



GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR THIRD-CYCLE PROGRAMMES IN THE THEORY OF PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE

This syllabus is for programmes leading to a doctoral degree and for programmes leading to a Licentiate degree. This document 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 has been validated by the Faculty Board and was revised 10 June 2016.

1. Qualitative targets

The Theory of Practical Knowledge studies research problems and research themes that are found in professions in which meetings between people are central to professional skills and operational targets. Examples of such professions are educational, medical and caring professions, as well as other professions and occupations in which interpersonal issues are important in varying ways, as well as artistic professions. The Theory of Practical Knowledge is a multidisciplinary field that gathers its theories and methods from a humanistic tradition, with subjects such as philosophy, the history of ideas, aesthetics, education, ethnology, and others.

In studying the field, experience of the profession being researched is foundational, combined with the scholarly traditions named above. Ontological, knowledge-theoretical and ethical issues relevant to a range of interpersonal professions are explored. Philosophical, historical, aesthetic and empirical-qualitative methods are examples of approaches to research in the subject.

Third-cycle education in the Theory of Practical Knowledge aims to advance the doctoral student's knowledge of the subject's core areas as described above, and to provide him/her with excellent skills for continued research and other related activities in the field. The aim of third-cycle education is to provide the doctoral student with skills in the critical, self-critical, autonomous and academically sound execution of competent research, including the ability to plan, execute and present the research.

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- show broad knowledge within, and an advanced understanding of, the Theory of Practical Knowledge, in addition to deep and relevant specialist knowledge of a particular area in this research field,
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and methodology relevant to the thesis' area in particular,
- critically, reflectively and self-reflectively interpret, evaluate and historicise knowledge relating to the Theory of Practical Knowledge,

- evaluate the relevance of various sources in the Theory of Practical Knowledge through advanced knowledge of a range of scholarly methods, and demonstrate advanced knowledge of central epistemological and theoretical issues in the subject.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate an advanced capacity for reflection over his/her own and others' professional experience and
- professional expertise,
- demonstrate the ability to formulate nuanced, reflective, systematic, autonomous and relevant questions in the Theory of Practical Knowledge with scholarly precision,
- demonstrate a good capacity to conduct research within given timeframes in an epistemologically and methodologically adequate manner,
- demonstrate advanced ability in reviewing and evaluating research tasks that have been completed in a scholarly manner,
- demonstrate a good level of competence in presenting and discussing scholarly issues verbally and in writing in an autonomous, reflective and critical manner,
- demonstrate through a thesis the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his/her own research.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate advanced knowledge, intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude in how research in the Theory of Practical Knowledge is conducted, as well as insights into the field's contributions to scientific development,
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of, and a critical attitude to, central ideas within the Theory of Practical Knowledge in a nuanced and reflective manner,
- demonstrate advanced insight of how the Theory of Practical Knowledge can be discussed from a range of academic perspectives,
- demonstrate disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make ethical assessments that are relevant to the research field.

Thesis

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must have been awarded a pass grade for a documented research thesis in the Theory of Practical Knowledge (doctoral thesis) of at least 180 credits.

2. Entry requirements

2.1 General regulations

In order to be admitted to third-cycle studies, the applicant must fulfil the general entry requirements and the specific entry requirements as stated below. The applicant must also be assessed as possessing the necessary capability to assimilate the content of the degree.

2.2 General entry requirements

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

1. a second-cycle qualification,
2. fulfilled requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
3. 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. (Ordinance 2010:1064)

2.3 Specific entry requirements

Specific entry requirements are met if the applicant has knowledge equivalent to 60 credits in the Theory of Practical Knowledge, or in related subjects in the humanities or social sciences, at second-cycle level, or if the equivalent knowledge has been acquired abroad or through a previously awarded degree. In all cases, the studies must have included an individually-written paper worth at least 15 credits at second-cycle level. At least three years' documented work experience of at least half time is required in a profession that is relevant to the thesis. If there are special grounds, the Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the specific entry requirements for an individual applicant.

The ability to assimilate academic material in English and a command of the language necessary for work on the thesis are prerequisites for admission to the degree programme.

3. Admissions

3.1 Application

Applications for admission to a third-cycle programme shall be submitted to Södertörn University.

3.2 Limitations on admission and selection

The number of doctoral students admitted may be no greater than that which can be offered supervision, acceptable study conditions and who have a plan for student financing. A research student who is employed on a doctoral studentship is assumed to conduct his/her studies on a full-time basis. If it is believed to benefit the doctoral student's education, the doctoral studentship may be extended for a maximum of one year when the doctoral student conducts teaching or administrative tasks. These departmental duties may not exceed 20% of full-time.

Limitations on admission to third-cycle programmes are applied if the number of eligible applicants is greater than the number of available places. The basis for selection among eligible applicants for third-cycle programmes in the Theory of Practical Knowledge is the level of ability to assimilate such a degree programme.

The application is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The applicant's merits and expertise.
2. The quality of the research project.
3. The suitability and feasibility of the research project as a doctoral project.
4. The funding plan.
5. Whether issues of research ethics have been considered.
6. Whether sufficient collected supervisory capacity exists to provide good and professional supervision and the relevant expertise.

In association with admission to BEEGS, the research plan will be assessed according to its basis in the graduate school's specific geographic area; its orientation to the Baltic states or Eastern Europe.

Selection is primarily done on the basis of documentation and material submitted by the applicant, such as autonomous papers and certification of professional activity. Other factors in decision-making, such as interviews with applicants, may also be significant.

The expertise possessed by the teachers linked to third-cycle education and aspects relating to equal opportunities are also taken into account during the admissions procedure.

3.3 Admission decisions

The admissions process follows Södertörn University's guidelines for admissions to third-cycle education. The Faculty Board is responsible for decisions on the admission of students to third-cycle education, admissions with other forms of financing than employment and grants, and on admissions to Licentiate degree programmes.

4. Programme content

4.1 General

In total, a doctoral degree covers 240 credits, of which 60 credits are from courses and 180 credits are from the thesis. Of the course credits, 37.5 credits are obligatory (15 credits from obligatory courses common to the research area, and 22.5 credits from subject-specific obligatory courses). Doctoral students at BEEGS must study an additional obligatory course worth 7.5 credits. The remaining 22.5 credits or 15 credits (for doctoral students at BEEGS) are made up of elective courses.

A Licentiate degree programme covers 120 credits and consists of courses worth a total of 45 credits and an academic paper worth 75 credits. Such a degree may either be the final aim of the programme or a stage on the way to a doctoral degree.

Credits from courses at second-cycle level or higher and which are not included in the specific entry requirements may, after a decision in accordance with the academic school's delegation of authority, be transferred to the third-cycle programme.

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. The research environment's seminar activities are also included in third-cycle programmes.

4.2 Courses

The following courses are included in the third-cycle programme:

Obligatory courses within the research area (15 credits)

- 7.5 credits Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory.
- 7.5 credits Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge

Subject-specific obligatory courses (22.5 credits)

- 7.5 credits Theories of Practical Knowledge
- 7.5 credits Methods in Qualitative Studies in Practical Knowledge
- 7.5 credits Studies in Professional Knowledge

Obligatory course for doctoral students at BEEGS

- 7.5 credits Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

Elective courses (22.5 credits or 15 credits for doctoral students at BEEGS)

The elective, individually decided course are chosen in consultation with the doctoral student's principal supervisor. They are offered through supervision, internally or externally to the higher education institution, through literature studies, through oral and written research presentations, reviews of others' research, participation in the course in teaching and learning in higher education, etc.

Doctoral students who teach must have completed a course in teaching and learning in higher education, or have acquired the equivalent knowledge in another manner.

A Licentiate degree includes the following courses:

Obligatory courses within the research area (15 credits)

- 7.5 credits Introduction to Critical and Cultural Theory
- 7.5 credits Truth, Construction and Subjectivity: Contemporary Issues in the Theory of Scientific Knowledge

Subject-specific obligatory courses (22.5 credits)

- 7.5 credits Theories of Practical Knowledge
- 7.5 credits Methods in Qualitative Studies in Practical Knowledge
- 7.5 credits Studies in Professional Knowledge

Obligatory course for doctoral students at BEEGS

- 7.5 credits Contemporary Research into the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

Elective course (7.5 credits)

Applies to doctoral students who are not at BEEGS. Elective courses are chosen in consultation between the doctoral student and principal supervisor.

4.3 Doctoral thesis

To be awarded a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must write an academic thesis that is worth 180 credits. The thesis shall be based on autonomous research work and be of significance to research within the chosen field. The thesis shall either be a unified and continuous piece of academic work (monograph thesis) or a compilation of academic works that the doctoral student has written alone or with co-authors, to which a summarising discussion has been added (compilation thesis). The works shall be of such quality that they can be published in recognised academic journals. In case of co-authorship, an individual's efforts should be able to be distinguished and evaluated.

4.4 Licentiate thesis

To be awarded a Licentiate degree, the doctoral student must write an academic thesis that is worth 75 credits. The thesis must be based on autonomous research work.

4.5 Additional information

Additional information about third-cycle studies can be provided by the subject's director of doctoral studies or the equivalent representative.

5. Programme organisation

5.1 Individual study plan

The principal supervisor and doctoral student must, together, draw up an individual study plan for the doctoral student's third-cycle studies that includes the university's and the doctoral student's commitments, and a schedule for the programme. The study plan is drawn up at the start of employment and is validated by the Steering Group for Critical and Cultural Theory (according to the school's delegation of authority and decision procedure) at least five months after the start of the doctoral studentship. Follow-ups and revisions to the study plan must be presented to and approved by the steering group once per year. The doctoral student and the supervisor must confirm in writing that they have read the individual study plan and any revisions to it.

5.2 Teaching

Teaching is primarily provided in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. During the period of study, the doctoral student must participate in academic activities by attending seminars, guest lectures, etc. The doctoral student may be provided with the opportunity to participate in teaching and knowledge testing at another faculty or another higher education institution. The doctoral student must be offered the opportunity to participate in international conferences and courses.

5.3 Supervision

Students in third-cycle education are entitled to supervision that is equivalent to four years of full-time study for a doctoral degree and to two years for a Licentiate degree. The content and scope of supervision is stated in *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University*. Supervisors in third-cycle education in the Theory of Practical Knowledge are the field's professors and associate professors and specially appointed teachers. At least two supervisors must be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them shall be the principal supervisor. Supervisors are selected in consultation with the doctoral student. The principal supervisor must be an associate professor and the assistant supervisors must have doctoral degrees. They must have completed a course in third-cycle supervision or be assessed as having the equivalent competence. The supervisor(s) are appointed by the Head of School after being proposed by the steering group. A doctoral student is able to change supervisor if he/she requests it.

The supervisor(s) and doctoral student must have close, regular contact and, every semester, they must check what has been achieved on relation to the annual individual study plan. The choice of thesis subject must take place in consultation between the doctoral student and principal supervisor and should take place during the first semester of the programme. The doctoral student must contact his/her supervisor if there are any problems.

If a doctoral student substantially neglects his or her undertakings in the individual study plan, the vice-chancellor shall decide that resources for the programme are withdrawn. The local regulations in *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University* state how the case is prepared before the proposal to withdraw resources is submitted to the vice-chancellor.

6. Examination

Knowledge testing takes place through written or oral examination. Tests and examinations are graded as either Pass or Fail. The principal supervisor is examiner for the courses for which no specific examiner has been appointed.

The doctoral thesis shall be reviewed by an external examiner at a public defence. It is assessed by a specially-appointed examining committee in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Ordinance and the *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University*. During grading, consideration must be paid to both the content of the thesis and its public defence. The thesis shall be given one of the following grades: Pass or Fail.

The licentiate thesis shall be reviewed by a faculty examiner and be defended publicly. The procedures for presentation of the licentiate thesis are stated in the *Regulations for Third-Cycle Education at Södertörn University*. The Steering Group for Critical and Cultural Theory also creates area or subject-specific routines for its third-cycle subject areas. The thesis shall be awarded a grade of either Pass or Fail by a specially-appointed examining committee.