

Third-cycle studies at Linnæus University are regulated in the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance as well in local rules for third-cycle studies, established at the university. In the university's working, decision-making and delegation regulations it is specified in which institution decisions are made.

General Study Plan for Third-Cycle Studies in Economics

General study plan for third-cycle studies in Economics is established by the Faculty Board for Economy and Design 2012-06-13 and will take effect from 2012-06-13, revised by the Faculty Board of School of Business and Economics 2013-01-31.

Scope of Education

Doctoral Degree

The doctoral degree usually requires four-years fulltime studies and is attained upon completing 240 credits of which 120 credits consist of courses and the remaining 120 credits of an approved scientific thesis (doctoral thesis) (see the heading Doctoral Degree page 6).

Licentiate Degree

The licentiate degree usually requires two-years fulltime studies and is attained upon completing at least 120 credits of which 60 credits consist of courses and the remaining 60 credits of an approved scientific essay (see the heading Licentiate Degree page 6).

The licentiate degree can also constitute stages of education that can result in a doctoral degree.

Objectives of Education

Doctoral Degree

For a doctoral degree, the following objectives must be fulfilled:

Knowledge and Understanding

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student should

- demonstrate a broad knowledge within, and a systematic understanding of, the research field as well as deep and current specialist-knowledge within a limited part of the research field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with the methods of the specific research field in particular.

Skills and Abilities

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student should

- demonstrate an ability for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as for independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific meticulousness identify and formulate questions as well as plan and with adequate methods carry out research and other qualified assignments within given timeframes as well as examine and evaluate such work,
- with a thesis and through independent research, demonstrate the ability to significantly contribute to knowledge development,
- demonstrate the ability to, both verbally and in writing, and in both national and international contexts, present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scientific community and the community in general,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate prerequisites, both within research and education and in other qualified professional contexts, to contribute to the development of society as well as support the learning of others.

Judgement and Approach

For a doctoral degree, doctoral students should

- demonstrate intellectual independency and scientific probity as well as the ability to make research-ethical assessments, and demonstrate deeper insight into scientific possibilities and limitations, their role in society as well as people's responsibility for how this knowledge is used.

(HF appendix 2 – System of Qualifications)

Licentiate Degree

For a licentiate degree, the following objectives must be fulfilled:

Knowledge and Understanding

For a licentiate degree, doctoral student should

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the research field, including current specialist-knowledge with a limited part of this as well as deeper knowledge in scientific methodology in general and the specific methods of the research field in particular.

Skills and Abilities

For a licentiate degree, doctoral students should

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific meticulousness identify and formulate questions as well as plan and with adequate methods carry out a limited research paper and other qualified assignments within given timeframes and, through this, contribute to the development of knowledge as well as evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability to, both verbally and in writing, and in both national and international contexts, clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scientific community and the community in general, and
- demonstrate the knowledge that is needed to independently partake in research and development work and to independently work in other qualified operations.

Judgement and Approach

For a licentiate degree, doctoral students should

- demonstrate the ability to make research-ethical assessments in their own research,
- demonstrate an insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

(HF appendix 2 – System of Qualifications)

Entry Requirements

In order to be accepted to third-cycle studies, applicants must,

1. have general entry requirements and specific entry requirements assigned by the university, and
2. be thought to have the ability that is needed to acquire such education.

(HF 7 chap. 35§)

General Entry Requirements

General entry requirements for third-cycle studies concern those who have

1. completed a degree on advanced level,
2. completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, whereof at least 60 credits are on advanced level, or
3. in some other way inside or outside the country, essentially acquired equivalent knowledge.

The university may, for an individual applicant, grant exemptions from the general requirements, if there are special reasons.

(HF 7 chap. 39§)

Transitional Provisions

Those who, before 1 July 2007, meet the basic requirements for admission to third-cycle studies will also be considered eligible for admission to third-cycle studies, but only until the end of June 2015.

(Regulations (2006:1053) Transitional Provisions)

The transitional provisions (regulations 2006:1053 above) mean that those who have undergone general higher education of at least 120 credits in accordance with earlier point systems, or who have, in some other way inside or outside the country, essentially acquired equivalent knowledge are eligible for acceptance to third-cycle studies.

Specific Entry Requirements

The requirements for specific entry requirements must be totally essential if the student is to benefit from the education.

Requirements relate to

1. knowledge from higher education or equivalent education
2. specific work experience, and
3. necessary language knowledge or other conditions that the education commands.

(HF 7 chap. 40 §)

Specific Entry Requirements for the Subject of Economics

Specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies in Economics are as follows:

- *at least* 90 credits in the subject of economics or in subjects that are connected to third-cycle studies in economics or equivalent knowledge acquired in some other order, inside or outside of the country
- good language knowledge in English; both spoken and written.

Application

Applications to third-cycle studies are regulated in Local admission regulations and Local rules for third-cycle studies.

Assessment and Selection Criteria

Selection of applicants who fulfil requirements according to HF 7 chap. 35 and 36 §§ (in relation to entry requirements and requirements for funding) shall be made with consideration for their ability to benefit from the education.

The mere fact that an applicant may credit earlier education or professional duties for education should not, during selection, give the applicant priority over other applicants.

(HF 7 chap. 41§)

Within economics, assessment of abilities to benefit from the education is primarily based upon: i) course grades, ii) bachelor and master theses as well as other possible scientific publications and iii) assessments from interviews.

Admission

The university may only admit applicants who are employed as doctoral students, or granted a stipend, to third-cycle studies. The university may, however, admit applicants who have some other form of student finance, if the university believes that the funding can be secured throughout the entire education and that the applicant can devote so much time to the education that it can be completed in four years, when it comes to the licentiate degree, or licentiate degree of fine arts, and eight years, when it comes to degree of doctor, or degree of doctor of fine arts.

(HF 7 chap. 36 §)

Admission to Linnaeus University is regulated in Local admission regulations for third-cycle studies.

In relation to institutional resources that are necessary for admission, the prefect must be able to prove that there is funding, at least two supervisors and a workplace.

Organisation of Third-Cycle Studies

Organisation of third-cycle studies is regulated in Local rules for third-cycle studies and in the university's organisational decisions.

Supervisor and Examiner

The main supervisor, assistant supervisor and examiner are appointed in connection with admission. The division of responsibilities and duties between supervisor, assistant supervisor and examiner should be stated in the individual study plan. The doctoral student and supervisor have the right to request a change of supervisor.

Accreditation and Deduction

Decisions regarding accreditation should be built on a data, in the form of, for example, course credit. Accreditation data shall be filed in accordance with current document management plans.

In connection with the admission of doctoral students, course and thesis credits that may be credited within the education should lead to decisions on deduction of financial time. Deductions should be carried out with the doctoral student's best in focus and without more research funding than necessary being used. Deductions are documented in the individual study plan.

Structure and Content of the Education

Individual Study Plan

An individual study plan must be established for every doctoral student. The plan should contain the university's and the doctoral student's undertaking and a schedule for the doctoral student's education. The plan should be decided upon consultation with the doctoral student and his or her supervisor. The individual study plan should be regularly monitored, and upon consultation with the doctoral student and his or her supervisor, changed by the university to the extent needed. The education period may only be extended if there are special reasons for doing so. Such grounds may be leave due to illness, leave for military service within the total defence or for commission of trust within trade unions and student organisations or parental leave.

(HF 6 chap. 29 §)

The individual plan is a work plan for a course of studies, thesis work and supervision up to the point of graduation. The plan is drawn up by the supervisor and the doctoral student in consultation with the examiner and should be monitored at least once every year. The progress of the education should be clearly specified in follow-ups.

The main supervisor is responsible for making sure that both follow-ups and study plans are carried out.

Courses

Teaching is given in the form of individual supervision, courses and seminars. Scheduled teaching in the form of courses is taught in accordance with a yearly fixed plan, modelled on needs and resources. Students should, throughout the entire education, actively participate in research seminars in the subject/environment.

The elective courses to be included in the degree are determined by the examiner in consultation with the doctoral student and supervisor. External courses provided by other institutions or seats of learning, which are not included in the study plan, can be credited upon review of each case.

The doctoral student is recommended to study some courses at foreign universities.

Third-level pedagogical education is obligatory for doctoral students who are going to teach.

In the list below, credits is abbreviated with “c”.

Doctoral Degree

Obligatory courses 67.5 c

Theory of Science for Doctoral Students 7.5 c

Also 60 c within the courses

Mathematical Economics (at least 10 c)

Microeconomic Theory (at least 10 c)

Econometrics (at least 10 c)

Macroeconomic Theory (at least 10 c)

Elective courses

Elective courses within or outside the subject 52.5 c

Licentiate Degree

Obligatory courses 37.5 c

Theory of Science for Doctoral Students 7.5 c

Also 30 c within the courses

Microeconomic Theory (at least 10 c)

Macroeconomic Theory (at least 10 c)

Mathematical Economics (at least 10 c)

Econometrics (at least 10 c)

Elective courses

Elective courses within or outside of the subject 22.5 c

Examination of Courses

Every course is examined through oral or written tests, through oral presentation for the research seminar or through reports that are submitted for the seminar. Choice of examination form is decided by the course examiner. Every such educational measurement is assessed and evaluated by the course examiner with the grades Pass or Fail.

Scientific Seminar

The aim of participation in the scientific seminar is for students to train their ability to partake in scientific debates within the subject as well as their ability to discuss their work in a scientific forum.

Course Syllabi

All third-cycle study courses within the subject are documented through course syllabi.

Doctoral Thesis

Thesis is comprised of 120 credits

For a doctoral degree, doctoral students should write a scientific thesis (dissertation). The thesis should be based on an independent research work and be of relevance to research within the chosen subject. The requirement for independence does not mean that the thesis can be part of a larger research-projects. The subject should be defined and delineated as early as possible during third-cycle studies.

The thesis can either be designed as a coherent scientific work, a monograph thesis or as a compilation thesis.

A compilation dissertation should normally contain the equivalent of three essays as well as a compilation section (kappa). The essays should have a quality that is considered adequate for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The compilation section can, as well as a summary of the thesis, include a discussion of the work's theoretical basis and connection to previous research. The relationship between the essays should also be discussed in the compilation section.

A monograph dissertation should be considered to have the same level of quality as three peer-reviewed articles.

Dissertations in Economics should preferably be written in English to facilitate international assessment. Dissertations written in English should contain a summary written in Swedish. If the dissertation is written in Swedish, it must have a summary written in English.

Quality Assurance of the Dissertation

Final seminar equivalent to an "internal disputation" should be held when the dissertation is deemed almost complete.

Licentiate Thesis

For the licentiate degree, students should write a scientific paper of 60 credits that can be included as part of a doctoral dissertation. The essay should be based on independent research and maintain good scientific quality.

Licentiate thesis can be written in Swedish or English. Licentiate thesis written in English should have a summary written in Swedish. If the licentiate thesis is written in Swedish, it must have a summary written in English.

Quality Assurance of the Licentiate Thesis

Final seminar with an internal opposition should be held when the thesis is deemed almost complete.

Examination of Licentiate Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation

Examination of Licentiate Thesis

The licentiate thesis should be defended in a public seminar.

Two months before the licentiate seminar, at the latest, an application should be sent in to the decision-making body. Applications are made via the application form, *Application for Licentiate Seminar*.

Discussant as well as Chairman of the licentiate seminar are appointed. The licentiate thesis is graded by the doctoral student's examiner with the exception of cases where the examiner is the student's deputy supervisor. In such cases, a different assessor of the licentiate thesis must be appointed.

Licentiate thesis will be assessed with the grades Pass or Fail. Content and defence of the theses will be taken into consideration during grading.

More detailed regulation of requirements on the opponent, the examination committee and its composition as well as forms for the licentiate seminar can be found in Local rules for third-cycle studies.

Examination of Doctoral Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation should be defended in a public seminar.

Two months before the disputation, at the latest, an application should be sent in to the decision-making body. Applications are made via the application form, *Application for Disputation*.

Grades for the dissertation are determined by an examination board. The Board should consist of three members. The examination committee must include at least one member who does not work at Linnaeus University. The examining committee should include no more than one member who works at the same subject/environment as the doctoral student. All members of the examination board should be at least professors or have equivalent qualifications.

The dissertation should be assessed with the grades Pass or Fail. When grading shall take into account the content and the defence of the dissertation. Content and defence of the dissertation will be taken into consideration during grading.

Title of Qualification Prefix

For doctoral degrees in the subject of economics, the doctoral student's first-cycle qualification is as follows:

First-cycle qualification:

Economics

Philosophy (as well as the above)

Doctoral degree

Economics

Philosophy

Possible transitional rules in relation to earlier general study plans

A doctoral student who has adopted to follow an older general study plan may complete the degree in accordance with it, under this condition that current university regulation are followed.

Doctoral students accepted to the older study plans in third-cycle studies in the subject of Economics, dnr 769/2004-64 (ratified 2004-10-26) or dnr 572/2008-64 (ratified 2008-05-27) can change to existing general study plans.