

Third-cycle (postgraduate research) training programmes at Linnaeus University are regulated in the Higher Education Act, the Higher Education Ordinance and the university's local regulations for third-cycle programmes. It is specified in the university's rules of decision-making and delegation where decisions are made.

General study plan for third-cycle studies in Comparative Literature

The general study plan for third-cycle studies in Comparative Literature was approved by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities on 4 June, 2018, and is valid from 4 June, 2018. It includes the subjects Comparative literature, English, French and German, with literary or didactic specialisations.

1 Description of the research environment

Comparative literature at Linnaeus University includes the subjects Comparative literature, English, Film studies, French, German and Spanish. There is collaboration with other research environments at Linnaeus University and other Swedish and international universities. The research competence within the environment is a resource for all third-cycle students. Collaboration occurs in the form of a joint seminar, some joint courses, assistant supervision and examination across subjects. A Supervisors Faculty Meeting handles issues concerning third-cycle programmes in the subjects included.

2 Objectives of the programme

General objectives for a doctoral or licentiate degree are regulated in the Higher Education Ordinance, see 1a in enclosure 1.

3 Entry requirements

Entry requirements for admission to third-cycle studies are presented below.

3.1 General entry requirements

General entry requirements are regulated in the Higher Education Ordinance, see 1b in enclosure 1.

3.2. Specific entry requirements

Instructions on what may be stated as specific entry requirements can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chap. 7, 40 §, see 1b in enclosure 1.

Specific entry requirements for admission to third-cycle studies in Comparative literature are as follows:

- English: at least 120 credits in English, or equivalent knowledge acquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad,
- French: at least 120 credits in French, or equivalent knowledge acquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad,

- Comparative literature: at least 120 credits in Comparative literature or the equivalent, or equivalent knowledge acquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad,
- German: at least 120 credits in German, or equivalent knowledge acquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad,
- for all subjects: at least 30 credits at the second level, including an independent project of at least 15 credits,
- proficiency in Swedish and/or English.

4 Criteria for assessment and selection

General criteria for assessment and selection are regulated in the Higher Education Ordinance, see 1c in enclosure 1.

The assessment of the applicant's ability to benefit from the third-cycle programme takes into consideration the applicant's academic skills as documented in academic projects, focusing on the quality of degree projects at the first and second levels, as well as other academic projects. The assessment also takes into consideration the width and composition of the first-cycle degree and the view of the committee on the applicant's abilities to complete the programme. The assessment is also based on the relevance, originality and feasibility of the thesis plan within the given time frame, i.e. the equivalent to four years of full-time studies for a degree of doctor and the equivalent to two years of full-time studies for a licentiate degree.

See also the university's local regulations for third-cycle programmes.

5 Content and structure of the programme

The individual study plan (ISP) is a plan for proposed course work, work with the thesis and supervision up until the completion of the degree. The plan is worked out by the principal supervisor and the doctoral student in consultation with the examiner and must be reviewed at least once every year. The review of the study plan includes a clear account of the progress made. The principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring that individual study plans are established and followed up and progress reviews carried out.

The programme includes individual supervision, courses and seminars. The doctoral student is expected to participate actively in research seminars within the research environment during the course of the programme.

To broaden their perspectives, the doctoral student should be supported and encouraged to make international contacts, for example through participation in courses and conferences. The doctoral student should also be provided with the opportunity to participate in third-cycle courses in other fields of research.

Third-cycle programmes at Linnaeus University should strive to provide the student with ample opportunities in their future career choices.

5.1 Degree of Doctor

The Degree of Doctor normally requires four years of full-time studies and the successful completion of 240 credits comprising course work of 60 credits and an approved scholarly thesis comprising 180 credits.

Courses

Compulsory courses of 22.5 credits are included in the research environment of Comparative literature:

Research theory, 7.5 credits
Subject theory, 7.5 credits
Research methodology, 7.5 credits.

Elective courses comprise 37.5 credits. The choice of elective courses to be included in the degree will be approved by the examiner in consultation with the doctoral student and the principal supervisor. The courses included in the programme must be specified in the individual study plan.

Doctoral thesis

The thesis component comprises 180 credits.

As a requirement for the Degree of Doctor, the student must write an academic thesis (doctoral thesis). The thesis should be based on independent research work and be of importance for research within the chosen subject area.

The thesis can either be presented as a single, cohesive scholarly work, a monograph or a compilation thesis.

A compilation thesis normally includes 3–5 articles and a bridging chapter (summarising chapter). At least three of the articles must be accepted for publishing in a refereed journal or a high-quality anthology.

An academic thesis written by two or more people can be approved as a thesis provided that the contributions of the individual authors can be distinguished.

The thesis is normally written in English, French, German or Swedish, depending on the doctoral student's subject. If the thesis is written in Swedish, there must be a summary in English or some other relevant language. A thesis written in another language than Swedish must include a detailed summary in Swedish. See Linnaeus University's language policy.

Quality assurance procedures for thesis work

Preliminary subject for the thesis should be chosen in consultation with the supervisor in connection with the student being accepted to the third-cycle programme. The subject should then be defined and delineated as early as possible during the third-cycle studies. The progression of the studies is evaluated in annual follow-ups of the individual study plan.

Written reports are provided by the principal supervisor when 50% of the requirements for a Degree of Doctor have been achieved, and when 80% have been achieved. When 50% of the requirements have been achieved, there should be a midway seminar which is followed up at the Supervisors Faculty Meeting.

There should be a final seminar with an external opponent when the thesis is assessed as nearly completed. The opponent at the final seminar cannot be included in the examining committee or be the opponent at the public defence.

After preparation by the principal supervisor and the examiner, the final seminar should be followed up at the Supervisors Faculty Meeting, including assessment of the quality of the thesis and prediction of the completion of the thesis.

Examination of the doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis is examined at a public defence. The procedures are regulated in the local regulations for third-cycle programmes.

Approval of the doctoral thesis is made by an examining committee. The examining committee must consist of three delegates.

The doctoral thesis is assessed using the grades of Fail or Pass. The grading will take into consideration the content and defence of the thesis.

5.2 Licentiate degree

The licentiate degree normally requires two years of full-time studies and the successful completion of at least 120 credits consisting of course work of 30 credits and an approved scholarly thesis comprising at least 90 credits. The licentiate thesis is examined at a public defence.

Courses

Compulsory courses of 22.5 credits are included in the research environment of Comparative literature:

Research theory, 7.5 credits

Subject theory, 7.5 credits

Research methodology, 7.5 credits.

Elective courses comprise 7.5 credits. The choice of elective courses to be included in the degree will be approved by the examiner in consultation with the student and the principal supervisor. The courses included in the programme must be specified in the individual study plan.

Licentiate thesis

The requirements for the licentiate degree are that the student must write a scholarly thesis comprising 90 credits. The thesis must be based on independent research work and be of importance for research within the chosen subject area.

A compilation thesis normally includes 2–3 articles and a bridging chapter (summarising chapter). At least one of the articles must be accepted for publishing in a refereed journal or a high-quality anthology.

An academic thesis written by two or more people can be approved as a licentiate thesis provided that the contributions of the individual authors can be distinguished.

The thesis is normally written in English, French, German or Swedish, depending on the student's subject. If the thesis is written in Swedish, there must be a summary in English or some other relevant language. A thesis written in another language than Swedish must include a detailed summary in Swedish. See Linnaeus University's language policy.

Quality assurance of licentiate paper

Preliminary subject for the licentiate paper should be chosen in consultation with the supervisor in connection with the student being accepted to the third-cycle programme. The subject should then be defined and delineated as early as possible during the third-cycle studies. The progression of the studies is evaluated in annual follow-ups of the individual study plan.

There should be a final seminar with an external opponent when the thesis is assessed as nearly completed. The opponent at the final seminar cannot be included in the examining committee, unless there are circumstances requiring this, or be the opponent at the public defence.

After preparation by the principal supervisor and the examiner, the final seminar should be followed up at the Supervisors Faculty Meeting, including assessment of the quality of the thesis and prediction of the completion of the thesis.

Examination of the licentiate paper

The licentiate paper will be examined at a public defence. The procedures are regulated in the local regulations for third-cycle programmes.

Approval of the licentiate paper is made by an examining committee. The examining committee must consist of three delegates.

The licentiate paper will be assessed using the grades of fail or pass. The grading will take into consideration the content and defence of the paper.

6 Affixes to degree titles

For degrees in Comparative literature, the affix *of Arts* is used.

7 Interim rules in relation to students admitted on the basis of previous general study plans

A doctoral student who has been admitted to follow an old general study plan in Comparative literature, English, French or German can be awarded a degree based on this one, provided that the current Higher Education Ordinance is followed.

8 Possibility to be awarded an interim degree

Doctoral students in Comparative literature aiming to be awarded a Degree of Doctor may be awarded a Degree of Licentiate as an intermediate aim.

Enclosure 1 Extracts from the Higher Education Ordinance

- 1a) System of qualifications
- 1b) Entry requirements
- 1c) Criteria for assessment and selection
- 1d) Admission
- 1e) Individual study plan

1a) System of qualifications

Higher Education Ordinance, enclosure 2 – System of qualifications

For the Degree of Doctor, the following objectives must be fulfilled:

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy the third-cycle student should:

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

Competence and skills

For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy the third-cycle student should:

- *demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess 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,*
- *demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research,*
- *demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively 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, and*
- *demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.*

Judgement and approach

For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy the third-cycle student should:

- *demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and*
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.*

Higher Education Ordinance, enclosure 2 – System of qualifications

For the Degree of Licentiate, the following objectives must be fulfilled:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student should:

- *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.*

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student should:

- *demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge, as well as to evaluate this work,*
- *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, and*
- *demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.*

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student should:

- *demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research,*
- *demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and*
- *demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her on-going learning.*

1b) Entry requirements

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 35 §

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes are that the applicant:

1. *meets the general and specific entry requirements that the higher education institution may have laid down, and*
2. *is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme.*

General entry requirements

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 39 §

A person meets the general entry requirements for research courses and study programmes if he or she:

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

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

Specific entry requirements

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 40 §

The specific entry requirements laid down shall be essential for students to be able to benefit from the course or study programme.

These requirements may comprise:

1. knowledge from one or more higher education courses and study programmes or corresponding courses and study programmes,
2. specific professional or vocational experience, and
3. requisite language skills or other conditions determined by the course or study programme.

1c) Criteria for assessment and selection

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 41 §

In selecting between applicants who meet the requirements laid down in Sections 35 & 36 §§, their ability to benefit from the course of study programmes shall be taken into account.

The higher education institution determines which assessment criteria shall be used in determining the ability to benefit from the courses and study programmes.

However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants.

1d) Admission

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 34 §

The number of doctoral students admitted to third-cycle courses and study programmes may not exceed the number that can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study and whose studies are funded pursuant to Section 36. Ordinance (2006:1053).

Higher Education Ordinance 7 chap. 36 §

A higher education institution may only admit applicants to third-cycle courses and study programmes who have been appointed to doctoral studentships or awarded doctoral grants. The higher education institution may, however, admit applicants who have some other form of funding for their studies if it considers that the funding can be guaranteed during the entire period of study and that the applicants can devote enough time to their studies to enable their completion within four years in the case of a licentiate degree or a licentiate degree in the fine, applied and performing arts or eight years in the case of a PhD or a doctorate in the fine, applied and performing arts. Ordinance (2010:1064).

1e) Individual study plan

Higher Education Ordinance 6 chap. 29 §

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student. This plan shall contain the undertakings made by the doctoral student and the higher education institution and a timetable for the doctoral student's study programme. The plan shall be adopted after consultation with the doctoral student and his or her supervisors.

The individual study plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended by the higher education institution to the extent required after consultation with the doctoral student and his or her supervisors. The period of study may only be extended if there are special grounds for doing so. Such grounds may comprise leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for service in the defence forces or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave. Ordinance (2010:1064).