



## GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR THIRD-CYCLE PROGRAMMES IN ECONOMICS

This syllabus is for programmes leading to a doctoral degree and for programmes leading to a Licentiate degree. This general syllabus is subordinate to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance and Södertörn University's Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University (*Föreskrifter för forskarutbildning vid Södertörns högskola*).

The syllabus was validated by the Faculty Board on 5 February 2019.

### Introduction

Economics studies societal phenomena on the basis of people's decisions when making choices that are characterised by a scarcity of resources or information. Economics has many specialisations, where many issues are shared with other social sciences. Economics research at Södertörn University emphasises that empirical studies of policy-focused problems.

### 1. Qualitative targets

Third-cycle courses and programmes in Economics at Södertörn University aim to educate autonomous and critically-minded researchers with the ability to provide autonomous contributions to the development of knowledge in Economics.

***On completing the degree programme, the doctoral student shall have acquired the following knowledge and abilities:***

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- show broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the Economics research field, as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field.
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of Economics research in particular.

#### *Competence and skills*

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis, as well for reviewing and assessing 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

– via a thesis, demonstrate the ability to make a significant contribution to knowledge development through his/her own research,

– 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

– demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge

#### *Judgement and approach*

– demonstrate the ability to conduct autonomous research and the ability to make assessments of research ethics

– demonstrate deep insight into the possibilities and limitations of knowledge and its role in society

#### Thesis

– In order to be awarded a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must have completed a scholarly thesis in the field of Economics (doctoral thesis) worth 127.5 credits and received a Pass grade.

#### Local intended learning outcomes

In addition to the intended learning outcomes for the licentiate and doctoral degrees, after completing the degree programme the third-cycle student shall

– demonstrate broad knowledge in the area of Politics, Economy and the Organisation of Society (knowledge and understanding)

– be able to autonomously apply this knowledge in the analysis of an area that is relevant to the subject (competence and skills)

## **2. Entry requirements**

A person is eligible for third-cycle education if he/she fulfils the general entry requirements and the specific entry requirements. The applicant must also be assessed as possessing the necessary capability to complete the programme.

### **2.1 General entry requirements**

A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if he or she

- has been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
- fulfilled requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
- acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual

applicant, if there are special grounds.

## **2.2 Specific entry requirements**

A person meets the specific entry requirements if he or she has knowledge equivalent to 90 credits in Economics and has a pass grade on a Master's level degree project in Economics, or has acquired equivalent knowledge abroad or through a previously awarded degree. If there are special grounds, the Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the specific entry requirements for an individual applicant.

## **3. Admission and selection**

In addition to the entry requirements, admissions to third-cycle education are based primarily on the assessed ability to benefit from third-cycle studies.

Applications for admission to a third-cycle programme shall be submitted to Södertörn University. Admission regulations are stated in the Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University.

A Curriculum Vitae shall be appended to the application, as well as the texts and other documents that the applicant wishes to refer to and, where relevant, a short plan for the proposed thesis.

Before deciding on admissions to third-cycle education, the subject's supervisory staff shall review and assess:

- the applicant's merits and competence,
- the funding plan,
- whether issues of research ethics have been considered.
- whether sufficient collected supervisory capacity exists to provide good and professional guidance and relevant expertise.

and, where relevant

- the suitability and feasibility of the research project as a doctoral project.

When assessing the ability to assimilate the programme, special emphasis is placed on the programme's scope, depth and grades in Economics, particularly the grade for the degree project. Particular emphasis is also placed on the programme's scope, depth and grades in closely-related areas that are relevant to third-cycle education in Economics.

The competence assessment is based on an evaluation of the essays and other autonomous written work of a scholarly character that is submitted by the applicant. Applicants who are then assessed as being most qualified will where necessary be interviewed and references taken up.

This assessment should consider the applicant's knowledge, skills, and abilities that the applicant can assimilate the programme, such as good theoretical, analytical and methodological knowledge; good ability to discuss issues and conclusions in speech and writing; intellectual autonomy; good ability to complete qualified tasks within given timeframes.

Particular emphasis is placed on the applicant's ability to: identify and formulate research questions; integrate knowledge and experience and apply them in new ways and in new contexts; conduct a dialogue that is characterised by both autonomy and the ability to cooperate.

#### **4. The main content of the programme**

##### *Degree of Doctor*

In total, a doctoral degree programme covers 240 credits, of which 112.5 credits are from courses and 127.5 credits are from the thesis. The courses are divided so that 82.5 credits are from obligatory courses and 30 credits are from elective courses.

The programme primarily consists of courses and thesis work, which are examined through exams and a public defence.

Third-cycle education in Economics that leads to a doctoral degree covers four years of full-time study or the equivalent. Studies must be conducted at no less than half-time and for no longer than eight years.

Active participation in the research environment's seminar activities is also included in third-cycle programmes.

##### *Courses*

The obligatory courses are:

- Research Design (7.5 credits) or Introduction to Research in Economics (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Organisations and Institutions (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Econometrics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Econometrics 2 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Macroeconomics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Macroeconomics 2 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Mathematics 1 for Economists (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Mathematics 2 for Economists (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Microeconomics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

- Microeconomics 2 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

Doctoral students who are affiliated to BEEGS have an additional obligatory course:

- Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe (7.5 credits) or the equivalent.

For other doctoral students, one of the following courses must be included in the programme:

- Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Qualitative Research Methods (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

#### Elective courses

The elective courses must specialise in the subject. Courses are chosen in consultation with the supervisor and must be approved by the supervisor. They can be studied at other higher education institutions (HEI) in Sweden or abroad, or as special courses at the home HEI.

Doctoral students who teach must have completed a course in teaching and learning in higher education.

#### *Licentiate Degree*

A Licentiate degree programme in Economics covers 120 credits and consists of courses worth a total of 60 credits and an academic paper worth 60 credits (60 + 60 credits for doctoral students at BEEGS). Such a degree may either be the final aim of the programme or a stage on the way to a doctoral degree. The doctoral student should begin his/her academic paper during the first year of the programme and thus conduct research activities in parallel with course-based studies.

#### *Courses*

The obligatory courses are:

- Research Design (7.5 credits) or Introduction to Research in Economics (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Econometrics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Econometrics 2 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Macroeconomics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Mathematics 1 for Economists (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Microeconomics 1 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Microeconomics 2 (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

The following course is obligatory for students studying for a Licentiate degree and who are affiliated to BEEGS:

- Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

For other doctoral students at Licentiate level, one of the following courses must be included in the programme:

- Organisations and Institutions (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge (7.5 credits) or the equivalent
- Qualitative Research Methods (7.5 credits) or the equivalent

Doctoral students who teach must have completed a course in teaching and learning in higher education.

## **5. Programme design**

An individual study and funding plan is drawn up when the doctoral student commences his or her employment. A proposal is also made regarding the principal supervisor and other supervisor, which is confirmed by the supervisory staff at the end of the doctoral student's first semester.

Initially, the doctoral student's time is dominated by courses, but he/she should start thesis work at an early stage. The doctoral student shall participate in higher seminars as part of his/her programme. A thesis plan shall be presented during the first year. After this, the doctoral student shall present his/her current research at least one seminar per year. The doctoral student shall conduct ongoing discussions with his/her supervisor about how studies are progressing.

A doctoral thesis shall be either a unified and coherent scholarly work (monograph) or a compilation thesis that consists of academic papers, an introduction and a summarising chapter. The subject and language of the thesis are decided in consultation with the supervisors. The working language for academic papers is English.

Two supervisors are appointed for each doctoral student, of which one shall be the principal supervisor and have primary responsibility for the doctoral student's studies – including work on the thesis – and one other supervisor. If necessary, additional supervisors may be appointed. The principal supervisor should be employed at Södertörn University. The supervisors must hold doctorates and the principal supervisor must have been an associate professor or professor. At least one of the doctoral student's supervisors shall have completed supervisor training.

## **6. Examination**

Reading courses are examined in accordance with the current syllabus, validated by the HEI that provides the course. The examination can receive one of the following grades: Pass or Fail. A doctoral student who has completed third-cycle courses at another unit at the university may, after admission, request a credit transfer for these after approval by the subject's head of third-cycle studies and after consultation with his/her supervisors.

A final seminar, with a faculty examiner, covering all parts of the thesis shall be held towards the end of work on the thesis.

The academic papers in a thesis shall be of a scholarly level equivalent to that required for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. However, just as for monograph theses, it is the overall assessment that is the decisive criteria.

The doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally in public. The public defence and thesis shall be announced in good time (at least three weeks) before the date of the public defence. At the defence, which has a chairperson, there shall be a faculty examiner who reviews the thesis' scholarly quality. The faculty examiner shall have at least associate professor level expertise.

The grade for a doctoral thesis shall be decided by an examining committee. The faculty examiner may be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussion, but not in making decisions. The same applies to the supervisors and the chair of the public defence.

A doctoral thesis shall be given one of the following grades: Pass or Fail. When grading, the content of the thesis and its public defence shall be considered. A motivation for the decision to award a Pass grade shall not be stated on the certificate or in the minutes of the examining committee. A member of the examining committee who wishes to register a reservation regarding the majority decision may have this noted in the minutes of the meeting or other documentation of the decision, but not on the degree certificate.

Normally, all course credits shall be completed before the public defence takes place.

## **7. Licentiate Degree**

A licentiate degree covers 120 credits, as follows:

- courses, 60 credits
- 60 credits for a licentiate thesis.

*Local implementation regulations for third-cycle courses and programmes at Södertörn University*

The following are the university-wide regulations for licentiate degrees.

- The Licentiate thesis shall be available at least 3 weeks prior to the examination.
- The Licentiate thesis does not need to be published in printed form unless there are special circumstances.
- The Licentiate thesis shall be reviewed by a faculty examiner and be defended publically. The chair of the examining committee must have competence that is at least that of associate professor.
- After a completed public defence of thesis, the examining committee grade the thesis as either a pass or fail. Consideration must be paid to both the content of the thesis and its public defence.