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Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

GOVERNING DOCUMENT

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General syllabus for the doctoral programme in the subject of: BUSINESS STUDIES

The subject of business studies 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.

1. Programme content and scope

The programme contains two main elements: research and coursework.

Thesis work

During the period of study, the doctoral student shall carry out independent research, which is presented in a compilation thesis written in English.

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.

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 rules for doctoral education (Regulations and forms for doctoral education.), 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.

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2. Specific entry requirements

The following specific entry requirements apply:

For the subject of business studies the applicant must have the equivalent knowledge to a minimum of 90 credits in relevant subject areas. This must include a degree project, and at least 30 credits must be at the advanced level.

3. Overall rules for 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).

The local governing documents that regulate doctoral education at SLU level can be found on the page Regulations and forms for doctoral education.

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 – System of Qualifications (see appendix 1).

4. 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.

5. Appendixes

Appendix 1. Higher Education Ordinance Annex 2 – System of Qualifications.

Appendix 1. Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 1993:100)
Annex 2 – System of Qualifications.

Degree of Doctor [Doktorsexamen]

Scope

A Degree of Doctor is awarded after the third-cycle student has completed a study programme of 240 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered.

Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall
- 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

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall
- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as 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

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall
- 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.

Research thesis (doctoral thesis)

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

Miscellaneous

Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Doctor with a defined specialisation.

Degree of Licentiate [Licentiatexamen]

Scope

A Degree of Licentiate is awarded
- either after a third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 120 credits in a subject in which third-cycle teaching is offered,
- or after a third-cycle student has completed one part comprising at least 120 credits of a study programme intended to conclude with the award of a PhD, if a higher education institution decides that a Degree of Licentiate of this kind may be awarded at the institution.

Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding
For a 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 a 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 and 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 a 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.

Thesis
For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 60 credits.

Miscellaneous

Specific requirements determined by each higher education institution itself within the parameters of the requirements laid down in this qualification descriptor shall also apply for a Degree of Licentiate with a defined specialisation.

Appendix 2. Faculty of forest sciences specific requirements for the subject business studies

Scope of third-cycle education

For a monograph, the third-cycle programme must consist of at least 90 credits of courses and a thesis corresponding to 150 credits (2.5 years).

At the initiative of their supervisor, doctoral students are expected to take part in applying for grants for research included in their thesis.

Courses

The supervisor and doctoral student together agree on what courses to include in the programme. The supervisor has the final say as to how many courses, and which ones, may be included.

As part of their studies and in addition to courses in business management, the doctoral student must take courses in teaching in higher education (at least 3 credits).

In special cases, courses can be offered as self-study courses or project work.

Seminars, conferences and guest lectures

Doctoral students are expected to actively take part in seminars, guest lectures, conferences and activities at the department.

They are also expected to submit conference papers and, with the help of their supervisor, actively apply for grants to take part in international scientific conferences.

Teaching at the department

Doctoral students may be asked to take on teaching at undergraduate or Master's level. The time spent teaching will be added to the doctoral student's study time at the end of the doctoral programme, to correspond to a net study time of four (two) years.