



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Law

GENERAL SYLLABUS

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Board of the Faculty of Law

English translation of the Swedish original, which remains the only authentic one.

General syllabus for doctoral studies for completion of the degrees DOCTOR OF LAWS and LICENTIATE OF LAWS at the Law Faculty, Lund University

1. Identification

Subjects:

Jurisprudence, labour law, banking law, private law, EU law, fiscal law, public international law, administrative law, international environmental law, private international law, comparative law, constitutional law, environmental law, human rights, public law, civil and criminal procedure, law and economics, legal history, social and welfare law, and criminal law

University credits:

240 university credits (uc) for completion of a Doctor of Laws degree (four years full-time study)

120 university credits (uc) for completion of a Licentiate of Laws degree (two years full-time study)

Ratified: 24 May, 2023, by the Faculty Board of Law

Entered into force:

14 June 2023

This syllabus applies to admission to the doctoral program commencing from 14 June 2023.

2. Description of Degree Programme

Completion of the degree programme on the postgraduate level prepares the doctoral student for research and other qualified analytical work, and, especially, prepared to perform activities requiring deep insight and knowledge in the subject area for the degree.

The doctoral programme is built on the knowledge and capabilities students acquire during degree programmes on the undergraduate and graduate levels. Anyone admitted to the doctoral programme are presumed to possess the appropriate knowledge and capabilities to complete their studies. The education shall have a clear link to the research conducted at the university.

3. Objective

The goal of the doctoral programme is that the doctoral student shall acquire the knowledge and capabilities required to act as an independent participant in the international research arena and contribute to the development of the international research front.

Upon completion of the doctoral programme, doctoral students shall be able to demonstrate theoretical and practical familiarity with scholarly methods in general and in particular with methods relevant to research in law. The doctoral student shall have acquired the ability for the following:

- formulate hypotheses and test them scientifically;
- to handle politically controversial issues in a scientific manner;
- to analyse complex problems and to find new ways of thinking about them;
- to deal with problems on a principled level, so that the relevance of the inquiry can extend beyond national conditions, and
- present research in English or another language commonly used in the international research community.

For information about additional goals for the doctoral programme, see the regulations for doctoral studies (licentiate degree and doctoral degree) in the Higher Education Ordinance HF 1993:100 (Appendix 1 to the general syllabus).

For issues of equal treatment and discrimination in the doctoral programme, Board of the Faculty of Law decisions presented in the “Plan and Measures for the Prevention of Discrimination in the Faculty of Law” will apply.

4. Programme Content

4.1. General Information

The programme for a doctoral degree comprises a total of 240 uc (four years of full-time study). The main portion of the programme consists of the completion of a scientific dissertation (doctoral thesis), which corresponds to 200 uc. The doctoral thesis can comprise a single text (monograph) or several texts having the same theme (a compilation thesis). Course credits in the programme amount to 40 uc.

The programme for the degree of Licentiate of Laws comprises a total of 120 uc (two years of full-time study). The main part of this degree consists of the completion of a licentiate thesis, corresponding to 97 uc. Doctoral students may complete part of the programme, consisting of at least 120 uc, by completing the degree of Licentiate of Laws. Courses in this programme correspond to 23 uc.

Employment as a doctoral student is a full-time employment. A doctoral student may be employed as such for a total of eight years. However, the accumulated time of employment may not exceed four years of full-time study. For the degree Licentiate of Laws, the accumulated time of employment may not exceed two years of full-time study. On admission to further study at the postgraduate level after completion of a licentiate degree, the time of employment for completion of the licentiate degree will be deducted from the accumulated time of employment as a doctoral student.

In addition to writing a doctoral thesis, the doctoral student shall participate in the mandatory courses at the Faculty (see 4.2) and/or complete other courses that may be determined in an individual plan of study (see 4.4).

The doctoral programme comprises courses of a total of 40 uc for completion of the doctoral degree and 23 uc for completion of the licentiate degree. The following four courses are mandatory for doctoral students completing a Doctor of Laws degree_

- Researching law: an introduction (see below)
- a course in research ethics (see below)
- the research school in jurisprudence (see below)
- Elective courses

For doctoral students who are completing a Licentiate of Laws degree at the Faculty of Law, the elective courses are not a mandatory requirement.

Each year, the committee for doctoral education makes a decision on the doctoral courses given in the coming academic year. For each course, the committee for doctoral education specifies a syllabus, a list of course literature, and an examiner. For the research school seminar series, the director of studies briefs the board for doctoral education on its focus ahead of each new semester.

Courses in the the doctoral programme are graded as Pass or Fail. More detailed regulations for grading can be provided in the syllabus for each course.

The committee for doctoral education can decide that the doctoral student may transfer credits from studies on graduate or postgraduate level from other educational institutions.

Doctoral students teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level must have completed a course in introductory teaching and learning in higher education, or must have acquired equivalent proficiency in some other manner. The teaching courses are usually counted as part of the general duties of employment (see 4.5).

4.2. Courses

4.2.1. *Researching law: an introduction*

A theoretical, introductory course in jurisprudence for 10 uc is *mandatory* and is always included in the course offering. The committee for doctoral education can grant exemption from this course for a doctoral student who have acquired equivalent proficiency in some other way.

4.2.2. *Course in Research Ethics*

A course in research ethics for 3 uc is mandatory for all doctoral students at Lund University and is always included in the course offering. The School of Economics and Management, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Sciences jointly organise a course in research ethics for their doctoral students.

4.2.3. *The Research School in Jurisprudence including first seminar and mid-seminar*

Participation in the Research School in Jurisprudence is *mandatory*, and amount to two courses in the doctoral programme, corresponding to 10 uc each. Doctoral students pursuing a doctoral degree must complete two courses for a total of 20 uc, and doctoral students pursuing a licentiate degree must complete one course for a total of 10 uc. The committee for doctoral education can exempt a doctoral student from this requirement if equivalent proficiency has been acquired in some other way.

The Research School in Jurisprudence consists of a seminar series designed and led by one or more researchers with a doctoral degree. Research school is designed as a meeting point between the research projects that the doctoral student pursues and contemporary methodological and jurisprudential challenges. The goal with the research school is to enable a broadening of competence in relation to the doctoral project, to enhance the ability to use scholarly methods in a reflexive manner, and to enhance the doctoral students scholarly creativity.

All doctoral students at the Faculty shall participate in the Research School in Jurisprudence during the entire programme of study, and on at least two occasions participants must present a portion of their own dissertation texts as a basis for seminar activities. The first seminar, which shall take place during the doctoral student's first year in the programme, is a seminar focusing on organisation of the doctoral student's planned work. At this point, the text used as a basis for the seminar can also comprise a detailed, commented outline.

For doctoral students intending to complete the Doctor of Laws degree, the second seminar will take place midway through the doctoral programme. Prior to this second seminar, the committee for doctoral education shall appoint two researchers with a doctoral degree to participate in the seminar and provide written comments to the manuscript provided by the doctoral student. For doctoral students intending to complete a licentiate degree, the second seminar is expected to be an open seminar (licentiate seminar) during which doctoral students defend their scientific dissertations (see also 6.2.).

The board for doctoral education shall appoint a researcher with a doctoral degree from outside of the Faculty to give comments to the manuscript for the dissertation on either the mid- or the final seminar. If an external commentator is chosen for the mid-seminar they are one the two researchers with a doctor of laws degree appointed by the committee on doctoral education for that seminar. After consultation with the doctoral student, the supervisor decides the seminar in which the external commentator will participate, and provides a list of suitable persons.

4.2.4 Elective courses

The elective course component enables in-depth disciplinary, theoretical or methodological development. The obligatory 7 uc may consist of the following:

- Courses developed by researchers at the faculty, that has been approved by the board for doctoral education according to its own specific guidelines.

- Courses offered at Lund University or other universities that have been approved by the committee for doctoral education according to its own specific guidelines.
- In cases where there is a need to complement credits awarded, it is possible to receive credits for non-credited participation in doctoral student seminars, conferences etcetera.

For a doctoral student course to be accepted there should be a schedule a literature list and some form of examination. Undergraduate and graduate courses cannot be credited unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

4.3. Final seminar

Before a student presents a doctoral thesis for public defense (disputation), the committee on doctoral education must organise a final seminar during which the doctoral student defends a draft version of the dissertation, as part of the requirements of the doctoral programme. This draft manuscript must be available in the registrar's office at the Faculty no later than three weeks prior to the final seminar. In connection with the seminar, the committee on doctoral education will determine whether the quality of the dissertation is such that the faculty should promote distribution of the dissertation, by covering the cost of producing the minimum number of copies (called statutory copies) prior to the public defense as decided by the Law Faculty Board. The final seminar serves as the basis for such a decision. The ceiling for this potential extra support is determined on the same occasion, taking into account the subject, scope and language of the dissertation as well as available resources. When establishing the definitive amount of the extra support, considerable significance is attached to the doctoral student's documented efforts to cover publication costs by applying for funds from external sources.

The committee on doctoral education commissions one researcher with a Doctor of Laws degree having a primary affiliation outside the faculty to participate in either the second seminar or the final seminar, to provide commentary on the dissertation manuscript. After consulting with the doctoral student, the supervisor decides the seminar in which the senior researcher having a primary connection outside the faculty will participate, and provides a list of suitable persons.

4.4. Individual Study Plan and Annual Review

An individual study plan is approved by the committee on doctoral education following consultation with the doctoral student, the main supervisor, and the supervisor. This should normally take place at the same time, or within two months following the doctoral student's start of their doctoral program. The doctoral student, supervisors, and the head of the department must provide written confirmation that they have reviewed the individual plan of study and any changes made to it.

The individual study plan shall contain a time plan, information about the organisation of supervision, a description of the obligations of the doctoral student and of the the committee on doctoral education, and any other information that may be needed to make sure that the education can be carried out in a satisfactory way. The individual study plan is meant to be an effective and dynamic instrument in the doctoral student's studies. The doctoral student and the supervisors must document the scientific problems and progress of the research project, as well as the developments and changes in planning of the project. The individual study plan must

be updated electronically on a regular basis, according to the regulations established by the committee on doctoral education.

The individual study plan and the doctoral student's dissertation work are assessed at an annual basis by the committee on doctoral education. For this assessment, the doctoral student and the supervisors must report to the committee on doctoral education on the work carried out in the project, and how the doctoral student's programme of study is progressing. At the time of assessment or at another point in time when deemed necessary, the committee on doctoral education can make amendments to the individual study plan. Prior to any changes being made, the student and the supervisors shall be given the opportunity for have their say.

The head of the department decides whether a doctoral student's term of employment will be extended, and the results of the committee on doctoral education's annual assessment of the individual study plan serves as part of the basis for that decision.

4.5. Teaching

Doctoral studies for the degree of Doctor of Laws consists of four years of full-time study. Anyone employed as a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law are normally required to teach the equivalent of 20 % of full-time employment, thus allowing them to be employed for five years.

Doctoral studies for the degree Licentiate of Laws consists of two years of full-time study. Anyone employed as a doctoral student at the Faculty of Law are normally required to teach the equivalent of 20 % of full-time employment, thus allowing them to be employed for two and one-half years.

5. Supervision

Supervision shall be highly qualified and provided in a professional, initiated and reflective manner. Upon admission of a doctoral student, the committee on doctoral education shall appoint a supervisor together with a secondary supervisor. The supervisor must be a member of the faculty competent to perform supervisory duties, and holds the primary responsibility for providing the support and assistance the student requires to execute and complete their dissertation. Senior lecturers who have completed the necessary supervision courses are considered qualified to supervise.

Both the supervisor and the associate supervisor shall possess sufficient expertise to provide the student with guidance, and must have sufficient time, knowledge, experience, and dedication to provide the student with sufficient support. Each student has the right to regular supervision, on at least six occasions each academic year. The supervisor and doctoral student are expected to work together to provide a documented, written plan for supervision.

The doctoral student has the right to supervision during the five years (four years of full-time study) that the programme is normally expected to take. Doctoral students studying for the degree Licentiate of Laws have the right to supervision during two years of full-time study. The right to supervision applies unless the Vice-Chancellor, pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 30 of the Higher Education Ordinance have determined otherwise.

6. Examination

6.1 *Doctoral Degree*

Degree title: juris doktor (Doctor of Laws, LL.D.)

To obtain a doctoral degree, it is necessary for the doctoral student to have had a scientific dissertation (doctoral thesis) passed at the Faculty of Law, and for the doctoral student to have passed the various examinations which may be included in the programme. A doctoral thesis is to be defended orally at a public defense. The public defense is to be announced at least three weeks in advance. At the time of the announcement, the doctoral thesis shall be available at the Faculty of Law. Other examinations which may be included in the programme are assessed in the way determined by the committee on doctoral education.

At the public defense, there shall be an opponent. The opponent shall be admitted as reader (docent), and may not be working at the Faculty of Law at Lund University, unless special conditions prevail. The public defense shall be presided over by a chair. The chair and the opponent are appointed by the committee on doctoral education.

A doctoral thesis is to be given the grades pass or fail. The grade will take into account the contents and the defense of the doctoral thesis. If the doctoral thesis is given the grade “fail”, the reasons for this decision must be justified in writing. The grade is determined by an grading committee specially appointed for each doctoral thesis. The grading committee consists of three or five members. At least one of the members shall not be working at the Faculty of Law at Lund University. Each of the members shall be admitted as a reader (docent) unless special conditions prevail. The composition of the grading committee is determined by the committee on doctoral education.

A doctoral student who has earned a licentiate degree within a specific subject, may use that degree as part of the requirements for a doctoral degree.

6.2 *Licentiate degree*

Degree title: juris licentiatexamen (Licentiate of Laws)

To obtain a licentiate degree, it is necessary both for the doctoral student to have had a scientific dissertation (licentiate thesis) passed at the Faculty of Law and for the doctoral student to have passed the various examinations which may be included in the programme. A licentiate thesis is to be defended orally at a public seminar (licentiate seminar). The licentiate thesis is to be made publicly available at the faculty administration, at the latest three weeks prior to the licentiate seminar. Other examinations which may be included in the programme are to be evaluated in the order determined by the committee on doctoral education.

At the seminar, there shall be an opponent. The opponent shall hold a doctorate, and may not be working at the Faculty of Law at Lund University, unless special conditions prevail. The seminar shall be presided over by a chair. The committee on doctoral education is to appoint the chair and the opponent.

A licentiate thesis is to be given the grades pass or fail. The grade will take into account the contents and the defense of the licentiate thesis. If the licentiate thesis is given the grade “fail”, the reasons for this decision must be justified in writing. The

grade is determined by an examining board, appointed for each licentiate thesis. grading committee is composed of three members and at least one of them shall not be working at Lund University. Each of the members shall hold a doctorate unless special conditions prevail. The committee on doctoral education is to appoint the members of the examining board for licentiate.

7. Prerequisites and Selection

7.1 Prerequisites for Admission

In order to be accepted to the doctoral programme, the applicant must fulfil both the basic requirements and the special requirements stipulated by the Faculty board. Furthermore, the applicant must possess the necessary capacity required for the completion of the programme (see grounds for selection in 7.2).

In order to be accepted to the doctoral programme, the applicant must be employed as a doctoral student or deemed to have sufficient long-term financing to complete the programme. A doctoral student may be employed in order to complete either a doctor degree or a licentiate degree.

The basic requirements are fulfilled by anyone who has completed a university degree on an advanced level, with at least 240 uc of which at least 60 uc from courses on an advanced level, or who have, in some other manner, in Sweden or abroad, obtained equivalent knowledge.

The special requirements are fulfilled by those who have completed a law education and obtained the degree Master of Laws (juris kandidatexamen/juristexamen). The special requirements may also be fulfilled by those who can demonstrate other educational or specific professional experience which is deemed to provide comparable qualifications for doctoral studies to that provided by the degree of Master of Laws (juris kandidatexamen/juristexamen with regard to both the specific subject for doctoral study and the general legal knowledge that may be of importance for the project.

7.2 Selection

If the number of applicants exceed the number of vacant doctoral fellowships, a selection shall be made based on an examination of the applicants' qualifications. In accordance with the regulations of the Higher Education Ordinance and the decision regarding admission protocol relating to graduate level education at Lund University, the selection is based primarily on an assessment of the applicants' ability to successfully complete the programme. To demonstrate this ability, the application for admission shall contain a project plan, curriculum vitae and a master's thesis or other written work as well as an indication of at least one or maximum two referees. The project description must not exceed five pages, and must be written in English, Swedish, Danish, or Norwegian.

The capacity of applicants to successfully complete the doctoral programme is determined primarily on the following grounds (not in order of importance):

Applicant's general competence:

- quality and content of the applicant's previous written work, such as a master's thesis
- ability to participate actively in the faculty's research environment

- relevant educational background and grades/grade average
- relevant work experience

Scientific quality of the project description:

- ability to describe, problematise and discuss the state-of-the art of the research area
- clarity and logic in the formulation of the aim and the research questions
- coherence of legal reasoning and analysis
- adequate selection of theory and methods
- creativity and innovation in the formulation of the research question and selection of approach
- clarity of language and meticulousness.

The committee on doctoral education may consider available supervisory resources and competence at the Faculty during the selection process.

An applicant's previous education (for example, previously completed courses) may be credited, but previous education does not give the applicant advantage over other applicants in the selection process.

The Faculty must strive for equal opportunity and diversity in active recruitment and selection of applicants to the doctoral programme. Recruitment and selection processes must follow Lund University policies on discrimination, equal treatment, and diversity. An applicant of an underrepresented gender will be given preferential treatment if the applicant has equivalent qualifications in other respects, unless very special conditions require otherwise.

8. Application and Admission

Application for admission is to be made using a form adopted by the committee on doctoral education, available through the Faculty's web page (www.jur.lu.se) or by post upon request from for the Office of the committee on doctoral education, Box 207, 221 00 Lund.

After being admitted to the doctoral programme for the degree Licentiate of Laws and obtaining that degree, a doctoral student may, in competition with other applicants, apply for admission to doctoral studies for another two years in order to obtain the degree Doctor of Laws (two years of full-time study). Upon admission for continuation of the doctoral programme after obtaining the Licentiate of Laws degree, the time for obtaining this degree will be subtracted from the total allowed term of employment as a doctoral student.

Available positions for doctoral student shall normally be made through an open call. Such open calls are usually made on an annual basis, and the committee on doctoral education determines the specific date in which the announcement is made. Exceptions to open call policy can be made for example when contractual arrangements related for external financing have been made

Admissions are dealt with by the Faculty's committee on doctoral education, normally in connection with the decision regarding the employment of new doctoral students.

In judging the applicant's qualifications, the committee first evaluates the applicant's fulfilment of formal requirements for admission. For those who fulfil the formal requirements, eligibility in other respects and overall ability to successfully complete the programme will be assessed by the committee on doctoral education.

Before the committee on doctoral education makes its decision on admission, the case is normally prepared by a selection committee decided by the committee on doctoral education. The selection committee consists of the director of studies or assistant director of studies, the chairperson or vice-chairperson of the committee on doctoral education, a researcher who is a member or deputy member of the committee on doctoral education, and a doctoral student representative or a deputy for the doctoral students in the committee on doctoral education. Members of the selection committee must be selected prior to announcement of open doctoral student positions.

Based on a proposal from the selection committee, the committee on doctoral education invites a few of the applicants to an interview. The committee on doctoral education is free to disregard the selection committee's proposal, either in part or as a whole. Contact between invited applicants and suitable supervisors should be established at this point, if contact has not been made earlier.

Prior to the interview, the faculty administration collects references regarding the applicants before the interviews. Those who are selected for an interview are interviewed in person or through streaming media. . The interview shall be based on the application and is intended to provide the committee on doctoral education with deeper understanding of the applicant and his or her ability to successfully complete the programme. After the interviews, the committee on doctoral education ranks the applicants and presents a preliminary admission decision. Applicants are normally informed of this preliminary decision at least two weeks before the decision on admission is made and should contain information on the possibility of lodging an objection to the preliminary decision to the committee on doctoral education within a designated period of time. The committee on doctoral education decides in accordance with the preliminary decision, any objections has led it to reconsider.

9. Doctoral Studies Financed Externally or Jointly with another Faculty/Equivalent

In cases of an open call for a doctoral student in a specific subject or admission of a doctoral student with external financing or co-financing (with another faculty), a representative of the research subject or project manager (which is also often a potential supervisor) is given the right to attend and speak at all stages during the admission process. The representative of the subject area or the project manager's view of the applicant's ability to successfully complete the programme is to be taken into account by the committee.

The committee on doctoral education may, in some cases dealing with announcements in specific subjects or external funding, or together with another faculty, make exception from this syllabus. However, the applicant's ability to successfully complete the doctoral programme must be assessed according to the criteria described in 7.2. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of vacant, jointly financed doctoral fellowships, the selection procedure described in 7.2 and 8

will be used where applicable. In such cases, the announcement and the research context of the announcement is made part of the assessment.

10. Special Procedures for Certain Doctoral Students

Someone who wish to present a dissertation for public defense without having followed the doctoral programme at the Faculty may request that the committee on doctoral education organise a final seminar. Such requests are to be approved if they are supported by a professor or another member of the Faculty qualified as a supervisor, who has assessed the manuscript. Following the final seminar, the committee on doctoral education may decide whether to admit the author of the dissertation to the doctoral programme. If admission is approved, the committee on doctoral education shall appoint a supervisor and an secondary supervisor and, in consultation with these supervisors and the doctoral student, approve an individual study plan concerning the necessary elements of the doctoral student's study.

Someone who wish to present a licentiate thesis without having followed the doctoral programme may request that the committee on doctoral education organise a licentiate seminar. The above-mentioned procedure applies also in such cases.

11. Provisional Rules

A doctoral student who has initiated their education before the first of July 2023 and that follows a previously existing general syllabus has the possibility to fulfil the criteria of participation in the theoretical introduction to doctoral studies in law through participation in Research in Law: An Introduction. In such cases, the doctoral student can upon request credit either 7,5 or 15 uc, in other words, the number of credits that the theoretical introduction to doctoral studies in law used to give. As concerns the Research school, a doctoral student who initiated their education before the first of July 2023, receive 15 uc. A doctoral student who initiated their education after the new general syllabus, but before it has entered into force, may, upon request, follow the new general syllabus.