



LUNDS UNIVERSITET
Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten

Sociology of Law Department

General syllabus for third-cycle programmes in Sociology of Law

This general syllabus for third-cycle programmes has been adopted by the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 22/10/2015, Reference no. U 2015/415.

The general syllabus is based to a significant extent on the current regulations for third-cycle programmes that are governed in, among other regulations, Lund University's Admission Regulation for Third-Cycle Programmes and Regulations for Third-Cycle Programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

1 Description of the Subject

Sociology of law is an interdisciplinary discipline based on law and social sciences.

Research in the field of sociology of law has the aim to understand and gain knowledge about the societal meanings of legal norms, behaviours, processes and institutions. Within the field of sociology of law, how norms, social processes and institutions arise is studied along with what significance they have for individuals' actions and societal development at both the national and international level.

The actual areas of research are described on the Sociology of Law Department's website [Doctoral studies | Sociology of Law Department \(lu.se\)](#)

2 Purpose and goals of the doctoral research programme

The intention of the doctoral research programme in Sociology of Law at the Sociology of Law Department, Lund University, is to provide in-depth knowledge in matters related to sociology of law and to educate researchers to be independent and critical with a broad command of theoretical social science knowledge, methodological skills and discernment and the ability to successfully conduct research projects.

The doctoral programme in sociology of law leads to a doctorate in philosophy.

The research programme can also lead to a licentiate degree in philosophy.

2.1 Doctoral degree

After completing the educational programme, the doctoral student will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

To obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- display broad knowledge within and a systematic understanding of the research area as well as in-depth and current specialist knowledge within a defined part of the research area, and

- show familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with the methods of the specific research area in particular.

Skills and capabilities

To obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- display the capability for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as for independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- display the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with scientific accuracy, identify and formulate issues as well as plan and conduct research and other professional tasks with adequate methods within given time frames and the ability to review and evaluate such work,
- with the writing of a dissertation, display their ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge through their own research,
- display the ability to present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scientific community and the society in general in both national and international contexts, orally and in writing with authority,
- show the ability to identify their need for additional knowledge, and
- show that they have the preconditions for research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts contribute to the development of the society and to support the learning of others.

Evaluation ability and approach

To obtain the doctoral degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- show intellectual independence and scientific integrity, as well as the ability to make ethical judgments in research, and
- show in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of scholarly work, its role in the society, and the individual's responsibility for how it is used.

2.2 Licentiate degree

After completing the educational programme, the doctoral student will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

To obtain a licentiate degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- show knowledge and understanding within the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of this, as well as in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific research area in particular.

Skills and capabilities

To obtain a licentiate degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- show the ability to critically, independently and creatively and with scientific accuracy identify and formulate issues, to plan and carry out limited research work and other professional tasks with adequate methods within given time frames and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge and the ability to evaluate this work,
- show the ability to in both national and international contexts to orally and in writing clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scientific community and the society in general, and

- show that they have the skills required to participate independently in research and development work and to work independently in other professional activities.

Evaluation ability and approach

To obtain a licentiate degree, the doctoral student must be able to

- show the ability to make research ethics assessments in their own research, - show insight into the possibilities and limitations of scholarly work, its role in the society and the individual's responsibility for how it is used, and
- show the ability to identify their need for additional knowledge and take responsibility for their development of knowledge.

3 Eligibility for study in a third-cycle programme

In order to be admitted to postgraduate education, it is required that the applicant has the general entry requirements and the specific entry requirements, and that the applicant is assessed to have such abilities in other respects as are needed to benefit from the educational programme.

3.1 General entry requirements

The individual who fulfils the general entry requirements for admission to third-cycle programme studies has

1. earned a degree from a second-cycle studies programme, or
2. completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, of which at least 60 higher education credits are in second-cycle studies, or
3. has acquired in some other way, either within or outside of Sweden, essentially equivalent knowledge.

The Faculty Board may grant an exemption, for an individual applicant, from the requirement for fulfilling the general entry requirements, if there are special grounds for doing so.

3.2 Specific entry requirements

The specific entry requirements for admission to a third-cycle programme in sociology of law are having completed courses amounting to at least 30 higher education credits in the main area of sociology of law in second-cycle studies, of which at least 15 higher education credits consist of degree work in a second-cycle programme, or the equivalent knowledge acquired within or outside of Sweden.

3.3. Transferring and receiving credits for previous studies

A student who has completed certain higher education in second-cycle studies or the equivalent with a passed result can receive academic credit for this in the educational programme at the doctoral level, if the examiner after an examination has arrived at the assessment that the previous studies can be accepted for transfer of credits. The possibility of transfer and receiving of credits will be examined at the student's own request, in each individual case.

4 Admission and selection

Admission of doctoral students takes place in accordance with Lund University's Admission Regulations for Third-Cycle Programmes and Regulations for Third-Cycle Programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

4.1. Admission

The Faculty seeks to have the admission of doctoral students take place annually after the posting of study slots at the established date. Those who have been admitted to licentiate studies must undergo new admission process if they desire to proceed to doctoral degree studies.

It is primarily applicants who are employed as a doctoral student who are primarily accepted for the third-cycle educational programme. Doctoral research students must have funding in the form of employment as a doctoral student or other funding in accordance with the university's admission regulations. The Faculty Board has the responsibility to ensure that a thorough examination of the funding for the studies has been done

4.2 Selection

In the event of a limited number of slots for admission, a selection will be made among the applicants. The basis for the selection is the applicant's qualifications and experience at the time of application. A crucial selection criterion is the ability to benefit from and make good use of the doctoral research education. Particular attention is to be paid to the applicant's suitability for social science research work. However, the fact that an applicant is assessed to be able to be given credit for previous education or professional activities to be credited to the educational programme may not give the applicant priority over other applicants in the selection process.

For the purpose of assessing the ability to benefit from the doctoral programme, previous study results, the applicant's publications, reports, research plans and any other research experience qualifications will be taken into account. Independent work from a first-cycle studies (undergraduate) programme and from a second-cycle studies (masters) programme will be given weight and is of particular importance. Relevant work experience can also be weighed in the assessment and taken into account.

The Faculty strives for diversity. The gender equality aspect must always be taken into consideration. In the case of equal qualifications, applicants of the under-represented gender, related to the distribution among doctoral students in the subject at Lund University, shall be given priority, unless there are grounds not to do so.

5 Third-cycle educational programme

Third-cycle programme studies leading to a doctoral degree includes four years of study (240 higher education credits) full-time. Third-cycle programme studies for a licentiate degree includes two years of study (120 higher education credits) full-time. The studies can be conducted part-time (a minimum of half of full time), and then encompass a maximum of eight years for a doctoral degree or four years for a licentiate degree. The doctoral student also has the right but not the obligation to graduate with a licentiate degree (120 higher education credits) as a stage in their doctoral studies leading to a doctoral degree.

5.1 The structure of the educational programme

The third-cycle educational programme leading to a doctoral degree comprises a total of 240 higher education credits divided into a course part comprising 60 higher education credits and a scientific dissertation, (the doctoral dissertation), comprising 180 higher education credits. The studies leading to a licentiate degree comprises a total of 120 higher education credits divided into a course part comprising 30 higher education credits and a scientific thesis, comprising 90 higher education credits. The instruction is given in the form of courses and seminars, as well as academic supervision in the dissertation work. In addition, general seminars and guest lectures will be organised.

To be granted a doctoral degree, a passing grade is required for all knowledge tests that are included in the doctoral programme and for the doctoral dissertation. To be granted a

licentiate degree requires a passing grade on all tests of knowledge that are included in the licentiate third-cycle educational programme and on the scientific thesis.

5.2 Academic supervision

At least two academic supervisors will be appointed for each doctoral student, one of whom will be the principal academic supervisor. The principal academic supervisor must be at least an associate professor (*docent*) and employed at Lund University. In the individual study plan for third-cycle studies, each academic supervisor's respective tasks and area of responsibility must be stated. The doctoral student is entitled to academic supervision during the time that may be considered necessary for the prescribed educational programme. The academic supervision includes both assistance with the focus and specialisation of the studies and the dissertation work/work with a scientific thesis as well as providing support during the progression of the work. A doctoral student who so requests will be allowed to change academic supervisors.

5.3 Individual Study Plan for third-cycle studies

At the beginning of the studies, the doctoral student will, in consultation with the academic supervisors, prepare an individual study plan for the university's and the doctoral student's commitments and a timetable for the doctoral student's education. The individual study plan must be reviewed annually. The doctoral student must register at the beginning of each term and, in consultation with the academic supervisor, state with which degree of activity for the studies are to be conducted during the term.

5.4 Courses and other elements

The course parts of the doctoral programme consist of courses at one's own Department, faculty-wide courses or courses at other Departments within and/or outside of Lund University.

For courses at Lund University, there must be course syllabi that state the courses' intended learning objectives, contents and number of credits. For courses completed at other Faculties and institutions of higher education, the number of credits is that will be received as transfer credits will be determined by an examiner. The courses that the individual doctoral student must complete and be able to include as a part of their degree programme are to be stated in the individual study plan.

Examinations that are included in the third-cycle programme and the dissertation will be assessed with the grades Pass or Fail. The examiner for the course part is a professor or other teacher at a minimum at the associate professor (*docent*) level.

a) Course parts

For the doctoral degree, 30 higher education credits out of 60 higher education credits are compulsory credit-bearing modules and are distributed as follows:

- At least one research course or individual literature course in scientific theory (7.5 credits);
- At least one research course or individual literature course in methodology in sociology of law (7.5 credits);
- At least one research course or individual literature course in sociology of law theory (15 credits);

For the licentiate degree, 15 higher education credits out of 30 higher education credits are compulsory credit-bearing modules and are distributed as follows:

- At least one research course or individual literature course in methodology in sociology of law (7.5 credits);
- At least one research course or individual literature course in sociology of law theory (7.5 credits);

The remaining course credits may consist of additional doctoral courses, as well as one or both of the following non-compulsory, credit-bearing modules: participation in doctoral or research seminars (a maximum of 7.5 credits) and individual literature courses adapted to the individual doctoral student's needs.

For all credit-bearing modules, the syllabus must be available in order for the credits to be able to be registered in LADOK.

The selection of courses and course literature must provide broad knowledge in legal sociology. The specific focus and specific choice of courses is decided upon in consultation with one's academic supervisor.

b) Research seminars and other elements

As a part of the educational programme, the doctoral student must participate in seminars related to the Sociology of Law Department's research activities and other doctoral students' dissertations. The doctoral students will be given the opportunity to present memoranda on theoretical and/or methodological problems in their work, present plans, essays, papers and parts of their dissertation and to act as an opponent with the scholarly work of others.

The doctoral student must present his/her work on the dissertation (or the scientific thesis) at at least three seminars:

1. In connection with the planning of the organisation of the work (dissertation memo or thesis memo),
2. When the work has come about halfway (mid-way seminar),
3. Final seminar in preparation for the public defence of the doctoral dissertation/public seminar

5.5 Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation is the most significant part of the doctoral programme for the doctoral degree. The dissertation must be based on independent scientific scholarly work.

The dissertation can be designed either as a single coherent work (monograph dissertation) or as a number of scholarly essays that is provided with an initial summary where the parts, a collection of articles are inserted into a whole (compilation dissertation, or dissertation by published works).

A work by two or more authors can be approved as a doctoral dissertation or part of it, subject to that each doctoral student's individual contribution is clearly indicated so that it can be assessed individually.

The dissertation is to be defended in a public defence of the dissertation. The dissertation is graded with one of the grades *Pass* or *Fail*; the grade is determined by a grading committee.

5.6 Scientific thesis

The scientific thesis for the licentiate degree must be defended at a public seminar. The thesis is graded by a grading committee with either the grade *Pass* or *Fail*.

5.7 Departmental duties

A doctoral student can participate in the Departmental work within a framework of a maximum of the equivalent of 20% of full-time working hours. The doctoral student will be compensated with a corresponding extension of the study period. Departmental duties must be stated in the individual study plan.

Doctoral students who teach in the educational programme at the first-cycle studies or in second-cycle studies must have completed initial higher education pedagogical teacher training consisting of two weeks.

6 Other matters

Information on admission and application times is provided by the Sociology of Law Department.