General syllabus for Degree of Licentiate in Computational Linguistics

The syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Arts at Gothenburg University on 30 March 2017. It is complemented with the following documents, available via the website of the Faculty of Arts (www.hum.gu.se).

Instructions for Third-cycle Studies at the Faculty of Arts.


Here the term ‘doctoral student’ is used for a third-cycle student.

A doctoral student admitted for third-cycle studies for taking the Degree of Doctor in Computational Linguistics is entitled to request to take the Degree of Licentiate in Computational Linguistics provided the requirements for courses and essays specified in this syllabus are fulfilled.

Title of qualification and teaching and research duties

The degree obtained is the Degree of Licentiate in Computational Linguistics. Computational Linguistics is the application of computational methods to the representation and processing of natural language.

1. Objectives

1.1 General national objectives

According to the Qualifications Ordinance, Appendix 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the objectives for the Degree of Licentiate are as follows:

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

– 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 the Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

– 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 pre-determined 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 at large, and

– demonstrate the ability required to independently participate in research and development work and to independently work in other qualified activities.

**Judgment and approach**
For the Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

– demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their 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 the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their own ongoing learning.

**2. Entry requirements**
Admission to the programme requires that the applicant fulfils 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 under Chapter 7, Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance if he or she:

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

**2.2 Specific entry requirements**
Admission to the third-cycle programme in Computational Linguistics requires:

2.2.1. a. At least 30 higher education credits from second-cycle courses in subject area 1 (Computational Linguistics, Language Technology, or Natural Language Processing), including a thesis of at least 15 credits, or equivalent qualifications,

or

b. at least 30 higher education credits from second-cycle courses in subject area 2 (Linguistics or Cognitive Science), including a thesis of at least 15 credits, plus at least 30 higher
education credits from first or second level courses in subject area 1 (Computational Linguistics, Language Technology, or Natural Language Processing) or subject area 3 (Computer Science, Logic, or Mathematics), or equivalent qualifications, or

c. at least 30 higher education credits from second-cycle courses in subject area 3 (Computer Science, Logic, or Mathematics), including a thesis of at least 15 credits, plus at least 30 higher education credits from first or second-level courses in subject area 1 (Computational Linguistics, Language Technology, or Natural Language Processing) or subject area 2 (Linguistics or Cognitive Science), or equivalent qualifications.

2.2.2. The English skills needed to be able to benefit from compulsory parts of the course and to be able to actively participate in seminars and similar activities.

3. Admission and selection

Admission to third-cycle studies in Computational Linguistics is normally initiated by the Department announcing a call for doctoral studentships. Admission is conditional upon the studies being properly funded.

In selecting between applicants, their ability to benefit from the course or study programme shall be taken into account in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance. To facilitate the selection process, the applicant must submit:

1. Master thesis, course work, published papers, project work or equivalent. These are assessed on the basis of scientific quality, creativity, and intrinsic research interest.

2. A project draft of up to 4000 words in which the applicant stipulates a research domain that he/she would like to develop, justifies its relevance and discusses which theories, methods and materials would be relevant. The project draft is assessed on the basis of the following criteria: scientific quality and relevance to the PhD programme.

Admission and selection are also conditional on the Department’s supervisory resources within the doctoral student’s research focus. Admission may also include an interview in addition to a review of qualifications submitted. Admission decisions are made by the Head of Department following preparation at the Department.

4. Programme disposition and content

The third-cycle programme for taking the Degree of Licentiate in Computational Linguistics comprises 120 higher education credits and leads to a Degree of Licentiate.

The third-cycle programme consists partly of courses, which are examined incrementally, and partly of own research work, which is to lead to a scholarly thesis.
The student shall participate in seminar activities within the confines of her or his education and, unless there are special reasons, participate in Department-wide activities. In addition, the student is expected to attend scientific conferences relevant for his/her research, and to submit papers to some of these conferences.

4.1 Courses
The programme consists of a course part comprising 40 higher education credits (HECs).

4.1.2 The student will take at least 7.5 HECs in each of the following three topic areas.

1. Computational linguistics/Natural language processing (7.5 HECs), e.g. the PhD version of the Master in Language Technology (MLT) course Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computational Semantics, Computational Syntax.

2. Statistical modelling and machine learning (7.5 HECs), e.g. the PhD version of the MLT courses Statistical Methods for NLP, or Machine Learning for NLP.

3. Theoretical linguistics (7.5 HEC), e.g. linguistic theory, phonetics and phonology, formal syntax, semantics, pragmatics or psycholinguistics.

4.1.3 The student will also take the obligatory GU Pedagogy and Teaching course (5 HECs), and the Ethics, society, learning and responsibility course (2.5 HECs).

4.1.4 In addition, the student will take elective courses which he/she will select in consultation with his/her supervisor.

If a doctoral 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 80 higher education credits

The doctoral student is expected to provide regular reports on her or his 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 with one of the grades Pass or Fail.

For more information, see Instructions for Third-cycle Studies 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. At least one of the supervisors 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 at least as stipulated by the standard adopted by the Faculty Board (see *Instructions for Third-cycle Studies at the Faculty of Arts*).

A doctoral student who so requests is entitled to change supervisors.

6. **Individual study plan**

An individual study plan, which shall be finalised by no later than two months after commencement of studies, shall be drawn up by the doctoral student and supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral examiner, in connection with admission.

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

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 Licentiate.

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

6.2 **Timetable and funding plan**

The individual study plan shall include a timetable and associated funding plan for the entire period of study, up to the planned date of taking the Degree of Licentiate.

7. **Transitional provisions**

Doctoral students admitted before 1 July 2017 may, following consultation with supervisors, request permission from the Head of Department to transfer this programme syllabus. The individual study plan must then be updated.