedure for the withdrawal of a doctoral student's right to supervision and other resources* for more information.

6.3 Courses and examinations

Course work comprises full-time studies during two semesters, i. e. 60 higher education credits. For a licentiate degree, the course component comprises one and a half semesters' full-time studies, i. e. 45 higher education credits. The courses should be designed to meet the objectives of the programme according to section 3 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 appoints an examiner for each course. Course exams are graded either Pass or Fail.

The courses within doctoral studies in literature are designed 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 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.

6.3.1 Credit transfer

Decisions concerning the transfer of credits from earlier education towards the fulfilment of the degree are made by the director of graduate studies upon request by the doctoral student. If credits are transferred, then the period of study will be shortened accordingly.

6.3.2 Other mandatory elements

In the course of the programme, the doctoral student must attend the higher seminars of the chosen specialisation (literary or linguistic) during at least four semesters. The student will also be obliged to present their 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.

As part of the final preparations for the disputation, the doctoral student will submit a full draft of the dissertation for a “mock disputation” at least four months prior to the final defence in which an outside expert will examine the dissertation.

6.4 Doctoral thesis and public defence

To receive a doctoral degree, an approved thesis is required. A doctoral thesis in English must be written in English with a Swedish summary. A doctoral thesis in English is examined and defended orally at a public disputation. The examination is led by a specially appointed discussant (opponent). The disputation must be done in English and follow the *Guidelines for Disputation at the Faculty of Humanities*.

The thesis and the defence are assessed by a grading committee appointed specifically for each thesis and given either of the grades Pass or Fail. At least one member of the committee



must be employed at another university. The above regulations apply also if the student has a collaboration agreement aiming for a double doctoral degree.

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

The dissertation is to be designed either as a uniform scholarly work (monograph) or as an assemblage of academic papers including an extended introduction and conclusion (compilation thesis) 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 thesis (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.

Criteria for a compilation thesis

A compilation thesis consists of an overarching introduction – a so-called “kappa” – and three or more articles. At least half of the articles must be published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed academic publishing outlets; the remaining work must be at least submitted for review. If articles are co-authored, it must be clear what portion of the work has been the doctoral student’s responsibility. The *kappa* must present the main results of the separate investigations, and also discuss and evaluate them in relation to current research in the field. Additionally, it should present the main research question of the thesis, the type of material it investigates, as well as its theoretical and methodological points of departure.

The following further requirements must be met for approval of the thesis:

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

The purpose of the thesis, the research questions 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 thesis is clearly and consistently organised.

The thesis is acceptable in terms of language use.

The results achieved are summarised.

6.5 Licentiate thesis and licentiate seminar

For a licentiate degree, an approved thesis of 75 higher education credits is required. The thesis must be designed as a coherent scholarly study (monograph), or as a compilation thesis, comprising at least two articles plus an introductory *kappa*. At least one of the articles must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed academic journal. A licentiate thesis in English must be written in English with a Swedish summary. A licentiate thesis in English is examined and defended orally at a public disputation. The examination is led by a specially appointed discussant (opponent). The disputation must be done in English and follow the *Guidelines for Disputation at the Faculty of Humanities*.

The thesis and the defence is assessed by a grading committee appointed specifically for each thesis and given either of the grades pass or fail. At least one member of the committee must be employed at another university.

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

The quality and contents of the thesis 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 3 are met.

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.



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

The following further requirements must be met for approval of the thesis:

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

The purpose of the thesis, the research question 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 thesis is clearly and consistently organised.

The thesis is acceptable in terms of language use.

The results achieved are summarised.

Doctoral students who have not explicitly declared an intention to limit their studies to the licentiate level should choose a topic that can be expanded to a doctoral thesis.

The licentiate intermediary is not compulsory for a doctoral degree, and it is not required of the student upon admission to the doctoral level to decide whether or not to opt for a licentiate. Doctoral students without a stated intention to limit their studies to the licentiate level are therefore strongly recommended to plan their studies in such a way that they aim directly for a doctoral degree. This does not however impede them from deciding at a later stage to aim also for a licentiate intermediary.



7. Transition arrangements

Doctoral students who started their doctoral studies in English before 1 February 2018 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 the Department Board to have their studies transferred to and completed according to the now current, revised study plan.