General syllabus for Degree of Licentiate 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 examination of a licentiate 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 Licentiate are as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the research field, including the current specialised knowledge within a limited area of this, as well as in-depth 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 shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically, autonomously and creatively, and with scholarly precision, identify and formulate issues, to plan and with adequate methods carry out limited research work and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames, thereby contributing to knowledge development as well as evaluating this work,
• demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to clearly present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and

• demonstrate the skills required to autonomously participate in research and development work and to autonomously work in other qualified activity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

• demonstrate the ability to make assessments of research ethics in own research,

• demonstrate 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 their need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

1.2 Local aims at the University of Gothenburg

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

Third-cycle studies shall develop the student's communicative and pedagogical skills in terms of ability to convey knowledge as well as express oneself well in speech and writing within and outside academic contexts. The student shall also acquire knowledge about how to plan, manage 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 at a foreign higher education institution.

1.3 Subject-specific objectives

The student shall demonstrate in-depth insight regarding the opportunities and limitations of research within the field of Spanish, its role in society and its relation to other scholarly disciplines. The student shall also have acquired the ability to critically reflect on his or her own activity from this perspective.

The student shall demonstrate in-depth understanding and broadened knowledge of Spanish and shall have acquired a subject methodological schooling.

Upon completion of the programme, the student shall have acquired the ability to work as a secondary school lecturer in Spanish (under the conditions that all other entry requirements are met) as well as be active within professions that subsume advanced investigative, preparatory and analytical work within the public or private sector where a high communicative competence as well as good insight into Spanish 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, chapter 7, § 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:

a) at least 30 higher education credits at the second-cycle level in Spanish, 15 of which must be from a degree project (or equivalent, for example translation or teacher training education at second-cycle level oriented towards Spanish),

b) 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

c) 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 student’s research focus. Admission decisions are made by the Head of Department following preparation at the Department.

4. Programme disposition and content

A Degree of Licentiate can be obtained upon completion of 120 higher education credits within the framework of the programme.

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 60 higher education credits divided into two blocks. The blocks consist of various courses chosen from the offering at the Department, the University 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 2a) 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 student shall demonstrate in-depth insight into current theories and methods, both of general scientific character and with orientation towards the Spanish-speaking culture areas, as well as the ability to relate critically to these. The block shall include 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 the Spanish language research area.

Block 2. 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 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 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 student shall gain necessary specialist knowledge related to the thesis work. 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 discussion of the licentiate thesis.

Examiners are appointed by the Dean.

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

4.2 Licentiate thesis

The thesis comprises 60 higher education credits.

The student is expected to provide regular reports on his or her thesis work. This obligation is primarily fulfilled through presentation at Department seminars.

A licentiate thesis is defended at a public 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 examination of a licentiate thesis at the Faculty of Arts.

5. Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each student: one principal supervisor and one assistant supervisor. The principal supervisor must be employed at the University of Gothenburg (normally at the 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 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 student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisors.

6. Individual study plan

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each 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 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 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 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 Licentiate.

(ii) A 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 Licentiate 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

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.