



General Programme Syllabus for Postgraduate Studies in Journalism, media and communication, 240 Higher Education Credits

The programme was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg on February 10 2012.

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 journalism, media and communication, 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 journalism, media and communication 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 journalism, media and communication, 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 advanced knowledge and understanding of the research field in journalism, media and communication, along with a depth of specialist, current knowledge within a well-defined section of the research field
- demonstrate intimate knowledge of scholarly methodology within the subject field of journalism, media and communication and in particular of the methods pertaining to the specifically selected research field

1.2 Competence and skills

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently, and with scholarly precision, and to plan and pursue research and other advanced tasks using appropriate methods
- by means of a thesis demonstrate the ability to make a contribution to development of knowledge within the chosen research field through personal research

- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss research and research findings in both national and international academic contexts
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss research and research findings with media professionals and society at large
- demonstrate the ability to identify needs for further research within the field of journalism, media and communication

1.3 Judgement and approach

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must:

- demonstrate intellectual independence and critical judgment in relation to the research conducted in the field of journalism, media and communication
- demonstrate the ability to critically review and evaluate the candidate's own research
- demonstrate the ability to critically review and evaluate the research conducted by other scholars
- demonstrate the ability to make ethical judgements relating to research
- demonstrate profound insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and into the researcher's responsibility for how it is applied

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 journalism, media and communication requires:

- A master's degree in journalism worth 240 higher education credits (240 ECTS credits), or a master's degree in media and communication studies worth 240 higher education credits (240 ECTS credits), or a master's degree within the humanities/social sciences worth at least 240 higher education credits (240 ECTS credits) if the applicant's degree project was clearly and primarily linked to the area

of journalism and media studies. The courses must include a minimum of 15 ECTS credits in research methods at the advanced level.

- An applicant who has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad can also be assessed to meet the specific entry requirements.

3. Selection among qualified applicants

Admission to postgraduate studies in journalism, media and communication 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 department's website www.jmg.gu.se and the Faculty's website www.samfak.gu.se contain more information on the application procedure).

The selection among qualified applicants shall be based on the ability to complete the programme, as provided in the Higher Education Ordinance, Ch. 7. To facilitate the selection process, the applicant must submit:

- 1) results of completed courses with particular consideration to second level courses in journalism, media and communication
- 2) essays and degree projects that will be assessed according to the following quality criteria:
 - ability to identify and formulate issues critically, independently, creatively and with scholarly precision
 - ability to undertake scholarly research using commensurate methods
 - ability to present and discuss the research findings in relation to earlier research
- 3) a project draft indicating the applicant's research interest/planned focus of the thesis. It is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
 - the originality of the thesis topic as outlined
 - the feasibility of the thesis topic as outlined
 - the thesis in relation to the supervisory expertise available in the department

Appraisal and ranking of applicants is carried out by the Department's Postgraduate Studies Board (i.e. the "admissions committee") on the basis of preparation by the Board of Supervisors, which consists of teachers and supervisors on the third level programme. The procedures include interviews with applicants who have been placed shortlisted based on submitted application documents.

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

4. Programme disposition and content

The programme leading to a PhD in journalism, media and communication 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.

4.1 The dissertation work

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.

To participate in the department's Higher Research Seminar (Högre allmänna seminariet, HAS) is compulsory for all PhD candidates. The activities may include serving as opponent or discussant at the seminar, or to carry out specific tasks assigned by the chairperson.

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.

4.2 Courses

Postgraduate teaching consists of courses, seminars and supervision.

The programme consists of a course part comprising 60 HE credits, of which 50 must be acquired from programme-specific compulsory courses.

The compulsory 50 HE credits include 5 HE credits in teaching and learning in higher education. Additional courses are selected 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.

In accordance with the rules detailed in the Higher Education Ordinance for doctoral and licentiate degrees respectively, the thesis shall be defended at a public defence seminar.

Topics for the doctoral thesis or licentiate dissertation are to be selected in consultation with the supervisor.

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 Departmental research seminars.

During the first year of the programme the candidate shall develop his or her research project draft into a dissertation-PM. The PhD candidate's PM is presented at a HAS by the end of the second semester.

In the last year of the programme the PhD candidate must present his or her work at a so called final seminar (slutseminarium). To the final seminar an external opponent is invited to review the dissertation manuscript. The external reviewer/opponent is chosen on the basis of his or her

expertise in topic area of the dissertation and is typically recruited from another department or university. After the seminar a meeting is held where the supervisor, the examiner and the board of supervisors (Handledarkollegiet) decide on the revisions that are required before the dissertation can be submitted and presented at the public defence seminar.

The thesis shall be based on independent research and be of acceptable international scholarly quality. It can be formulated either as an integrated piece of work (monograph thesis) or as a compilation of scholarly papers introduced by a short overview (compilation thesis). In other respects the thesis must be formulated in accordance with the provisions in the Higher Education Ordinance.

For the licentiate degree the student has to write a scholarly essay. The essay shall be based on independent research and be of acceptable scholarly quality. The essay for the licentiate degree shall be presented in the Department's general seminar for the third cycle programme. The seminar shall be led by one of the Department's examiners in the third cycle programme. The licentiate thesis is given the grade pass or fail. The licentiate dissertation shall be treated and kept accessible in the manner prescribed in the Faculty of Social Sciences general provisions for licentiate degrees.

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, Associate professor) and at least one of the supervisors shall have completed supervisor training.

The head of department decides on the assignment of supervisors after consultations with the Board of supervisors (Handledarkollegiet).

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 (ISP) 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 PhD student, supervisor and Head of Department shall confirm in writing that they have studied the individual curriculum and any alterations made to it.

7. Additional information

For further information, current legislation, University and Faculty guidelines as well as local documents at the Department of journalism, media and communication shall be considered.

Information regarding current rules and regulations is available via www.samfak.gu.se.