



LTJ Faculty

General regulations regarding post-graduate education in the subject BIOLOGY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the programme is to acquaint the post-graduate student with the general scientific tools and research methods that are typical for the subject area Biology. Post-graduate students at LTJ Faculty are trained in research, development work and problem-solving within higher education, industry and the public sector. They must also be prepared for tasks relating to teaching and administration within these sectors. Further objectives of the programme are contained in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance Examination Regulations and '*Aims and Objectives of Post-graduate Research at SLU*' (Dnr 17-31-1940/1996).

A doctorate is obtained in the subject Biology, within one of the following specialist areas: Animal Science, Chemical Ecology, Plant Biotechnology, Plant Protection Biology, Plant Breeding.

Post-graduate education within the subject Biology can lead to a doctorate or a licentiate degree. The licentiate degree can be included in further studies towards a doctorate.

CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for acceptance to post-graduate education in the subject Biology involves fulfilment of the requirements for general eligibility according to the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 7, 39§, plus the requirements for specific eligibility.

For general eligibility, the requirements are a first degree at advanced level or a full course portfolio of 240 university credits, of which at least 60 credits must be at advanced level, or generally equivalent qualifications obtained in some other way or abroad. If an exception to the rules on general eligibility is sought, this must be done in writing and must be justified by the applicant and the prospective main supervisor. A decision on whether an exception can be granted is taken by the Faculty Board.

For specific eligibility in the subject Biology, the requirements are the equivalent of at least 90 university credits in courses relevant for Biology. Of these, at least 30 credits must be at advanced level.

SELECTION AND ENROLMENT

The selection of post-graduate students with student funding for enrolment must follow the decisions of the SLU governing body regarding acceptance where there are several applicants who fulfil the eligibility requirements. Decisions on selection are based on:

1. The written application including CV and other documents submitted by the applicant.
2. A copy of a degree project equivalent in scope to 15 university credits, and the content of which corresponds to the knowledge and skills required in a degree project for a Master's degree, or a relevant independent work of corresponding degree of difficulty and scope.
3. Personal references.
4. Documented ability in the English language corresponding to a B grade or comparable approved test (TOEFL 550 p **OR** IELTS with 6.0).
5. An interview with the supervisor and the head of department. It is recommended that one of the department's post-graduate students also takes part in the interview.

Selection among applicants who meet the requirements can be carried out in two steps whereby the candidates are short-listed on the basis of points 1-4, and those on the short-list are then interviewed.

For every enrolment, the department responsible must propose and recommend acceptance of a suitable candidate. For post-graduate students with student funding, the proposal and recommendation are based on the selection made. For other forms of funding of the post-graduate student, the proposal and recommendation are made through the department describing the suitability of the candidate in relation to the decision-making process described above.

The following documents must accompany proposals from the department on enrolment of a post-graduate student:

- Proposal and recommendation from the department regarding the suggested candidate.
- Certificates for examinations completed at advanced level or, if an exception has been made, representations to the Faculty Board regarding why the candidate should be accepted.
- Individual study plan drawn up according to the Faculty format, including documentation regarding funding of the post-graduate studies.
- Compliance agreement.

CONTENT

A doctorate comprises 240 university credits and represents four years of full-time study. A licentiate degree comprises 120 university credits and represents two years of full-time study. Each programme normally consists of two main components, scientific research and courses in related areas. The scope and structure of both the scientific research and the subject-related courses are specified in the LTJ Faculty Guidelines on Post-graduate Education. Any thesis within the subject Biology must be written in English.

The specific content and scope of individual post-graduate programmes within the subject Biology is decided before enrolment through creation of an individual study plan. This is drawn up according to LTJ Faculty guidelines on a specific form produced by the Faculty and is signed by the post-graduate student, main supervisor, head of department and deputy/vice-dean of Post-graduate Education.

Examination

The knowledge and skills acquired by the post-graduate student are tested in writing or orally in conjunction with each post-graduate course. To receive accreditation for courses taken, an agreement on the validity of each course must be reached between the post-graduate student and the main supervisor before the start of the course. Possible accreditation of courses taken before the start of post-graduate education must be proposed by the main supervisor and decided by the deputy/vice-dean of Post-graduate Education.

The thesis must be defended at a public disputation in accordance with LTJ Faculty guidelines.

For graduation, approved subject-related studies and an approved thesis are required. The marking system is Pass/Fail. The degree awarded carries the denomination of the student's first degree, e.g. Doctor of Philosophy if this first degree was in science and Doctor of Agriculture if it was in agriculture.

Supervision

Any individual enrolled as a post-graduate student has the right to continuous supervision during their studies (see Swedish Higher Education Ordinance and LTJ Faculty Guidelines). It is the responsibility of the Faculty to ensure that the post-graduate student has adequate supervision and funding. If problems arise, the person/s responsible for post-graduate education at the Faculty (Director of Studies and deputy/vice-dean) must therefore be consulted and contribute towards finding an appropriate solution for the post-graduate student.

Post-graduate students should be offered the opportunity of having a mentor for discussions on career planning. The post-graduate student and supervisor must make a joint decision on this question. The mentor must not be a member of the post-graduate student's research group or supervisory group.

Other

Other information regarding post-graduate education can be obtained from the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 5-7, the Regulations on Acceptance to Post-graduate Education at SLU 2007, and LTJ Faculty Guidelines on Post-graduate Education.