

## General study plan for education at research level in Social Anthropology, 240/120 higher education credits

---

*This translation is not an official translation. The Swedish version is the binding document.*

This study plan was confirmed by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Gothenburg on 27 March 2007 and revised by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 18 December 2012, 28 December 2014, 25 December 2016 (U 2016/353), 13 December 2018 (Dnr: U 2018/716) and 15 December 2022 (GU 2022/2881) and 2024-06-13 (GU 2024/1636). With these changes the General Study Plan for the Licentiate Degree is revoked.

The study plan applies both to doctoral students who complete their studies with a PhD and to those who complete their studies with a Licentiate degree.

### 1. The aim of the programme

The PhD programme in Social Anthropology aims for the doctoral candidate to obtain a PhD or Licentiate degree.

The programme's overarching aim is to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to conduct independent research in social anthropology and to contribute to the development of knowledge in the discipline by authoring a scientific thesis. The education at research level in social anthropology also aims to develop the candidate's ability to utilize the scientific skills and knowledge they attain in continued research or other qualified professional work. The education also aims to develop the candidate's communication and pedagogical skills and ability to express themselves effectively both orally and in writing both in academic contexts and outside. It is obligatory for the candidate to take 5 credits in university pedagogy within the 240 credits of the whole programme. The candidate should also acquire knowledge about planning, leading and carrying out projects.

Education at research level will also give the candidate opportunities to establish international contacts e.g. by participating in conferences and/or placement at foreign educational institutions.

The specific aims of this programme, that must be met in order to obtain a degree at research level in social anthropology, are listed below. Otherwise, the goals listed in the Higher Education Ordinance, Qualifications Ordinance concerning Third-cycle qualifications apply.

### *1.1 Knowledge and understanding*

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

- in-depth knowledge of the subject and its methods and good insight into the central perspectives of the subject, and
- advanced knowledge within their field of specialization.

For the Licentiate degree, the doctoral candidate must have

- knowledge and understanding of the subject and its methodology, as well as significant insight into central perspectives of the subject, including current knowledge in their area of specialization.

### *1.2 Skills and abilities*

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- independently be able to identify, formulate, conduct and present a research task that contributes to knowledge in the selected field of specialization.

For the Licentiate degree, the doctoral candidate must

- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate, carry out, and present a research task that contributes to the body of knowledge in the chosen area of specialization.

### *1.3 Judgement and approach*

For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- independently and professionally be able to evaluate and critically relate to research development in the discipline and argue for their perspective in a professional manner.

For the Licentiate degree, the doctoral candidate must

- be able to assess and critically engage with research developments in the subject and professionally argue for their position

## **2. Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the programme the applicant must meet the general and specific entry requirements in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

## *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 of Sweden.

## *2.2 Specific entry requirements*

For admission to the research programme in social anthropology the following is required:

- Completion of at least 90 university credits in social or cultural anthropology or a closely related field.

## **3. Admission and selection**

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:

Theses and exam papers that are assessed according to the following criteria

- ability to formulate a problem and theoretical approach,
- ability to critically evaluate research material,
- ability to structure the material using anthropological concepts and analysis and
- ability to conduct analysis in a scientific and original manner.

A project plan in which the applicant presents the problem and theoretical approach as well as regional and ethnographic background for the thesis project. This plan forms the basis for evaluation of the applicant's ability to formulate a scientific problem. It also gives an indication of whether or not the project can be carried out within the framework of the study period and to what extent the department is able to provide adequate supervision.

Decisions on admissions are made by the Head of Department.

#### **4. The content and structure of the programme**

Education at research level in social anthropology 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 a scientific 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 studies. Decisions about exemption and consequent reduction of the study period are made following application by the candidate by the Head of Dept. 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 programme includes a coursework component of 60 credits, of which 37.5 credits are comprised of mandatory courses for the program.

Other courses are determined in consultation with the supervisor.

The doctoral program for the Licentiate degree includes a coursework component of 30 credits, of which 17.5 credits are comprised of mandatory courses for the program. The selection of courses is determined in consultation with the supervisor.

##### *4.2 Thesis and thesis defense*

The main element in the programme is the authorship of a scientific thesis in which the candidate contribute new knowledge to their research field. The candidate is expected to report on their thesis work regularly. This takes place initially in the form of a seminar at which the candidate presents their fieldwork and thesis plans, a homecoming seminar around halfway through their education and a first draft seminar at which the preliminary manuscript of the thesis is presented and a final seminar, when the complete manuscript is presented.

An external reader is called upon for the final seminar.

According to the regulations in the Higher Education Ordinance for doctoral degree the thesis must be defended at a public defense or a Licentiate seminar.

## **5. Supervision**

Two supervisors are allocated to each doctoral candidate, one main supervisor and one assistant supervisor. The main supervisor must be employed or an adjunct to University of Gothenburg and be an Associate Professor or Professor. At least one of the supervisors must have completed training in supervision. A doctoral examiner will also be allocated to each doctoral candidate. The examiner must be an Associate Professor or Professor and employed by the University of Gothenburg. The candidate is entitled to supervision in accordance with the *Decision on application for education at PhD level at the Faculty of Social Sciences (Tillämpningsbeslut för utbildning på forskarnivå vid Samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten)*.

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 education have been completed and what remains. The plan is to be used as a guide throughout the whole programme and should ensure that the education is conducted and followed up in an efficient manner. The study plan is finalized by the Head of Dept. in consultation with the candidate, supervisor and examiner. The Head of Dept. is responsible for revisions to the study plan and for annual follow up. In the follow up it should be made clear how the education is progressing. The candidate, supervisor and examiner and Head of Dept. must testify in writing that they have agreed to the plan and any changes.

## **7. Other items**

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