General syllabus for Degree of Doctor in Spanish

The syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Arts on 21 February 2013. It is complemented with the following documents, available via the website of the Faculty of Arts (http://www.hum.gu.se/english/education/doctoral-studies/):

- Instructions for third cycle studies at the Faculty of Arts
- Instructions for the production of a doctoral thesis
- Instructions for the public defence of a doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts
- The Department's guidelines for third-cycle studies

1. Aims

1.1 General national aims

According to the system of qualifications in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, the aims for the Degree of Doctor are as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Doctor, the third-cycle student shall

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

Competence and skills

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as autonomous and critical
review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations,

- 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 the third-cycle student shall

- 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.

**1.2 Local aims at the University of Gothenburg**

The aim of the programme is to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to autonomously conduct research and contribute to the knowledge development within the subject through the production of a scholarly thesis.

Third-cycle studies shall develop the doctoral students’ communicative and pedagogical skills to enable them to express themselves well both orally and in writing in and outside academic contexts. The doctoral student shall also acquire knowledge about how to plan, lead and implement research projects.

Moreover, third-cycle studies shall facilitate international contacts, for example in the form of participation in research conferences and/or visits and temporary assignments at foreign higher education institutions.

**1.3 Subject-specific aims**

Third-cycle studies for the Degree of Doctor in Spanish at the University of Gothenburg also include the third-cycle student demonstrating in-depth insight regarding the opportunities and limitations of research within the knowledge field of Spanish, its role in society and its relation to other scholarly disciplines. The doctoral student shall also have acquired the ability to critically reflect over his/her work in this perspective.

Upon completion of the programme, the doctoral student shall be able to serve as a researcher and academic teacher within Spanish as well as within occupations that subsume advanced investigative, preparatory or analytical work in the public or private sector where extensive communicative competence as well as particularly good insight into the Spanish culture areas are required.

**2. Entry requirements**

Admission to the programme requires that the applicant fulfil the general and specific entry requirements provided in Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.
2.1 General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements, according to the Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7, Sec.39, if he or she

a) has been awarded a second-cycle qualification, or

b) has satisfied requirements for courses comprising at least 240 higher education credits, at least 60 of which were awarded in the second-cycle, or

c) has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

Applicants who meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle studies before 1 July 2007 will also be considered to meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle studies after that, however, until no later than the end of June 2015.

2.2 Specific entry requirements

Admission to the third-cycle programme in Spanish requires:

1. at least 30 higher education credits in Spanish at second-cycle level, at least 15 of which are from a degree project (or equivalent, for example translation or teacher training education at second-cycle level with an orientation towards Spanish),

2. good reading skills in English and any other languages deemed relevant in order to benefit from international research related to the research task in question, and

3. the type(s) of English skills needed to benefit from Faculty-wide course activities and to be able to actively participate in seminars and similar activities.

Applicants who fulfilled the specific entry requirements in Spanish prior to 1 September 2012 according to the most recently effective older programme syllabus may, until the end of June 2015 and following approval by the Department, be considered to also meet the specific entry requirements set out in the present programme syllabus.

3. Admission and selection

Admission to third-cycle studies is normally initiated by the Department announcing a call for applications. Admission is conditional upon the studies being properly funded.

The selection among qualified applicants shall be based on their ability to benefit from the study programme, as provided in Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance. To facilitate the selection process, the applicant must submit:

1. Theses and degree projects, which are to be assessed based on the following criteria:
   a) ability to autonomously identify and formulate relevant problems,
   b) ability to conduct an argumentation with consideration to the tenacity of the arguments, and
   c) application of scientific concepts in conjunction with the analysis of the data that are processed.

2. A project draft indicating the applicant’s planned research task as well as which theories, methods and material that may come into question. Project drafts are assessed based on the following criteria:
   a) ability to formulate research questions/scientific problems,
   b) familiarity with previous and current research in the area,
c) whether the formulated problems are linked to current research and whether they are relevant in relation to the opportunities presented by the material,

d) whether the described methods for collection and analysis of data are adequate, and

e) whether the draft is deemed realistic with respect to feasibility within the third-cycle study programme.

The project draft also forms a basis for assessment of the Department’s supervisory competence within the indicated research area.

Admission and selection are also conditional on the Department’s supervisory resources within the doctoral student’s research focus. Admission decisions are made by the Head of Department following preparation at the Department.

4. Programme disposition and content

The third-cycle programme in Spanish comprises 240 higher education credits and leads to a Degree of Doctor. There is an option of obtaining a Degree of Licentiate after 120 higher education credits providing the requirements stated in the general syllabus for a Licentiate degree in Spanish are met. If a Degree of Licentiate is not obtained, a mid-way review shall be carried out upon completion of four terms of full-time study.

The programme consists partly of courses, which are examined incrementally, partly of own research work, which is to lead to a scholarly thesis. Both the courses and the thesis work may comprise interdisciplinary components but shall overall have a clear linguistic orientation.

The student shall within the confines of his or her education participate in both seminar and Department-wide activities. Such participation shall be documented annually in the individual study plan (see Sec. 6).

4.1 Courses

The programme consists of a course part comprising 90 higher education credits divided into three course blocks. Each block may comprise Faculty-wide courses, courses offered at the Department and courses offered at the University level or other higher education institutions. The courses are selected in consultation with the student’s supervisor and examiner/the Associate Head of Department for Doctoral Studies as well as (for course 3a) the Director of Studies for the subject. The courses shall be specified in the individual study plan.

Block 1. Theory and method, 30 higher education credits

The doctoral student shall demonstrate in-depth insight into current theories and methods, both of general scientific character and with orientation towards Spanish-speaking culture areas, as well as the ability to relate critically to these. Within the block there is a requirement of at least 7.5 higher education credits in literary theory and method and at least 7.5 higher education credits in the development of linguistics as well as important orientations and schools within Spanish linguistics.

Block 2. Language or literature within the Spanish-speaking culture areas from a historical and societal perspective, 30 higher education credits

The doctoral student shall attain basic knowledge of Medieval Spanish and Spanish language history as well as in-depth insight into the Spanish-speaking literatures in their specific historical, socio-cultural and ideological context. Additionally, the doctoral student shall develop his or her awareness of the learning process concerning an unfamiliar culture as well as readings of texts dealing with such cultures.

Block 3. Research and teaching practice, specialisation course, teaching and learning in higher education, 30 higher education credits
a) Research and teaching practice (10 higher education credits)

The doctoral student shall attain the proficiency required to authoritatively present and discuss research within the field of Spanish in national and primarily international contexts. This includes training in academic writing in Spanish, as well as active participation in seminars, preparatory courses in project writing and preparations for participation in conferences, media training, scientific presentation technique, research information etc. Participation in national and international conferences/workshops with own lecture as well as participation in the organisation and execution of a conference/workshop are also credit bearing. The doctoral student is also given the possibility to implement his or her knowledge from the course in teaching and learning in higher education (see below) in practice.

b) Specialisation course (15 higher education credits)

The doctoral student shall gain necessary specialist knowledge related to the thesis work and the intended future profession. Students are recommended to take this course alongside the course in research and teaching practice (see above) and thereby have it comprise the content core for the practical work.

c) Teaching and learning in higher education, basic course (5 higher education credits)

The course should normally be completed during the first year of the programme.

The courses are examined orally or in writing. Most courses should be examined via an academic paper followed up with an oral defence seminar as training for the public defence of the doctoral thesis.

Examiners are appointed by the Dean.

If a doctoral student requests credit transfer from previous education, this shall be specified in the individual study plan (see 6.1).

4.2 Doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis comprises 150 higher education credits. It can be designed as a monograph or a compilation thesis. A licentiate thesis can be included as part of a doctoral thesis, in a revised or unaltered form.

The doctoral student is expected to provide regular reports on his or her thesis work. This requirement is primarily met through the presentation of thesis chapters at Department seminars.

For more information, see instructions for the production of a doctoral thesis.

The doctoral thesis is defended at a public defence seminar. Both the content and defence are considered in the assessment of the thesis. The thesis is graded Pass or Fail.

For more information, see instructions for the public defence of a doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts.

5. Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student: one principal supervisor and one assistant supervisor. The principal supervisor must be employed at the University of Gothenburg (normally at the doctoral student's home Department). At least one of the supervisors must be qualified for appointment to a readership (Docent) and at least one of the supervisors must have completed supervisor training.

The doctoral student is entitled to supervision as stipulated by the Faculty Board (see instructions for third-cycle studies at the Faculty of Arts and the Department's guidelines for third-cycle studies).

A doctoral student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisors.
6. Individual study plan

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student in connection with admission. The plan shall be finalised within three months of commencement of studies after consultation with the student and his/her supervisor and examiner/Associate Head of Department for Doctoral Studies.

The individual study plan shall be reviewed at least once a year. The review shall clearly identify the doctoral student's progression.

The student and his/her supervisor and examiner/Associate Head of Department for Doctoral Studies and Head of Department shall, in writing, confirm that they have reviewed the individual study plan and any revisions made.

6.1 Credit transfer

When the individual study plan has been established, the doctoral student may request that credits be transferred from past successfully completed second- or third-cycle education. Credits applied to fulfil the general or specific entry requirements may not also be applied towards the third-cycle degree, but must be replaced with another course. In addition, the following applies:

(i) A doctoral student who has successfully completed a second-cycle course that is included as a compulsory or elective course at third-cycle level may request that the course be replaced with another course of the same extent in the individual study plan. This does not affect the duration of the programme for the Degree of Doctor.

(ii) A doctoral student who has completed part of his or her third-cycle education while he or she has been enrolled as a third-cycle student at another higher education institution or in another subject may request that this part be applied directly to his or her degree without replacements. This reduces the duration of the study programme for a Degree of Doctor in proportion to the credits transferred.

6.2 Time table and funding plan

The individual study plan shall include a time table and a funding plan for the entire period of study, up to the planned date for public defence of the thesis.

7. Transitional provisions

Doctoral students admitted before 30 June 2013 may, following consultation with supervisors, request permission from the Associate Head of Department for Doctoral Studies to transfer to this programme syllabus. The individual plan must then be updated.