

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

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General syllabus for the doctoral programme in the subject of:

BIOLOGY with specialisation in MICROBIOLOGY

Valid as of 1 January 2013

Department to which the syllabus applies
MICROBIOLOGY

Subject code
NLBIMI00

The goals and design of the programme may vary between departments (see 4. Miscellaneous)

Regulations for third-cycle (doctoral) education at SLU

These can be found in the [Guidelines for third-cycle \(doctoral\) education](#) (reg. no SLU ua Fe.2012.40-3218) and [Admission regulations for third-cycle \(doctoral\) education at SLU](#) (reg. no. SLU ua Fe.2012.4.4-3467). These governing documents lay out rules and recommendations for *entry requirements, recruitment and admission, joint programmes leading to a double or joint degree, scope and content of the programme, planning and follow-up of the programme, procedure when a course or study programme is unsatisfactory, examination and degrees.*

General study plans for subjects within the doctoral studies can provide additional, subject-specific rules in addition to these joint rules. This document specifies the subject-specific rules for the subject of biology with specialisation in microbiology. In other respects the third-cycle studies in this subject shall adhere to the Guidelines for third-cycle education and the Admission regulations for third-cycle education at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

1. Purpose and objectives

After completing the programme, the student should be familiar with the general tools of science as well as the research methods that are typical of the subject field biology. The purpose is to meet the qualitative targets for third-cycle studies specified in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2 – Qualifications ordinance.

2. Entry requirements

Those admitted shall meet the following specific entry requirements.

For specific entry requirements to third-cycle studies aimed at a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture, specialising in microbiology, an agricultural science, horticultural science or landscape architecture degree is required, as well as microbiology courses corresponding to 37 credits at SLU, which must include a 15 credit individual course or an approved thesis in microbiology or a related subject.

The specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies for a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology consist of a degree from SLU's master's programme or a programme at a mathematical or natural sciences faculty. However, this shall include knowledge in microbiology equal to 37 credits, which should include a completed project in microbiology or a related subject of at least 15 credits.

For all applicants, the specific entry requirements are assessed in each individual case by the department's doctoral education committee.

3. Scope and content of the programme

The programme contains two main elements: research and coursework.

Research

During his/her period of study, the doctoral student shall conduct scientific work which is to be presented in a doctoral thesis corresponding to at least 160 credits. The thesis should be written in English and presented as a compilation thesis, normally comprising 3-4 works. All works must be of such a quality that they can be published and at least 1-2 with the doctoral student as lead author shall be accepted and/or published in journals with referee systems. In cases where the works included in the thesis have multiple authors, it shall be possible to present the doctoral student's own contributions, for example in connection with the defence of the thesis.

For the licentiate seminar, scientific work corresponding to at least 80 higher education credits is required. One or two works are expected to be included in the thesis. The composite papers must be of such quality that they are eligible for publication. The thesis should be written in English.

Courses

The student is required to undertake coursework which corresponds to at least **45** higher education credits for a Degree of Doctor, and at least **25** higher education credits for a Degree of Licentiate. These studies shall include suitable general courses as well as individually selected subject courses.

The general courses should include a basic course in teaching in higher education. The doctoral student may generally, in consultation with the supervisor, select courses or literature of general interest and relevance and prepare the student for

future work (e.g. research ethics, patent law, bioinformatics etc.). The subject courses shall provide in-depth knowledge in the respective special area and shall among other things give the student advanced knowledge in microbiology corresponding to around 7.5 credits. The student is presumed to keep up to date with literature in the field of their research.

Miscellaneous

Follow-ups shall take place when 50% and 75% of the net study period have passed. The doctoral student will each year hold a seminar regarding their research project. This is immediately followed by a meeting with the doctoral education committee, where a follow-up and general discussion about the doctoral student's education takes place. Special attention is shown to the follow-up at 50% of the net study period. Active participation in the respective main field of study's literature and project seminars as well as the Department's general seminar series is compulsory for doctoral students.

The doctoral student shall also be given opportunity to participate in the department's first-cycle education.

During their doctoral education, the doctoral student shall present their results in presentations or posters at international conferences. It is preferable for the doctoral student to also present their research outside of the academic community.

4. Miscellaneous

Further information about third-cycle studies is available in SFS 2006:1053, and information about grants can be found in SFS 1995:938 as amended by 1998:81 (reprint), 1998:161 and 2006:1053. Information about third-cycle studies at SLU is available in the Admission regulations for third-cycle (doctoral) education (reg. no SLU ua 41-1482/07) with the annex to the Board's decision of 26 April 2007, reg. no SLU ua 41-1482/07, the Vice-Chancellor's decision and the guidelines for doctoral education at the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Science (reg. no SLU ua 40-1244/08). Each department to which the third-cycle subject area is linked can choose to specify requirements in addition to those in this study plan. These requirements are to be specified in an annex.

5. Annexes

There are no annexes.