

Faculty Board's working committee

## General syllabus for third-cycle studies for the Degree of Licentiate in Art History and Visual Studies

This syllabus was approved by the Board of the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 22 November 2023 through the working committee and is supplemented by the *Provisions for third-cycle studies within the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology*, where detailed information on admissions and selection is found.

### 1 Subject description

English name: Art History and Visual Studies

Swedish name: Konsthistoria och visuella studier

Art History and Visual Studies deals with images and visual expression in a broad sense – painting, photography, architecture, design, educational images, aesthetic images and commercial images – from the past and present. The field of study concerns how people organise their knowledge about the world and create meaning and experiences through art and images. Analyses are based on aesthetic, cultural and societal perspectives.

### 2 Objective and outcomes of third-cycle studies

The aim of the third-cycle programmes at the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology at Lund University is to provide students with excellent research and communication skills that prepare them for work in academia and wider society, nationally and internationally.

The completion of the third-cycle programme in Art History and Visual Studies results in a Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy or Doctor of Philosophy.

Outcomes for a Degree of Licentiate in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (hereafter HEO), Appendix 2, Qualifications Ordinance:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as

specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

*Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

*Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

**Subject-specific outcomes for a Degree of Licentiate in Art History and Visual Studies:**

*Knowledge and understanding*

For the Degree of Licentiate in Art History and Visual Studies, the third-cycle student shall have acquired

- sound knowledge of different scholarly theories and methods concerning different visual, aesthetic and mass media expressions.

*Competence and skills*

For the Degree of Licentiate in Art History and Visual Studies, the third-cycle student shall have acquired

- the ability to independently analyse and interpret art and visual expressions in their cultural and societal contexts.

*Judgement and approach*

For the Degree of Licentiate in Art History and Visual Studies, the third-cycle student shall have acquired

- the ability to adopt a relevant research perspective of Art History and Visual Studies within wider scholarly and societal contexts.

**3 Admission requirements**

**Chapter 7 Section 35 HEO:**

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes are that the applicant

1. meets the general and specific entry requirements that the higher education institution may have laid down, and
2. is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme.

It is the applicant's responsibility to document their eligibility in the application by the deadline for applications.

### **3.1 General admission requirements**

Chapter 7 Section 39 HEO:

A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if they

1. have been awarded a second-cycle qualification
2. have satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or
3. have acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

### **3.2 Specific admission requirements**

Chapter 7 Section 40 HEO:

The specific entry requirements laid down shall be essential for students to be able to benefit from the course or study programme. These requirements may comprise:

1. knowledge from one or more higher education courses and study programmes or corresponding courses and study programmes
2. specific professional or vocational experience, and
3. requisite language skills or other conditions determined by the course or study programme.

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes in Art History and Visual Studies if they have

- 120 credits in Art History and Visual Studies or another relevant subject, of which at least 60 credits are from the second cycle
- passed a thesis comprising at least 15 second-cycle credits in Art History and Visual Studies or with a focus of relevance to Art History and Visual Studies
- good spoken and written proficiency in English, especially in academic genres
- the ability to assimilate scholarly texts in English.

A person also meets the specific admission requirements if they have acquired equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

### 3.3 Credit transfer

Pursuant to Chapter 6 Sections 6-7 of the HEO, a student is entitled to transfer credits from previous studies or count knowledge and skills whose nature and extent correspond on the whole to the course or study programme for which the credits or knowledge and skills are to be recognised.

Students must apply for credit transfer. The application will only be considered if it is submitted together with an application for admission to third-cycle studies. “However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants” (Chapter 7 Section 41 HEO).

A decision on credit transfer is taken in conjunction with a decision on admission. Credit transfer normally affects the duration of the assigned period of employment. In its proposal for admission, the department will propose possible credit transfer and any resulting reduction in the period of employment.

### 3.4 Selection

The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology will assess the applicant’s ability to benefit from the programme against the following criteria:

- quality
- quantity
- progress
- relevance.

When recruiting and selecting students for third-cycle education, diversity and an even gender distribution must always be taken into account in accordance with Lund University’s gender equality policy, equal opportunities policy and diversity plan. The under-represented gender is to be given priority among equally qualified candidates, unless special reasons dictate otherwise.

There must be coherence between the student’s research interests and the department’s ability to provide competent supervision.

## 4 The programme for a Degree of Licentiate

Third cycle studies comprise two years of full-time study (120 credits). Part-time studies (at least 50%) may be pursued but must be completed within four years.

### 4.1 Programme design

The programme’s 120 credits are made up of an academic thesis (licentiate thesis) comprising 90 credits and courses and other credit-earning components comprising 30 credits. Teaching is in the form of courses, seminars and supervision.

For a Degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student must have earned a grade of Pass in all examinations in the programme, including the licentiate thesis.

## 4.2 Supervision

At least two supervisors are to be appointed for each third-cycle student. One of them is to be nominated as the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor must have at least reader/associate professor (“docent”) qualifications or equivalent competence, and all the supervisors must have completed supervisor training.

Supervision comprises help with the orientation of studies and thesis work as well as support throughout the studies.

Licentiate candidates are entitled to supervision comprising at least 150 working hours distributed across the whole two-year study period. The hours are to include the supervisor’s preparation for supervision (such as reading thesis drafts), the supervision sessions and the overall planning of the programme, for example with regard to the individual study plan. However, tuition and assessment of the student in the context of third-cycle courses are not to be included in the hours for supervision.

The extent of supervision will vary throughout the programme and is detailed in the individual study plan as well as specified in the supervisors’ duties plans.

An individual third-cycle student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor (Chapter 6 Section 28 HEO).

## 4.3 Individual study plan

Chapter 6 Section 29 HEO:

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student. This plan shall contain the undertakings made by the doctoral student and the higher education institution and a timetable for the doctoral student’s study programme. The plan shall be adopted after consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors.

The individual study plan shall be reviewed regularly and amended by the higher education institution to the extent required after consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisors. The period of study may only be extended if there are special grounds for doing so. Such grounds may comprise leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for service in the defence forces or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave.

The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology have decided to adopt a digital tool for individual study plans. The study plan is to be printed and signed once a year by the third-cycle student, principal supervisor, Head of Department and Pro Dean. Please see the instructions appended to the tool.

The obligations of the third-cycle student are specified in Chapter 6 Section 30 HEO:

If a doctoral student substantially neglects their undertakings in the individual study plan, the Vice-Chancellor shall decide that the doctoral student is no longer entitled to supervision and other study resources.

#### 4.4 Courses, other credit-earning components and seminars

In addition to the licentiate thesis, the programme consists of courses and other credit-earning components completed at the home department or at other departments at or outside Lund University.

At the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology, the following courses are compulsory for all third-cycle students:

- an introductory course comprising 5 credits
- a course in research ethics comprising 3 credits
- a course in higher education teaching and learning comprising 3 credits

Other courses and credit-earning components are selected by the student in consultation with the supervisors. These courses and credit-earning components are divided into three areas which aim to 1) provide familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular, 2) provide broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field, and 3) provide up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field.

The individual study plan specifies the courses and other credit-earning components that the third-cycle student is to complete and that can be credited towards the degree, including compulsory components and previous courses for which credit transfer was granted upon admission of the student (see section 3.3 above). If courses and other credit-earning components during the programme are completed somewhere other than at the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology, the number of credits available for transfer will be determined by the examiner when the components are to be entered in the individual study plan.

One of the grades of Pass or Fail will be awarded for all examinations within the programme.

Seminars are a central and characteristic part of the third-cycle programmes at the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology. Active participation in the research seminars is included as part of the individual study plan.

A preliminary draft of the thesis is to be presented and discussed at a compulsory final seminar.

#### 4.5 Thesis

The licentiate thesis is the most important component of the third-cycle programme. It is to be based on an independently pursued research project completed under supervision.

The thesis is to be designed either as a monograph thesis or as a compilation thesis, which is a number of related research articles accompanied by a summary (“kappa”). Each of the publication formats requires specific planning for the thesis work. The third-cycle student is to be informed about the specific requirements and traditions regarding the publication formats at an early stage of the programme.

A project completed by two or more authors can be approved as a licentiate thesis or be included in a licentiate thesis, provided that the contributions of the authors are so clearly specified that they can be assessed individually.

The licentiate thesis is to be defended at a public seminar.

The thesis is awarded one of the grades of Pass or Fail. The grading is to take into account the defence of the thesis at the seminar.

For further information, see the *Provisions for third-cycle studies within the Faculties of Humanities and Theology* and the faculties' instructions for the public defence of a licentiate thesis.