

THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts
Faculty Board

Syllabus for Research Studies (third cycle studies) in Design at the University of Gothenburg

1. Official decision

Regulations regarding research education (third cycle education) and admission to research education are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapters 6 and 7 (SFS 1993:100).

This syllabus was adopted by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts at the University of Gothenburg on May 3rd, 2000 and is valid from July 1st, 2000.

2. Description of subject

The subject addresses the relationship between humans and artefacts in areas that are significant for the composition of artefacts. Area of application: the production and use of artefacts.

3. Objectives of research education

The purpose of research education at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts is to establish a body of research for artistic and art education studies, an area that has previously been treated as being primarily vocational training. This means that research education is characterised by a deliberate endeavour to create a new synthesis of traditionally artistic and scientific forms of work.

Research education in the arts leads to a Ph.D. following the submission of a doctoral thesis. This thesis may combine artistic and scientific parts in various ways:

- it may contain both artistic and scientific elements
- it has relevance to both artistic and scientific issues
- it involves scientific and artistic innovations

Students taking part in research studies in Design may commence their studies with a stage that comprises four terms of full-time studies. If a student successfully completes this stage, he or she may, upon submitting an application to the vice-chancellor's office, receive a licentiate degree diploma.

Artistic research studies shall extend both the breadth and depth of the research student's education.

The goal of artistic research studies is to give the research student deep and wide knowledge and the ability to address problems in the area of research. The course shall give the student a wide orientation in the subject's theory and an overview of research in adjacent areas.

Furthermore, the goal of research education is to develop critical and reflective abilities, and also the ability to independently perform a scientific examination of specific scope, within the subject area, documented in an essay, and/or thesis or other form relevant to the subject. The purpose of research education is to prepare the student for independent research and development work, educational assignments or other activities that require good scientific insight.

The purpose of the licentiate stage is to educate the student for a labour market that demands good knowledge and skills in design. This is achieved during the course as the student acquires in-depth knowledge of the subject along with training in scientific methodology and in the production of a thesis.

4. Eligibility, admission and selection

4.1 Basic eligibility requirements

To qualify as having basic eligibility for admission to research studies in Design, the student must have completed a basic higher education programme worth at least 120 credits, or similar knowledge otherwise acquired in another organisation in Sweden or abroad. The Faculty Board may permit exceptions to the requirements for basic eligibility. A further requirement is that the applicant shall be considered capable of completing the course.

4.2 Specific eligibility requirements

To qualify as having specific eligibility, the student shall have at least 80 credits (or the equivalent) and an essay/term paper worth 2 x 10 credits or 1 x 20 credits in subjects considered relevant to research studies in Design, along with a documented study record that includes subjects that are relevant to design.

Students who have acquired comparable knowledge inside or outside Sweden shall also be eligible.

4.3 Admissions, selection

The decision to admit students to research studies and the decision concerning the highest number of research students that may be admitted at the same time to study Design shall be taken by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. The number of research students admitted to research studies will

be restricted to those who can be offered acceptable terms concerning supervision and study conditions in general.

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, only those students intending to study for a minimum of 50% of full-time study may be admitted to research studies.

Furthermore, students will only be admitted if they have guaranteed financial support for the entire period of study in accordance with the requirements and guidelines in the Higher Education Ordinance.

Selection among applicants for a place on the research programme will be based upon the application documents received and upon interviews with the most qualified candidates. The basis for selection among qualified candidates is the degree of their ability to benefit from research studies.

5. Education format

Research studies in Design is organised into two parts, a course section worth 80 credits and a thesis section, also worth 80 credits.

5.1 Educational content

Research studies in Design comprise taking an active part in courses and conferences, completing individual literature courses and study trips, arranging seminars and lectures, working on scientific articles and essays, and a licentiate and/or doctoral thesis.

The licentiate stage comprises compulsory seminars, courses, scientific essays and supervision. The student must complete a scientific essay. The subject of the essay should be chosen at an early stage and be planned so that it can be completed in a period corresponding to two terms of full-time study.

5.1 Course section

Subject-specific courses should be worth at least 15 credits for the licentiate degree and at least 30 credits for the Ph.D. It is obligatory to participate in the faculty courses: at least 15 credits for the licentiate exam and at least 30 credits for the Ph.D. (5 credits per term for three years).

Courses are available partly within the discipline and partly as compulsory faculty courses. Additional external courses are available within the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. There are also other courses available at other faculties. All Ph.D. courses within the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts shall have an examiner and a written course plan that shall contain, among other things, the

contents and goals of the course and the total number of credits. The form of testing (of knowledge) shall be indicated.

5.3 Licentiate essay

The essay must focus on a limited area and constitute an independent contribution to research. It must document satisfactory insights that meet relevant requirements and criteria for good research. The thesis shall be of such sufficient quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific publication or research journal.

5.4 Doctoral thesis

The doctoral thesis shall provide evidence of the student's ability to identify, demarcate and address a research assignment using relevant methods. The thesis may also contain elements of artistic composition in dialogue with the scientific elements. The thesis may be presented either as a unified, coherent scientific work or as a short summary of scientific essays which the candidate has published, or has had accepted for publication, in a scientific journal or publication. In some cases, the thesis may be the result of teamwork, in which case it should be organised so that individual contributions can be separated and assessed in accordance with the same set of standards used for assessing individual theses. Licentiate work may be included as part of the thesis, either unchanged or revised.

The thesis shall be of such sufficient quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific publication or research journal.

5.5 Crediting previous qualifications

If a candidate has already studied a part of his/her research education at a university/university college in Sweden and has achieved approved results in that subject, he/she may count these towards his/her new studies. A candidate shall also have the right to count credits from research studies at schools outside Sweden. It is up to the examiner to decide if previous studies shall be credited. Credits included in the qualification requirements for admission may not be credited once again in the research programme.

5.6 Organisation of research education, etc.

The course section is built around subject-specific seminars and faculty seminars. The main purpose of the seminars is to teach and develop research praxis in the artistic field in question. The seminars address research problems, and the student will have the opportunity, on various occasions, to present his/her research for discussion and take part in the research being performed by other participants in the seminars. Each student should take an active part in these seminars for at least four terms, and preferably throughout the entire period of study.

Faculty seminars are compulsory for all research students as part of their research studies. Each candidate shall lead at least one seminar each term.

5.7 Supervision

A principal supervisor shall be appointed for each research student. The principal supervisor shall have the main responsibility for the student's research studies and his/her thesis work. If the supervisor lacks the specialist knowledge required to support the thesis work, an assistant supervisor with the requisite knowledge shall be appointed. Research students have the right to receive supervision to the extent established by the Faculty Board and for the period of time considered necessary to complete a course worth 160 credits.

Students have the right to change supervisor. A request to change supervisor shall be submitted to the Faculty Board.

The supervisor shall give the student advice and instructions regarding how courses shall be selected and what the thesis work should be focused on, and how it should be planned and performed. By being in touch on a regular basis, the student will keep the supervisor informed about how the thesis work is progressing and receive advice about how he/she should continue.

Supervision may even take place in groups.

5.8 Individual study plan

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, an individual study plan shall be established for each research student. This individual study plan, which shall be approved by the Faculty Board, shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the research student and the principal supervisor. The plan shall cover the full period of study, contain a plan detailing financial support for the full study period, and, at the latest, at the beginning of the second year of full-time study, contain a plan for the thesis work. The study plan will be revised once a year by the student and supervisor together for approval by the Faculty Board.

6. Examination, testing of knowledge

The research student is awarded a doctoral degree or a licentiate degree (if the student so requests) after the completion of his/her research studies. The student has the right, but not the obligation, to submit a licentiate exam as a part of his/her research studies.

Each course included in the research programme shall have an examiner at the department holding the course. The examiner shall establish a written course plan indicating the goals, the contents of the course and the number of credits. A suitable test of knowledge shall also be performed. When assessing the test, consideration

shall be given to the depth of the student's knowledge and his/her ability to make independent judgements and critical analyses.

6.1 Licentiate essay

To pass the licentiate exam, the student must pass the courses that are included in the research programme, worth a maximum of 40 credits, and submit an approved scientific essay corresponding to studies worth 40 credits. The essay and courses shall, together, be worth at least 80 credits. The licentiate essay shall be presented at a public seminar, where it will be examined by an opponent appointed by the subject representative. When assessing the essay, consideration will be given to the content and also to the seminar discussion.

6.2 Doctoral thesis

To pass the doctoral exam, the student must pass the courses (a minimum of 60 credits) included in the syllabus and submit an approved scientific thesis worth at least 80 credits. The courses and thesis together shall comprise at least 160 credits. The doctoral thesis must have been defended orally at a public defence. When assessing the thesis, consideration will be given to the content and also to the public defence.

6.3 Grades

The doctoral thesis, licentiate essay and courses are given the grades Pass or Fail.

6.4 Examination certificate

The examination certificate is awarded by the vice-chancellor.

6.5 Degree nomenclature

After successfully completing the research programme, the student shall have the degree qualification: Licentiate degree in Design or Doctor of Philosophy in Design from the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts.

If special reasons exist, the qualification may be given another name.

7. Application

An application for admission shall be sent to the Faculty Office of the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts and shall contain documentation that supports the applicant's general and specific eligibility (qualifications) and other documentation of value for an assessment of the applicant's ability to benefit from and complete the course.

In addition, the applicant shall submit a report describing the applicant's interest in the subject, the focus of the thesis work and key issues. A timetable shall be included along with details of financing, unless studies are to be funded by Faculty financing.