

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in industrial design with a degree of licentiate as the final goal

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in industrial design (Licentiate)

Scope: 120 higher education credits

The Degree: Degree of Licentiate

Study level: Third-cycle

Established by: General syllabus established by the Faculty of Science and Technology Board on 04/06/2014

Enters into force: 04/06/2014

Minor revisions: 11/19/2018

Responsible body: Faculty of Science and Technology

1. Learning outcomes

National learning outcomes for the degree in question

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle 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 third-cycle 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 predetermined 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 in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her 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 his or her ongoing learning.

Local learning outcomes for the degree in question

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the field of design, as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of design research, and
- demonstrate understanding of the artistic foundations of the field of design in general and of the methodology of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently, creatively and with relevance to design practice. Plan and use appropriate methods to conduct a limited piece of research and other qualified assignments within predetermined time frames. Demonstrate the ability to relate one's own research to other design research, and to its relevance and application in design and society.

Judgement and approach

For the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate specialised insight regarding the possibilities and limitations of design, its role in society and academia.

2. Entry requirements and prior knowledge required

To be admitted for studies at third-cycle level the applicant is required to meet the general entry requirements and any specific entry requirements that the Faculty of Science and Technology Board may have prescribed, and shall be considered as otherwise possessing that required to benefit from the studies. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 35).

General entry requirements

Applicants who have completed a degree at second-cycle level, completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits are at second-cycle level, or have in some other system either within Sweden or abroad acquired largely equivalent skills are also eligible. The Faculty of Science and Technology Board may, in the case of a specific applicant, consent to an exemption from the general entry requirements, if there are special reasons to do so. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 39)

Applicants who meet the general entry requirements that applied in respect to admission to third-cycle studies prior to 1 July 2007, i.e. first-cycle studies of at least 120 credits or the equivalent, knowledge acquired in some other system either within Sweden or abroad, shall also be considered to meet the current general entry requirements for admission to third-cycle studies, up to and including the end of June 2015. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 12, Paragraph 11)

Specific entry requirements

To fulfil the specific entry requirements to be admitted for studies at third-cycle level in industrial design, the applicant is required to have completed at least 90 credits within the field of design, of which at least 30 credits shall have been acquired at second-cycle level. Applicants who in some other system either within Sweden or abroad have acquired largely equivalent skills are also eligible.

3. Selection process

Selection process

A selection process involving applicants who meet the entry requirements will be conducted with reference to their ability to benefit from third-cycle studies, and is based on the following assessment grounds:

- personal suitability
- previous study results
- quality of the submitted description of the intended thesis project, where appropriate related to the research profile and programme of the research department in question, and
- the quality, where appropriate, of material accompanying the application, such as design

portfolios, previous publications, etc.

- other merits

Where it is assessed that an applicant can receive accreditation for previous education or professional activities, they may not be given preference over other applicants in the selection process. (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 41)

Decisions regarding admissions to studies at third-cycle level concluding in a licentiate degree are made by the Faculty of Science and Technology Board.

4. Contents and scheduling

4.1 General

An individual study plan is to be established for each licentiate student which shall give details of financing, supervision, courses, thesis-related work, etc. For a degree of licentiate to be awarded, the studies shall entail 120 credits.

Studies at third-cycle level that are to be concluded with a licentiate degree shall comprise a net study period of two years and consist of a course component of 40-60 credits and an academic thesis of 60-80 credits.

4.2 Contents

The study programme comprises mandatory courses equivalent to 30 credits, participation in research seminars equivalent to 4 credits and elective courses comprising 6-26 credits.

4.2.1 Courses

Third-cycle studies in industrial design that are to be concluded with a licentiate degree consist of a course component of 40-60 credits which is divided up so mandatory courses constitute 30 credits, seminar participation constitutes 4 credits and the remainder of the credits are comprised of elective courses.

The courses that are mandatory for the degree can be divided up into three groups: subject-specific courses, courses concerning academic research in general, and obligatory participation in the department's research seminars. The mandatory elements can either be satisfied by participation in courses arranged by the department, or by the licentiate student, according to the supervisor's assessment, either within Sweden or abroad, acquiring largely equivalent skills in another manner.

The subject-specific courses are to comprise a total of at least 20 credits, divided between at least three of the four following thematic areas:

- *Use and users: Deepened insights into user studies, user-centred design, participatory and user-driven design processes, including basic insights into methodology from the behavioural and social sciences.* □

- *History: The history of design and design research, including basic insights into the relevant research methodologies stemming from historical studies and the humanities.* □
- *Methodology: Practice-based design research, including deepened insights into the research methodologies of artistic and experimental design research.* □
- *Theory: Deepened understanding of the theory and philosophy of design, including basic insights into methods and ways of working with theory development.* □

Mandatory courses for the licentiate degree: Courses that develop general skills amounting to 8 credits are to consist of courses within philosophy of science, ethics and conduct, oral and written presentation.

Other courses are elective and are decided on by the supervisor based on their relevance to individual learning outcomes and the specialisation of the thesis project.

4.2.2 Academic thesis

The academic thesis may take the form of either a single coherent work (a monograph) or a compilation of a number of academic essays incorporating an introduction, a summary and discussion of the essays (compilation thesis) and is to comprise 60-80 credits.

The academic thesis is to be defended at a public licentiate seminar. The thesis is assessed with the following grades: G (Pass) or U (Fail). When setting the grade, attention will be paid to the content of the thesis and its defence.

5. Examination

The degree of licentiate can be awarded following the student's completion of third-cycle studies equivalent to 120 credits within industrial design, and where the applicant has received the grade of pass for the tests included in the studies in addition to writing and publicly defending a licentiate thesis approved by the Examining Committee. Degree certificates are issued following application to Student Services/Examina.

6. Other instructions

The provisions that apply in respect of third-cycle studies can be found in:

- The Higher Education Ordinance: Chapter 5 Employment of doctoral students, Chapter 6 Courses and study programmes, and Chapter 7 Admission to courses and study programmes, Annex 2 Qualifications ordinance.
- Admission regulations for doctoral studies at Umeå University (Ref. no. FS 1.1.2-25-14).
- Local system of qualifications at Umeå University (Ref. no. 500-2958-11).



- Regulations for doctoral studies at Umeå University (Ref. no. 500-953-13).
- Handbook for postgraduate students at the Faculty of Science and Technology at Umeå University.