FACULTY
OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

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Faculty Board

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Social Anthropology

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in social anthropology was approved by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences 24 April 20204, reg. no U 2025/222

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

Doctor of Philosophy.

Licentiate of Philosophy.

1 Subject description

Social anthropology concerns the study of society, culture and social processes in different parts of the world at both macro and micro level. In the early stages of the subject's development, there was a clear emphasis on non-Western environments. Today, the scholarly perspective can be said to include human society as a whole, encompassing its various aspects such as social and political organisation, culture, economy and religion, wherever it is located in time and space.

Social anthropology aims to generate theoretical and empirical knowledge about social, cultural and societal issues. Social anthropology is primarily characterised by ethnography and fieldwork, but other methods, such as historical analyses and visual anthropology, are also included.

Current research areas can be found on the Department of Sociology's website.

2 Objective and outcomes of third-cycle studies

The objective of third cycle studies in Social Anthropology at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, is to provide students with specialised knowledge in social anthropology and to train them to become independent and critical researchers with broad knowledge of social science theory, methodological skill and judgement, and the ability to conduct research projects.

2.1 Doctor of Philosophy

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to 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 research field of social anthropology 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.

2.2 Degree of Licentiate

On completion of the programme, the third-cycle student is to 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 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.

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 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

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third-cycle programmes in social anthropology if they have completed a second-cycle degree in the subject or have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad. The degree must

contain independent projects comprising at least 30 credits or equivalent, half of which is at second-cycle level.

3.3 Credit transfer from previous studies

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 director of third-cycle studies, 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

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor, with the degree of Licentiate a potential stage after two years. If there are special grounds, admission can be granted for just two years of full-time studies, ending with a degree of Licentiate.

Admission of third-cycle students is granted in accordance with the Admissions Regulations for doctoral programmes 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 on an annual basis 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 the social sciences. 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.

The selection takes study results and research qualifications into account, as well as the applicant's publications, research plan and professional experience. First- and second-cycle degree papers are accorded special weight when assessing the applicant. The most important criteria are the applicant's competence and proof of originality, as well as the academic quality and feasibility of the plan.

The assessment of the applicant's qualifications is conducted by a specially appointed group of experts (admissions committee) who prepare a written proposal. The decision on admission is made by the head of department on the basis of the proposal prepared by the experts.

The faculty strives to ensure diversity. Gender equality must always be taken into account. Priority will be given to the under-represented gender 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 degree of Licentiate (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 and be employed at Lund University. The individual study plan must specify the duties and responsibilities of each of the supervisors. 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 work and support throughout the studies. A third-cycle student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor.

5.3 Individual study plan

At the start of the programme, the student shall 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. 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 programme may be 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 and higher education institutions, the credits 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.

One of the grades Pass or Fail will be awarded for the thesis and other examinations within the programme. The examiner of courses is a professor or lecturer with the qualifications of an associate professor.

5.4.1 Course

The course component contains compulsory elements for both the degree of Licentiate and the degree of Doctor in social anthropology. For the degree of Doctor, the student must be able to show a result of pass on courses worth at least 7.5 credits in each of the following

(a) social anthropology classics,

(b) social anthropology methods,

(c) field report,

(d) current research frontiers,

(e) theory of science.

In addition, at least 3 credits are required in research ethics. The examiner decides together with the student which courses can be credited in the degree of Doctor.

For the degree of Licentiate, the student must be able to show a result of pass on courses worth at least 7,5 credits in each of the following (a) social anthropology theory, and (b) social anthropology methods and at least 3 credits in research ethics.

5.4.2 Research seminars and other components

As part of the studies, the third-cycle student is to participate in seminars on the department's research activities and other doctoral students' thesis projects. Third-cycle students shall have the opportunity to present reports on the theoretical and/or methodological issues of the project, plans, papers and thesis texts, and critically review the academic thesis projects of fellow students.

Third-cycle students shall present their thesis at no fewer than three seminars: at the beginning, midway through and at the end of the third-cycle programme.

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).

A work by two or more authors may be approved as a doctoral thesis or part thereof, if the contributions of the different authors are so clearly specified that they can be assessed individually.

The thesis is to be defended orally 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 participate in departmental 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 to specify the departmental duties.

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

6 Further information

Information on admission and application deadlines is available from the department.

Third-cycle students admitted before 24 April 2025 are entitled to complete their studies according to this syllabus. Any agreement on this is to be documented in the individual study plan.