General Programme Syllabus for Postgraduate Studies in Sociology, 240 Higher Education Credits

The programme was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg on 6 June 2013.

Within the discipline, a programme with a specialisation towards science and technology studies is also offered.

1. Aims

A general aim of the programme is for the doctoral student to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to conduct independent research in sociology and to contribute to the development of knowledge within the discipline through the production of a scholarly thesis.

Another aim of the postgraduate programme in sociology is to develop the doctoral student’s ability to apply such knowledge and skills in post-doctoral research or in other professional work. The programme shall also develop the doctoral student’s communicative and pedagogical abilities with respect to oral and written communication both within and outside academic contexts. The programme comprises 240 higher education credits (HE credits), including 5 HE credits in teaching and learning in higher education. The doctoral student shall also acquire knowledge regarding planning and implementation of research projects.

Moreover, postgraduate studies shall facilitate international contacts, for example in the form of participation in research conferences and possibly visits to a foreign higher education institution.

The specific goals of the programme, which doctoral students must achieve in order to obtain a third-cycle degree in sociology, are indicated below. The requirements specified in the system of qualifications concerning third-cycle degrees provided in the Higher Education Ordinance also apply.

1.1 Knowledge and understanding

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- Demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area within sociology.
- Demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of sociology in particular.

1.2 Competence and skills

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- Demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well to review complex issues within the field autonomously and critically.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision.
autonomously, 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.
- 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.

1.3 Judgement and approach

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- Demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics.
- 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.
- Demonstrate the ability to assess strengths and weaknesses related to his or her dissertation.

2. Entry requirements

Applicants must meet both general and specific entry requirements in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

2.1 General entry requirements

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7, Sec. 39, an applicant shall be considered to meet the general entry requirements if he/she has obtained

a degree at the advanced level,

at least 240 HE credits, of which at least 60 must be at the advanced level, or

largely equivalent knowledge in other ways in Sweden or abroad.

Applicants who fulfilled the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies prior to 1 July 2007 shall be considered to fulfil the general entry requirements for postgraduate studies also after this date and until the end of 2015.

2.2 Specific entry requirements

Admission to postgraduate studies in sociology requires:

- a degree at the advanced level in sociology or a degree at the advanced level including an independent project at advanced level specialised in sociology.
admission to postgraduate studies in sociology in the programme with a specialisation
towards science and technology studies requires a degree at the advanced level in
social sciences or humanities including an independent project at advanced level
specialised in sociology within the area of science and technology studies.
A person who has acquired substantially corresponding knowledge, in Sweden or
abroad, also meets the specific entry requirements

3. Selection among qualified applicants

Admission to postgraduate studies in sociology is normally initiated by the Faculty announcing a call
for applications. For further rules and regulations concerning calls for applications and admission, see
the Faculty’s general admission regulations for postgraduate studies.

The selection among qualified applicants shall be based on the ability to complete the programme,
as provided in the Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7. In addition, available supervisor
competences at the Department will be considered. To facilitate the selection process, the
applicant must submit:

a. Theses and degree projects that are assessed based on the following criteria:
   - Ability to formulate scientific problem and aim
   - Connection to earlier research and choice of theoretical perspective
   - Methodological choices and practical conduct of research
   - Integration of theory in analysis, interpretation and conclusions
   - Scientific precision and linguistic preparation

b. Certificate affirming other relevant merits, for example participation in investigations, research or
development work.

c. A brief project draft indicating the applicant’s research interest or planned focus of the thesis. The
plan is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
   - Scientific relevance
   - Demonstrated familiarity with recent and earlier research
   - Feasibility within the time frames of the research education, and
   - Connection to research profiles and supervisor competence at the department

The Head of Department is in charge of all admission decisions.

4. Programme disposition and content

The programme leading to a PhD in sociology comprises 240 HE credits. A licentiate degree may be
obtained upon completion of 120 HE credits if the requirements for licentiate degrees specified in
the Higher Education Ordinance have been fulfilled.

Postgraduate programmes consist of both courses, which are subsequently examined, and individual
research work leading up to a scholarly thesis. Within the framework of the programme, the doctoral
student is also expected to take part in seminar activities and, unless there are specific reasons not to,
contribute to the Department’s joint activities.

The doctoral student may be credited for previously completed higher education. Decisions related
to transfer of credits are made, following an individual application submitted by the doctoral student,
by the Head of Department in connection with the establishment of an individual study plan, yet no later than six months after completion of the plan. A transfer of credits shall be linked to a decision regarding a reduction of the period of doctoral student finance corresponding to the number of credits transferred. The reduction shall be documented in the individual study plan. A doctoral student may not transfer more credits than the equivalent of two years of study.

4.1 Courses

The programme consists of a course part comprising 65HE credits, of which 30HE credits must be acquired from programme-specific compulsory courses and 5HE credits of a compulsory course in teaching and learning in higher education.

The compulsory courses comprising 30HE credits are distributed on courses in theory of science, theory or method (a minimum requirement of 15HE credits in method).

For PhD students following the programme with a specialisation towards science and technology studies the 30HE credits are distributed on courses in theory of science, theory or method (a minimum requirement of 15HE credits within the area of science and technology studies).

Remaining courses (comprising 30HE credits) is decided in consultation with the supervisor.

4.2 Thesis

Central to the programme is the completion of a scholarly thesis through which the doctoral student contributes to the development and knowledge within the chosen discipline. The doctoral student is expected to provide regular reports regarding the progression of his/her thesis work. This obligation is primarily fulfilled through presentation of thesis memos, at least three times, at Department seminars:

- three months after admission (project plan seminar)
- half-way through the research education (proceedings of the work; mid-way review)
- 3-6 months before estimated defence of PhD thesis (full manuscript of the thesis; final review)

External readers should be engaged at mid-way and/or final reviews.

Each thesis shall, in accordance with the rules for doctoral/licentiate degrees laid down in the Higher Education Ordinance, be defended at a public defence/licentiate seminar.

The thesis should be based on autonomous research and be of a high international standard. The thesis can be formed as a single work (monograph) or a compilation of scientific articles (thesis by publications). The thesis should be formed in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance.

5. Supervision

Two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student – one main and one assistant supervisor. The main supervisor shall be employed at or co-opted by the University of Gothenburg. At least one of the supervisors shall be qualified for appointment to a readership (Docent) and at least one of the supervisors shall have completed supervisor training.

The doctoral student is entitled to supervision as stipulated in Riktlinjer för utbildning på forskarnivå vid Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten.

Doctoral students have the right to change supervisors upon request.
6. Individual study plan

The individual study plan shall comprise a time plan as well as a funding plan for the entire period of study, meaning until the planned date of completion.

An individual study plan shall be developed for each doctoral student in connection with admission. The plan is established by the Head of Department in consultation with the doctoral student and his/her supervisor.

The study plan shall be followed up on at least once a year. The follow-up shall give a clear view of the doctoral student’s progress. The doctoral student, supervisor and the Head of Department shall confirm in writing that they agree with the plan and that he/she is informed of the content and potential changes of the plan.

7. Additional information

For further information, current legislation, University and Faculty guidelines as well as local documents at the Department of Sociology and Work Science shall be considered.

Information regarding current rules and regulations is available via [www.samfak.gu.se](http://www.samfak.gu.se).