
General syllabus for the doctoral programme in the subject of:

BUSINESS STUDIES

Valid from 1 January 2017

Department(s) to which the syllabus applies
ECONOMICS

Subject code:
NJFÖRE00

The objectives and design of courses in this subject may vary between faculties (see point 3. Miscellaneous).

The subject of business studies (“företagsekonomi”) covers knowledge about how firms and organisations work, their role in society (stakeholder relations), and how they can best achieve their objectives. This includes how firms and organisations function and are managed, and how they relate to the world around them including decision-makers, consumers and other businesses. Research in the subject at SLU focuses on businesses which use biological natural resources, and covers financial control, financing, marketing, and organisation.

Regulations for third-cycle (doctoral) education at SLU

Third-cycle (doctoral) education is regulated by the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100) and the Ordinance for the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SFS 1993:221).

In addition, SLU has regulations for the following:

- recruitment and admission, in Admission regulations for third-cycle (doctoral) education (SLUID: SLU.ua.2018.1.1.1-930)
- joint programmes leading to a double or joint degree
- supervision
- scope and content of programmes
- planning and follow-up of programmes
- procedure when a course or programme is unsatisfactory
- examination
- degrees.

These can be found in Guidelines for third-cycle (doctoral) education (SLUID: SLU ua 2018.1.1.1-4677).

A general syllabus must indicate the following: the main content of the programme, specific entry requirements and any other regulations required. All general syllabuses must be approved by the faculty board.

The programme is organised in a way that allows doctoral students to meet the qualitative targets for third-cycle courses and programmes specified in the *Higher Education Ordinance's Annex 2 – Qualifications Ordinance*:

Qualitative targets according to the Qualifications Ordinance: Degree of Doctor

Outcomes

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- *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

- *demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well 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 dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her 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 in general;*
- *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 some other qualified professional capacity.*

Judgement and approach

- *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.*

Outcomes

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- *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

- *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 and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and*
- *demonstrate the proficiency required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.*

Judgement and approach

- *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.*

1. Programme content and scope

The programme contains two main elements: research and coursework. A doctoral degree comprises 240 higher education credits (HEC). A licentiate degree comprises 120 HEC. This corresponds to four and two years of full-time study, respectively.

Research

The thesis should be a compilation thesis or, exceptionally, a monograph. The doctoral thesis is to be presented and defended orally in public.

The papers included in the thesis must have been published in a scientific journal of good quality, or be of such quality that they may be published in such a journal without extensive prior editing. These journals should be available in one of the databases Web of Science, Web of Knowledge or Scopus.

In cases where the papers included in the thesis have multiple authors, the doctoral student's contribution shall be clearly specified in the thesis.

Scope

The doctoral studies should comprise at least 90 HEC in the form of courses and a thesis consisting of 4 papers and an summarising chapter (“kappa”).

The licentiate studies should comprise at least 45 HEC in the form of courses and a thesis consisting of 2 papers and an summarising chapter (“kappa”).

Courses

These studies must include general courses (about half of the total credits) as well as elective subject courses (about half of the total credits).

According to the current guidelines for doctoral education (SLU ua 2018.1.1.1-4677), all doctoral and licentiate degrees at SLU must include credit awarding courses of philosophy of science and research ethics at PhD-level. These courses should also cover rules on cheating and plagiarism.

2. Specific entry requirements

Those admitted must meet the following specific entry requirements.

The specific entry requirement for the subject business studies is 90 HEC business administration, or the equivalent knowledge. Some broadening through courses in adjacent fields such as economics and basic statistics and mathematics is also recommended.

3. Miscellaneous

Each faculty offering the third-cycle subject can choose to specify specialisations or requirements in addition to the general syllabus. These requirements must be documented in an appendix.

4. Appendixes

Appendix 1 – Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, specific requirements

APPENDIX 1

Specific entry requirements for the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Science

Scientific work and scope

The thesis must be in the form of a compilation thesis, normally comprising four publishable articles and an introductory chapter (“kappa”) the scope of which corresponds to another article, and where the thesis work is synthesised and put in a scientific context.

Of these four articles, the doctoral student should be the primary author of at least three and the sole author of one. The independently authored article should ideally be the last one produced on the programme and counts as one of the three main-authored articles.

In cases where the works included in the thesis have multiple authors, the doctoral student's own contributions shall be clearly specified in the thesis, or in an annex to the thesis.

About the courses

The first semester consists of a compulsory basic package of courses in the philosophy of science, methods and the research process. These courses are normally offered in cooperation with the Stockholm School of Economics and Uppsala University.