



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

GENERAL SYLLABUS FOR
SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

Reg. No.
U 2020/935

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Faculty Board

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Sustainability Science

The general syllabus for third-cycle studies in sustainability science was approved by the board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, 26 November 2020, Reg. no U 2020/935.

Studies in line with this general syllabus can lead to one of the following degrees:

Doctor of Philosophy

Licentiate of Philosophy

1 Subject description

Sustainability science deals with the interaction between man and the environment and related research policy integration in many different geographical and socio-cultural contexts. This discipline provides a comprehensive, integrated and specialised understanding that aims to propose creative and long-term approaches and possible solutions to long-term socio-ecological problems and multifaceted sustainability challenges. In this way, the subject enriches the scholarly discussion and the conversation about long-term problems, referred to as sustainability challenges, and their solutions. The theories and approaches in the field are inspired by, taken from, or often exist in the interface with many different disciplines, e.g. ecology, economics, geography, cultural geography, human ecology, community planning, political science, sociology, history, development studies and philosophy. Information about the

subject area and current research is available on the department's website <http://www.lucsus.lu.se>.

2 Objective and outcomes of third-cycle studies

The objective of third cycle studies in Sustainability Science at the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), is to provide students with both general and specialised knowledge in sustainability science and to train them to become critical researchers with the ability to conduct research projects both independently and together with others. The programme particularly emphasises solid knowledge of research theory, skills and judgment in the use of methods as well as research into both the social and nature-related dimensions of sustainability.

2.1 Doctor of Philosophy

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student shall have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the sustainable science 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 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.

In addition to these learning outcomes, for the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate different research areas in order to contribute to the emergence of a more nuanced understanding of specific socio-ecological problems, and

- demonstrate a reflective awareness of how their work is part of a broader perspective of social diversity and equality.

2.2 Degree of Licentiate

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student shall have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding in the field of sustainability science 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
- 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
- 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 their own research
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

In addition to these learning outcomes, for the degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate specialised knowledge that is relevant to sustainability science on issues and challenges at different levels, and attempts to interpret their interrelationship,
- demonstrate the ability to develop and integrate different perspectives in order to contribute to the emergence of a more nuanced understanding of sustainability problems, and
- demonstrate awareness of how their work is part of a broader perspective of social diversity and equality.

3 Admission requirements

The requirements for admission to third-cycle studies are that the applicant meets the general and specific admission requirements and is considered in other respects to have the ability required to complete and benefit from the programme.

3.1 General admission requirements

A person meets the general admission requirements for third-cycle studies if he or she

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

The faculty board may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

3.2 Specific admission requirements

Those who have completed course requirements of at least 30 credits in the subject area (or equivalent) or areas of relevance to the subject area, of which at least 15 credits consist of independent projects at second-cycle level, or equivalent knowledge acquired in Sweden or abroad, meet the specific admission requirements for the third-cycle programme in sustainability science.

3.3. Credit transfer

If a student at a higher education institution has successfully completed a second-cycle course or study programme, he or she is entitled to transfer the credits awarded for the course or study programme to the third-cycle programme if the examiner (LUCSUS director and director of studies of the third-cycle programme) following a review, judges that the course justifies a credit transfer. Credit transfer shall be considered at the request of the student on a case-by-case basis.

4 Admission and selection

Admission of third-cycle students is granted in accordance with the Regulations for doctoral education at Lund University and the Regulations for third-cycle education at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

4.1 Admission

The faculty strives to admit third-cycle students following the announcement of study places at a set time. Students who are admitted to a Licentiate programme must re-apply to be able to continue studies towards a degree of Doctor.

Admissions are primarily granted to applicants to third-cycle courses and study programmes who have been appointed to doctoral studentships. Third-cycle students must have funding in the form a doctoral studentship or other funding in accordance with the University's admission regulations. The faculty board is responsible for a thorough assessment of the study funding.

4.2 Selection

A selection among applicants must be made if there are a limited number of places. The basis for selection is the applicant's qualifications at the time of application. The overriding criterion is the applicant's ability to benefit from the third-cycle programme. Special emphasis is placed on the applicant's capacity to pursue research in sustainability science. However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not give the applicant priority over other applicants.

In order to assess the ability to benefit from the third-cycle programme, the applicant's previous study results, papers, reports, research plans, any other research qualifications and documented professional experience will be considered.

Independent projects in first and second-cycle courses and study programmes and a project proposal for the third-cycle programme are of particular importance. The assessment of independent projects takes account of their breadth, depth, originality, analytical ability, independence and critical reflection. Furthermore, the assessment takes into account the applicant's ability to complete their studies within the set time.

The faculty strives to ensure diversity. Aspects of diversity and gender equality in all their forms must always be taken into account. Priority will be given to under-represented groups in the subject at Lund University, in cases of equally qualified applicants, unless there are valid reasons to the contrary.

5 Third-cycle courses and study programmes

Third cycle studies that lead to a degree of Doctor comprise four years of full-time study (240 credits). Studies for a degree of Licentiate comprise two years of full-time study (120 credits). Part-time studies (at least 50%) may be pursued but must be completed within eight years for the degree of Doctor and four years for the degree of Licentiate. The doctoral student is also entitled, but not obliged, to take a licentiate degree (120 credits) as a stage in third-cycle education leading to a degree of Doctor.

5.1 Programme design

The programme leading to a degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits, made up of courses comprising 60 credits and an academic thesis (PhD thesis) comprising 180 credits. The programme leading to a degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits, made up of courses comprising 30 credits and a Licentiate thesis comprising 90 credits. Teaching is in the form of courses and seminars, and supervision of the thesis work. General seminars and guest lectures are also organised.

For a degree of Doctor the third-cycle student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the PhD thesis. For a degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student must have successfully completed all examinations in the programme and the Licentiate thesis.

5.2 Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each third-cycle student. One of them shall be nominated as the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor is to have the qualifications of an associate professor, be employed at Lund University and have completed a course in research supervision.

The individual study plan must specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors, as well as the number of hours each supervisor is to dedicate to supervising the third-

cycle student. Third-cycle students are entitled to supervision during the time deemed necessary for the studies. Supervision includes both help with the orientation of studies, thesis projects and support throughout the studies. A third-cycle student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor.

5.3 Individual study plan

The individual study plan is the central planning tool for third-cycle studies. At the start of the programme, the student is to draw up an individual study plan of the University's and their undertakings along with a timetable for the studies in consultation with the supervisors. In particular, the individual study plan must contain detailed plans of how the outcomes, primarily with regard to research, are to be achieved, the courses during the current semester and in relation to the final degree, as well as any teaching assignments. The individual study plan must be followed up annually.

The third-cycle student is to register at the start of each semester and, in consultation with the supervisors, specify the degree of activity for the current semester.

5.4 Courses and other components

The courses that can be included in the third-cycle programme are courses offered by the home department, faculty-wide courses or courses at other departments at or outside Lund University.

For courses at Lund University, there must be course syllabi that state the courses' learning outcomes, content and credits. For courses completed at other faculties, higher education institutions or other relevant organisations, available for credit transfer are determined by the examiner. The courses to be taken by the individual student and to be included in the degree are to be specified in the individual study plan. Courses in teaching and learning in higher education cannot be included in the courses of

the third-cycle programme. Participation in such courses is instead to be reported as departmental duties (see 5.7).

One of the grades Pass or Fail will be awarded for the thesis and other examinations within the programme. The examiner of courses is to be a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of an associate professor who is not the third-cycle student's supervisor, unless otherwise decided by the director of LUCSUS.

5.4.1 Courses

For the degree of Doctor, 30 credits out of 60 credits are compulsory credit-earning components and are distributed as follows:

- at least one third-cycle course or independent study course in theory of science or equivalent
- at least one third-cycle course or individual independent study course in methodology or equivalent
- at least one third-cycle course or individual independent study course in sustainability science/studies
- at least one third-cycle course or independent study course with a thematic focus
- at least one third-cycle course in research ethics (3 credits)

At least 15 credits of the compulsory examined components must come from third-cycle courses. Third-cycle students with passed second-cycle courses in the theory of science and methodology can replace these courses with optional third-cycle courses or second-cycle independent study courses.

For the degree of Licentiate, 15 credits out of 30 credits are compulsory credit-earning components and are distributed as follows:

- at least one third-cycle course or individual independent study course in sustainability science/studies

- not more than one third-cycle course or independent study course with a thematic focus that is of direct relevance to the third-cycle student's research area
- at least one third-cycle course in research ethics (3 credits)

The remaining higher education credits may be used for additional third-cycle courses, as well as one or both of the following non-compulsory, credit-earning components: participation in research seminars (maximum 7.5 credits) and independent study courses adapted to the individual student's needs.

For all credit-earning components, a syllabus must be available in order for the credits to be registered in Ladok. The choice of courses and required reading must provide broad knowledge in the area of sustainability science. The specific specialisation and choice of courses is decided in consultation with the supervisor.

5.4.2 Weekly seminars at LUCSUS and thesis seminars

As part of the third-cycle studies, the third-cycle student is to actively participate in regular seminars at LUCSUS. The third-cycle students are to be given the opportunity to present and receive feedback on various focus aspects of their research and serve as a critical reviewer of other third-cycle students' academic work.

Students on the third-cycle programme leading to a degree of Doctor shall also present their thesis work at no fewer than three seminars:

1. A seminar during the first year, around the time the thesis project is planned
2. A midway seminar after about two years of the programme
3. A final seminar approximately 2-6 months before the thesis defence, in preparation for the final writing phase and before the public defence

Third-cycle students on the programme leading to a degree of Licentiate must present their work on the Licentiate thesis at no less than two seminars:

1. A midway seminar when about half of the project has been completed
2. A concluding seminar in preparation for the public seminar

5.5 Thesis

The PhD thesis is the most important component of the third cycle programme leading to the degree of Doctor. The thesis is to be based on an independently pursued research project. The PhD thesis is to be designed as a unified research study (monograph thesis) or as a number of research articles that are to be accompanied by an introductory summary in which the components are placed within a whole (compilation thesis).

Work included in the thesis which has two or more authors must report the contributions of each author so they can be assessed individually and passed as part of the thesis.

The thesis is to be defended at a public defence. It is awarded one of the grades Pass or Fail, with the grades being awarded by an examining committee.

5.6 Licentiate thesis

The Licentiate thesis for the degree of Licentiate shall be presented orally at a public seminar. It is awarded one of the grades Pass or Fail by an examining committee.

5.7 Departmental duties

A third-cycle student can carry out departmental duties (e.g. teaching, supervision of third-cycle degree projects, board activities, project work) within a framework of a maximum of 20% of full-time working hours. The third-cycle student must be compensated by a corresponding extension of the study period.

The individual study plan is also to include the departmental duties.

Third-cycle students who teach in the first or second cycle shall have completed introductory training of at least two weeks.

6 Further information

Information on admission and application deadlines is available at LUCSUS.