



## GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

### **General Syllabus for Doctoral (third-cycle) Education Leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Artistic Practice at the University of Gothenburg**

Reg. No. U2014/701

#### 1. Decision

Regulations regarding doctoral (third-cycle) education and admission to doctoral (third-cycle) education, respectively, are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapters 6 and 7 (SFS 1993:100).

Local regulations for doctoral (third-cycle) education are to be found in the University of Gothenburg's governing documents and in the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts' governing documents.

This General Syllabus was approved and established by the Faculty Board at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts, at the University of Gothenburg on 5 Nov 2014.

The syllabus is valid from 5 Nov 2014.

#### 2. Content and Structure of Programme

##### *2.1 General information about the content of the programme*

Artistic Practice establishes a dialogue between practical questions and theoretically based methods within the field. Focus is placed on the practice of, and critical reflection on, central subject-related issues, which takes place with the aid of relevant knowledge and methods.

The aim of the doctoral (third-cycle) programme in artistic practice is for the practitioner to become proficiently educated, in both practice and theory, with a focus on the independent and critical creation of a knowledge base in the field covering both breadth and depth, practice and theory. The aim is also to expand the field's dialogue with the outside society.

The doctoral programme in artistic practice is a principal category based in the four different disciplines (i) film, (ii) photography, (iii) fine art and (iv) literature. Research topics and methods are connected to the specific fields' contemporary and historical applications and the disciplines' relevant theory, as

formulated in the respective subject description at the Valand Academy. The framework of the field of artistic practice encourages a more in-depth approach within the respective field and cross-fertilisations between fields, something the research environment actively promotes and enables. Development and renewal are essential and cover both practice and critical reflection, which are considered as two interacting components. Of central importance is the doctoral candidate's own artistic work. The orientation of the Doctor of Philosophy programme places great emphasis on the ability to put one's own practical work in an artistically based praxis, theory and method and to clearly position oneself in a field of study where art and science exist in dialogue.

## 2.2 Programme structure

For a *licentiate degree*, doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Artistic Practice consist of a course section comprising 30 higher education credits and a thesis comprising 90 higher education credits, i.e. a total of 120 higher education credits. Part of the thesis is an artistic project equivalent to 40–60% of the total credits.

For a *doctoral degree*, doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Artistic Practice consist of a course section comprising 60 higher education credits and a dissertation comprising 180 higher education credits, i.e. a total of 240 higher education credits. Part of the dissertation is an artistic project equivalent to 40–60% of the total credits.

Besides the work involved in producing a licentiate thesis or a doctoral dissertation, doctoral (third-cycle) education leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Artistic Practice takes the form of taking part in organised doctoral courses, active participation in seminars, exhibitions, conferences and festivals, carrying out study trips, one's own seminars and lectures, and also work on articles and artistic productions.

Certain parts of the programme can take place at a foreign higher arts institution provided there is an agreement between these institutions that guarantees the level of education and the integration of these studies into one's doctoral studies as a whole.

## 2.3 Course section

The main aim of the course section is to introduce and develop the research praxis of the artistic field.

The courses include organised subject-specific courses and organised faculty common courses.

Participation in these subject-specific courses is compulsory, which are partly individually adapted depending on the candidate's year of study and covering 15 higher education

credits for the licentiate degree and 30 higher education credits for the doctoral degree according to the table below:

<b>Subject-specific courses (compulsory)</b>		
Seminar series 1	Participation in seminars, own presentation (year 1)	7.5 HECs
Seminar series 2	Participation in seminars, own presentation, responsible for part of the content (year 2)	7.5 HECs
Seminar series 3	Participation in seminars, own presentation, major responsibility for content and structure by organising a public event within the framework of the seminar series (year 3)	7.5 HECs
Survey of research field	Participation at conferences, reading and noting subject-related literature, contextualisation of the research field (years 1, 2 or 3)	7.5 HECs

Participation in the cross-department Faculty Graduate School is compulsory. Three cross-disciplinary basic courses are to be studied here, comprising at least 15 higher education credits for the licentiate degree and at least 30 higher education credits for the doctoral degree, in accordance with the following table:

<b>Faculty Courses (compulsory)</b>		
Basic Course 1	Writing Course	7.5 HECs
Basic Course 2	Method Course	7.5 HECs
Basic Course 3	The Field of Artistic Research – an Orientation	7.5 HECs
Participation in Faculty Graduate School's activities	Seminars etc.	7.5 HECs

#### *2.4 Licentiate thesis*

The Licentiate thesis shall demonstrate the licentiate student's ability to identify, clearly define, and, using relevant methods, his or her ability to perform and discuss a research task. The licentiate thesis shall also comprise artistic expression in

dialogue with the presentation as a whole. The thesis can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph thesis) or of a compilation of articles that the candidate has published or had accepted for publication in scientific/scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field (an article thesis/compilation thesis).

The thesis shall, within a limited area of the field in question, constitute an independent contribution to research, and document satisfactory insights into the relevant requirements and criteria of good research. The thesis shall be of such quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific/scholarly series or research journal, or the equivalent within the arts field.

In the parts of the thesis that consist of artistic production, these shall meet the national requirements for artistic excellence and have relevance to the development of research within the artistic field.

In certain cases, thesis work can be pursued as team work. This shall then be organised in such a way that the individual contributions can be specified and assessed on the same grounds as for individual pieces of work.

## *2.5 Doctoral dissertation*

The doctoral dissertation shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to identify, clearly define and, using relevant methods, his or her ability to perform and discuss a research task. Normally, the doctoral dissertation shall also comprise artistic expression in dialogue with the written presentation in general.

The doctoral dissertation can either take the form of a unified, coherent piece of work (a monograph dissertation) or of a compilation of articles that the doctoral student has published or had accepted for publication in scientific/scholarly journals or anthologies, or the equivalent within the artistic field, together with a short summary of these (an article dissertation/compilation dissertation). Licentiate work can be included as a part of the doctoral dissertation, either in revised or unrevised form.

The doctoral dissertation shall constitute an independent contribution to research and document satisfactory insights into the relevant requirements and criteria of good research. The doctoral dissertation shall be of such quality that it can be accepted for publication in a scientific/scholarly series or research journal, or the equivalent within the artistic field. In the parts of the dissertation that consist of artistic production, these shall meet the international requirements for artistic excellence

and have relevance to the development of research within the arts field.

In certain cases, dissertation work can be pursued as team work. This shall then be organised in such a way that the individual efforts can be specified and assessed on the same grounds as for individual pieces of work.

### 3. Programme Goals

#### *3.1 General national goals for licentiate degree*

The general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are given in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance (see appendix).

#### *3.2 Subject-specific goals for licentiate degree*

The aim of the programme is to develop the knowledge and skills required to independently and autonomously be able to pursue research, as well as to contribute to the formation of knowledge within the subject through the production of a scientific/scholarly licentiate thesis.

Furthermore, the licentiate student is to develop the ability to conduct an external discourse regarding art and research's societal and cultural opportunities and significance, as well as its collaboration with other fields of research.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Artistic Practice shall develop their licentiate students' communicative and pedagogical skills in order for them to be able to express themselves well in speech and writing, both within and outside of academic contexts.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Artistic Practice shall also give students the possibility to develop international contacts, for example, in the form of participation in research conferences abroad or attendance at foreign higher education institutions.

#### *3.3 Faculty-specific goals for licentiate degree*

After completion of the programme licentiate students shall be able to critically assess, evaluate and reflect on their own as well as on the writing of others within the context of artistic research, and also be able to adopt an autonomously critical and productive approach to arts- and science-based processes in the field of artistic research.

Licentiate students should also be able to demonstrate a knowledge of methodology in general and the discourse on method relevant to their specific research field in particular, as well as demonstrating the ability to discuss critical questions within the framework of their research practice, that is with

regard to method, research subject, institutional framework and the current debate within the research subject in question.

### *3.4 General national goals for doctoral degree*

The general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are given in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance. (see appendix)

### *3.5 Subject-specific goals for doctoral degree*

The aim of the programme is to develop the knowledge and skills required to independently and autonomously be able to pursue research, as well as to contribute to the formation of knowledge within the subject through the production of a scientific/scholarly doctoral dissertation.

Furthermore, the doctoral student is to develop the ability to conduct an external discourse regarding art and research's societal and cultural opportunities and significance, as well as its collaboration with other fields of research.

Doctoral (third-cycle) education in Artistic Practice shall also give doctoral students the possibility to develop international contacts, for example, in the form of participation in research conferences abroad or attendance at foreign higher education institutions.

Doctoral students shall also acquire the knowledge to plan, lead and complete a research project.

### *3.6 Faculty-wide goals for doctoral degree*

Doctoral (third-cycle) education at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts shall develop their doctoral students' communicative and pedagogical skills in order for them to be able to express themselves well in speech and in writing, both within, and outside of, academic contexts.

After completion of the programme doctoral students shall be able to critically assess, evaluate and reflect on their own as well as on the writing of others within the context of artistic research, and also be able to adopt an autonomously critical and productive approach to arts- and science-based processes in the field of artistic research.

Doctoral students shall also be able to give a general account of the field of artistic research and its history and of the integrational interaction between artefacts of artistic expression and arts-based texts, as well as to give general accounts of

different formats that can be used for the sharing and dissemination of research results and material.

Doctoral students shall also be able to demonstrate knowledge of methodology in general and of the discourse on method that is relevant to their specific research field in particular, as well as being able to demonstrate the ability to discuss critical questions within the framework of their research practice, that is, with regard to method, research subject, institutional framework and the current debate within the research subject in question.

#### 4 Qualifications and entry requirements

In order to be admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) education, the applicant is required to fulfil the criteria for the general and the specific entry requirements in accordance with what is stated in chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

##### *4.1 General entry requirements*

According to chapter 7, section 39, of the Higher Education Ordinance, a person meets the general entry requirements if he or she

1. has been awarded a master's (second-cycle) qualification, or
2. has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising 240 higher education credits, of which at least 60 higher education credits were awarded at master's (second-cycle) level, or
3. has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

According to a transitional regulation in the Higher Education Ordinance, an applicant that meets the general requirements for admission to doctoral (third-cycle) education before 1 July 2007 maintains these general requirements for admission to doctoral (third-cycle) education, but only to the end of 2015.

The Dean at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts may grant an exemption from the general entry requirements. However, to meet entry requirements, the applicant must be considered in other respects to have the ability required to complete the doctoral (third-cycle) programme.

##### *4.2 Specific requirements*

Specific entry requirements for Artistic Practice are:

- at least 120 higher education credits (or the equivalent) in subjects that are considered to have relevance to doctoral

(third-cycle) studies in the subject Artistic Practice (or equivalent knowledge)

- a documented specialisation of study including subjects oriented towards relevant issues in the subject Artistic Practice
- an independent project (thesis) comprising at least 30 higher education credits (or, alternatively, several projects, which, together, are considered to be the equivalent of 30 higher education credits) in a subject that is considered as having relevance to doctoral studies in the subject Artistic Practice.
- documented ability of working with artistic practice at a high level
- genuine artistic experience in the field of research
- documented interest in reflection, research-related issues and processes
- documented experience in academic writing or other, equivalent qualified text production that demonstrates research-like stringency.

An applicant also meets the specific requirements if he or she has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Dean at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts may grant an exemption from the specific entry requirements for admission to doctoral (third-cycle) studies.

#### *4.3 Admission, selection*

The decision to admit a student to doctoral (third-cycle) education is made by the Head of the Department after the matter has been drafted in the Department Research Council or a similar body at the Department. The number of doctoral students admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) education will be restricted to those who can be offered acceptable terms concerning supervision and study conditions in general.

Furthermore, only students who are considered to have guaranteed funding for the entire period of study, according to the Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7, section 36, will be admitted to doctoral (third-cycle) studies.

Selection among applicants that meet the requirements stated in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 above will be based on the application documents received and on interviews with the applicants who, in the first place, are considered to be possible candidates for admission. Work samples may be requested as a complement to other application documents. Selection among qualified applicants is made in consideration of their ability to benefit



from doctoral (third-cycle) education. The following assessment criteria are applied to test this ability:

- artistic quality and originality within the field of artistic practice
- ability to think independently and critically, in the form of reflective writing and discussion, within the subject area
- familiarity with research-related issues and processes
- interest in being a member of the department and contributing positively to the programmes and institutional environment

5. Examination      Doctoral (third-cycle) education leads to a doctoral degree by submitting a doctoral dissertation, or, for a licentiate degree, by submitting a licentiate thesis.

The dissertation (thesis) can combine artistic and scientific/scholarly elements in several different ways. Regarding artistic production, the doctoral student shall document his or her artistic practical work, that is, both processes and artistic works.

Each course that is included in the doctoral programme shall have an examiner at the department that provides the course. When exams are assessed, consideration shall be taken of how in depth the doctoral student's knowledge is, as well as what ability of autonomous judgement and critical analysis the doctoral student has demonstrated.

*5.1 Licentiate degree* For a licentiate degree in Artistic Practice, a doctoral student is required to have completed at least 120 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle) programme, of which at least 30 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded a pass mark and at least 60 higher education credits in the form of a licentiate thesis, which shall normally contain text as well as artistic production. The licentiate thesis is submitted and discussed at a public seminar, where it is examined by an external examiner appointed by the department at which the subject has been studied. On assessing the thesis, consideration shall be taken of its content as well as of the seminar discussion.

*5.2 Doctoral degree* For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student is required to have completed at least 240 higher education credits in the doctoral (third-cycle) programme, of which at least 60 higher education credits are in the form of courses that have been awarded pass marks and at least 180 higher education credits in the form of

the successful completion of a doctoral dissertation. The doctoral dissertation shall have been submitted and defended orally at a public defence. On assessing the dissertation, consideration shall be taken of its content as well as of its defence.

*5.3 Grade*

A doctoral dissertation, a licentiate thesis and courses are awarded the grades Pass or Fail.

*5.4 Title*

A degree within this framework of doctoral (third-cycle) education shall be given the title: degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Artistic Practice or degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Artistic Practice at the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. This degree may be given a different title if there are special reasons for doing so.

6. Transitional regulations

Doctoral students who have been admitted before 05 11 2014 can, after consulting their supervisor, submit a request to the Head of Department to go over to this syllabus. The individual study plan should then be updated.

## APPENDIX

### **General national goals for the licentiate degree**

These general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are taken from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance:

#### *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.

## **General national goals for the doctoral degree**

These general national goals for doctoral (third-cycle) education are taken from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance:

### *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.