



General study plan for education at research level in Peace and Development Research, 240 higher education credits

The study plan was confirmed by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Gothenburg on 27 March 2007, revised by the Faculty of Social Sciences on 2012-12-18, 2014-12-28 (dnr: U 2012/577), 2018-12-13 (dnr: U 2018/718), and 2023-06-22 (dnr: GU 2023/969).

1. The aim of the programme

The goal of the education is to develop such knowledge and skills as are required to be able to independently conduct research in peace and development research and to contribute to the development of knowledge in the subject through the preparation of a scientific thesis.

Education at research level in peace and development research also aims to develop the doctoral student's ability to translate acquired scientific skills and knowledge into continued research work or in other qualified professional work. The education should further develop the doctoral student's communicative and pedagogical skills in terms of expressing themselves well in speech and writing both within and outside academic contexts. In the education, it is mandatory for the doctoral student to study 5 higher education credits in higher education pedagogy within the framework of the 240 higher education credits that the education includes. The doctoral student should also acquire knowledge about planning and conducting research projects.

Education at research level will provide international contacts, for example in the form of participation in research conferences.

The specific goals of the programme that must be met in order to obtain a graduate degree in peace and development research are listed below. Otherwise, it is the goals listed in the Higher Education Ordinance, Qualifications Ordinance concerning Third-cycle qualifications that apply.

1.1 *Knowledge and understanding*

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge about and understanding of peace and development research and in-depth, up-to-date knowledge within a specialized area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with social science methods in general and with their use for peace and development research in particular.

1.2 *Skills and abilities*

By conducting independent research the candidate acquires the ability to plan, lead, conduct and publish research and to achieve international levels of scientific competence for basic and applied research as well as for other investigatory work where peace and development research is relevant.

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate ability to conduct scientific analysis and synthesis and to independently critically review and assess new and complex phenomena, questions and situations,
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision identify and formulate inquiries and plan and with appropriate methods carry out research and other qualified tasks within a given time frame and to review and evaluate such work,
- in their thesis demonstrate the ability to use their own research to contribute to the development of knowledge within peace and development research,
- demonstrate an ability in national as well as international contexts to both verbally and in writing present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scholarly community and society at large,
- demonstrate an ability to identify needs for further research within peace and development research and
- demonstrate that they are able – both within research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts – to contribute to the development of society and support others in their learning.

1.3 *Judgement and approach*

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity and the ability to make research ethical judgments and

- have in-depth insights into the capacity and limitations of peace and development research, its role in society, ethical dilemmas and the responsibility of the researcher for how research is used.

2. Entry requirements

To be admitted to the programme the applicant must meet the general and specific entry requirements according to the regulations stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapter 7.

2.1 General entry requirements

According to Chapter 7, paragraph 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the general entry requirements are met by a person who has:

- obtained a degree in the second cycle,
- completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, of which at least 60 are at advanced level, or
- in some other way acquired essentially equivalent knowledge either within or outside Sweden.

2.2 Specific entry requirements

In order to be admitted to the research programme in peace and development research, the following is required: knowledge from university education within the field of international relations, peace and conflict studies or global development studies of at least 60 credits, or other university education of equivalent depth and breadth.

3. Admission and selection

Admission to the research programme in peace and development research generally takes place following a faculty announcement. For further information about the regulations regarding announcement and admission see the Faculty Regulations for Admission to Research Education at the Social Sciences Faculty.

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 7, selection of applicants should take into consideration the applicants' ability to complete the education. As a basis for this selection procedure, the application should submit the following:

1. Results of completed courses with particular emphasis upon courses in the second-cycle (within the field of international relations, peace and conflict studies or global development studies).
2. Theses, exam papers and/or other scientific works. These are assessed based of the following quality criteria:
 - ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision identify and formulate scientific problems and inquiries,
 - ability to conduct scientific studies using appropriate methods and
 - ability to present and discuss results of a study in relation to earlier research.
3. A research plan in which the applicant presents their planned doctoral research. This is evaluated according to the following criteria:
 - ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision identify and formulate scientific problems and inquiries,
 - the originality of the proposed thesis topic,
 - the feasibility of the proposed thesis topic,
 - the relevance of the thesis topic for the department's research and,
 - the thesis topic's relationship to the available supervision competence at the department.
4. A Curriculum Vitae stating other relevant experiences and skills.

Evaluation and ranking of the applicants are conducted by the department's PhD supervisors' colloquium in peace and development research. This may involve interviews of the applicants after ranking based on the received application documents.

Decisions on admissions are made by the Head of Department.

4. The content and structure of the programme

Education at research level in peace and development research covers 240 credits and is concluded with a doctoral degree. It is possible to complete a licentiate degree after 120 credits if the requirements laid out in the Higher Education Ordinance for Licentiate Qualification have been met.

Education at research level consists partly of courses that are examined one by one and partly of independent research work that will result in an academic thesis. The candidate is also expected to

participate in seminars and contribute to the department's common activities, unless there are special reasons for not doing so.

The candidate may be given exemption for credits received from previous education. Decisions about exemption and consequent reduction of the study period are made following application by the candidate by the Head of Department when an individual study plan is drawn up, though at the latest 6 months after the design of the new study plan. Exemption should be aligned with equivalent reduction in the period of financial support. This reduction should be documented in the individual study plan. The study period may be reduced by a maximum of two years.

4.1 Courses

The education consists of one course section of 60 credits, of which 42,5 credits are compulsory courses. Other courses are decided upon in consultation with the supervisors.

4.2 Thesis and thesis defense

The main element in the programme is the authorship of an academic thesis in which the candidate contributes new knowledge to their research field. The candidate is expected to report on their thesis work regularly. This takes place in the first instance through the writing of a PhD proposal that is presented at a seminar at the department, a mid-term seminar after approximately half of the thesis work and a final seminar ("mock defence") in which a complete draft of the thesis is presented.

An external reader will read the manuscript for the final seminar.

According to the Higher Education Ordinance for doctoral degree, the thesis should be defended publicly.

5. Supervision

Two supervisors must be appointed for each doctoral student, of which one is the main supervisor and one is an assistant supervisor. All supervisors must be connected to the university either via employment or commission agreement. The main supervisor must have at least docent qualifications. At least one of the supervisors must have undergone supervisor training. A doctoral examiner must also be appointed for each doctoral student. The doctoral examiner must be at least a docent and employed at the University of

Gothenburg. The doctoral student has the right to supervision according to what is stated in the Application Decision for education at research level at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Candidates are entitled to change supervisor upon request.

6. Individual study plan

An individual study plan is drawn up for each candidate upon admission. This plan should specify what portions of the programme have been completed and what remains. The plan is to be used as a guide throughout the whole programme and should ensure that the studies are conducted and followed up in an efficient manner. The study plan is established by the Head of Department in consultation with the candidate, supervisor and examiner. The Head of Department is responsible for revisions to the study plan and for annual follow up. In the follow up it should be made clear how the studies are progressing. The candidate, supervisor and examiner and Head of Department must testify in writing that they have agreed to the plan and any changes.

7. Other items

For further details please consult current legislation, guidelines at the University of Gothenburg and at the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as local application principles at the Department of Global Studies.