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JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

*School of Education and
Communication*

General syllabus for the third-cycle programme in
Media and Communication Science
at the Graduate School of Education and Communication

The general syllabus for the third-cycle programme in Media and Communication prescribes the establishment of an individual study plan for each doctoral student.

Degree of Doctor 240 credits
Degree of Licentiate 120 credits

Adopted by the Faculty Board
16 March 2005

Revised by the Board of Education and Research Education
27 September 2011

The third-cycle courses and programmes at Jönköping University (JU) are based on the regulations set out in the Act concerning authority to award certain qualifications (1993:792). The learning outcomes that need to be met for the award of a third-cycle qualification are laid down in the Qualification Ordinance (Annex 2) of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100). Also applicable are the qualification requirements stipulated in the general syllabi for third-cycle programmes and the local regulations on third-cycle education issued by the Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) at Jönköping University (*Regulations and guidelines for first-, second-, and third-cycle education at Jönköping University*).

Description of the third-cycle subject area

Media and communication is a broad subject area that falls mainly within the social sciences and humanities. First and foremost, it seeks to analyse, explain and understand the cultural, political, social and economic conditions of mediated communication as well as the significance of mediated communication to people, organisations and societies. Media and communication draws on a wide range of theories and methods. Thus, the studies are inspired by and contribute knowledge to neighbouring subject areas, such as sociology, political science, economic history, film, literature and pedagogy.

Objectives

The programme requires the student to fulfil the third-cycle learning outcomes laid down in the national Qualification Ordinance (Annex 2, Higher Education Ordinance), but it also aims to contribute to the student's identity as a researcher and reinforce the student's confidence in his or her own subject area. Moreover, the programme shall, within the framework of the Graduate School of Education and Communication, aim to foster a multidisciplinary mindset and approach towards global research in education and communication.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to a third-cycle programme, the applicant shall meet the general entry requirements and any specific entry requirements. The applicant shall also in other respects be considered to have the capacity to complete the programme.

General entry requirements

To meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle programmes, the applicant must have:

- been awarded a second-cycle qualification
- achieved at least 240 credits, of which a minimum of 60 credits must have been achieved in the second cycle, or
- otherwise acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

Specific entry requirements

To meet the specific entry requirements, the applicant must have achieved a minimum of 90 credits in media and communication in the first or second cycle, at least 15 credits of which must be from an independent project of relevance to the subject area, or acquired equivalent knowledge through other study or work undertaken in Sweden or abroad. In assessments of other study, special importance shall be attributed to the independent project.

Selection and admission

Decisions between applicants who meet the entry requirements are based on an assessment of the applicants' capacity to complete the programme. Applicants are admitted to the programme by the dean at the School of Education and Communication following preparatory work by the school's Research Board.

Main content

The doctoral degree comprises a total of 240 credits. Courses and independent study carry a total of 90 credits, 30 credits of which are mandatory and taken by all doctoral students at the Graduate School of Education and Communication. The doctoral thesis comprises 150 credits. The licentiate degree comprises a total of 120 credits equally split between courses and a licentiate thesis.

Mandatory courses at the Graduate School of Education and Communication:

- Introduction to Doctoral Studies (7.5 credits)
- Philosophy of Science, Scientific Theories and Research Ethics (7.5 credits)
- Qualitative Methods (7.5 credits)
- Quantitative Methods (7.5 credits)

All the above courses (or equivalent) are mandatory for the award of a doctoral degree. Two of the above courses (or equivalent) are mandatory for the award of a licentiate degree.

Other mandatory courses/independent study should cover the following areas and, for the award of a doctoral degree, comprise at least 15 credits:

- Current research in media and communication
- The media and citizenship
- Independent study of media and communication theory
- Independent study of the methods of media and communication

A total of at least 7.5 credits from courses/independent study in two of the above areas is required for the award of a licentiate degree.

Structure and supervision

Each doctoral student is assigned no fewer than two supervisors, at least one of whom must have completed supervisor training or have equivalent competence. One of the supervisors—a docent or professor—is appointed principal supervisor. The assistant supervisors shall have a doctoral degree, and at least one of them shall work at Jönköping University.

The main teaching methods are seminars, supervision and lectures. In consultation with the student and assistant supervisors, the principal supervisor draws up an individual study plan specifying the knowledge requirements. The plan is confirmed by the dean at the School of Education and Communication.

The third-cycle programme can be divided into stages. The student may apply for the award of a licentiate degree at the end of the first stage. The student is entitled to supervision for as long as deemed necessary for the completion of the programme.

During the process of writing the doctoral thesis, the doctoral student shall publicly present the merits of the thesis on no fewer than two occasions: mid-way review and final review. On both occasions, designated review groups shall review the thesis and give verbal and written opinions. It is for the principal supervisor to appoint members to the review groups.

Licentiate theses are only reviewed in the respective research environments.

Licentiate thesis

For the Degree of Licentiate, the student shall write a 60-credit licentiate thesis based on independent research of relevance to the subject area. The thesis shall be defended in public before a faculty examiner appointed by the Research Board at the School of Education and Communication.

The faculty examiner shall hold a doctoral degree and be employed at an educational institution other than JU, or within private industry or some other non-academic organisation.

Doctoral thesis

The doctoral student shall write a 150-credit doctoral thesis based on independent research. The thesis shall be defended in public before a faculty examiner appointed by the Board of Education and Research Education at Jönköping University. The faculty examiner shall come from a higher education institution other than Jönköping University and be a docent or a professor within the relevant field.

Examinations

The programme can lead to the *Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Media and Communication* and the *Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Media and Communication*. To be awarded a qualification, the student must, firstly, pass the examinations that are part of the programme and, secondly, defend and receive a passing grade for the doctoral or licentiate thesis. The doctoral thesis, licentiate thesis and examinations are graded Pass or Fail. The doctoral thesis grade is set by a special examining committee. The licentiate thesis grade is determined by an examiner appointed by the school following consultation with the faculty examiner. Examinations are graded by an examiner.