General Syllabus for Degree of Doctor in History
The syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Arts at the University of Gothenburg on 3 May 2016 and replaces the General Syllabus for Degree of Doctor in History confirmed on 18 February 2016 (Dnr U 2015/781). 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


Title of qualification and teaching and research duties
The degree obtained is the Degree of Doctor in History. The subject area of History concerns the study of man in society in the past with an emphasis on the development, organisation and change in historical societies.

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 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 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, the third-cycle student shall:

– 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 thesis their ability to make a significant contribution to the formation
of knowledge through their 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 at large,

– 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 other qualified professional contexts.

Judgment 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.

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 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 History requires at least 120 higher education
credits in History, of which at least 30 higher education credits, including a degree project of
at least 15 higher education credits, must have been completed in the second cycle, or
equivalent knowledge.

The type(s) of Swedish and 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 History 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. Theses, degree projects and any publications. These are assessed based on the following criteria:
   a) Relevance in relation to the development of knowledge in the subject area and the material’s relation to theory and previous research.
   b) The completion of the submitted degree projects in relation to relevant methods and handling of sources.
   c) Degree of originality of the submitted degree projects (independence in relation to the development of knowledge in the subject area).

2. A project draft 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 based on the following criteria:
   a) Relevance of the research project (relevance of the addressed problem in relation to the development of knowledge in the subject area and its relation to theory and previous research in the relevant domain).
   b) Feasibility of the research project (access to relevant methods and sources).
   c) Originality of the research project (independence in relation to the development of knowledge in the subject area).

The project draft also provides supporting information for assessing the Department’s supervisor competence within the research domain stipulated.

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 in History comprises 240 higher education credits and leads to a Degree of Doctor. There is the option to obtain a Degree of Licentiate after 120 higher education credits providing the requirements specified in the general syllabus for a Licentiate degree in History are fulfilled.

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. The doctoral student shall also participate in Department-wide activities, unless there are
special reasons.

4.1 Courses
The programme consists of a course part comprising 60 higher education credits, 15.5 of which comprise the following compulsory courses with separate course syllabi:

a) Introduction to third-cycle studies at the Department of Historical Studies, 1.5 higher education credits
b) Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, HPE 101, 5 higher education credits
c) Supervised Teaching 1.5 higher education credits
d) Theory Course/Theoretical Study 7.5 higher education credits

The basic course in teaching and learning in higher education (5 higher education credits) should be completed during the first year of the third-cycle studies.

The remaining course credits are obtained through thematic studies where the aim is to both deepen and broaden the third-cycle student’s knowledge. As for the former, a portion of the course credits can be obtained by reading literature in the relevant focus area. The main portion, however, must be arranged so that the third-cycle student gains knowledge outside his or her area of specialisation.

Examinations are carried out in accordance with each respective course syllabus and can consist of both oral and written tests or a combination thereof.

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 180 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 her or his thesis work. This obligation is primarily fulfilled through presentation at Department seminars. Participation in the Department’s special third-cycle seminars is compulsory.

For more information, see Instructions for Third-cycle Studies at the Faculty of Arts.

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 with one of the grades Pass or Fail.

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 electronic 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 Doctor.

(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 Doctor 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 for public defence of the thesis.

**7. Transitional provisions**

Doctoral students admitted before 1 June 2016 may, following consultation with supervisors and the doctoral examiner, request permission from the Head of Department to transfer to this programme syllabus. The individual plan must then be updated.