General Study Plan for research education/studies in analytical sociology

The study plan applies to research studies that end in a doctoral degree in analytical sociology and for that which ends with a licentiate degree in analytical sociology.

The aim of research studies in analytical sociology is to widen and deepen the knowledge of the research student in the field of analytical sociology and make the student well prepared for independent contributions to research, teaching and development work. The aim of the education is that the student shall acquire the ability to independently and critically plan and carry out a qualified research contribution and present and spread his or her research results and knowledge nationally and internationally, both within and outside the academia.

1. The aim of the education
   For the doctoral degree the research student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a wide knowledge and a systematic understanding of analytical sociology as well as a wide and up-to-date specialist knowledge within a limited area of the field of analytical sociology and
- Demonstrate familiarity with scientific methods in general and with those specific to the research field in particular.

Proficiency and ability

- Demonstrate a capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as independent, critical examination and appraisal of new, complex phenomena, questions and situations
- Demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision, identify and formulate questions, as well as plan and conduct research and other qualified tasks using suitable methods and within given timeframes, and be able to critically review and evaluate such work
- With a dissertation, demonstrate the ability to substantially contribute to the development of knowledge through his or her own research.
- Demonstrate the ability in speech and in writing to authoritatively present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the research community and society in general, in both national and international contexts
- Demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- Provide evidence of a sound base within the realms of research and education, as well as in other qualified professional contexts from which to contribute to the development of society and to support the learning of others.

Judgement and approach

- Demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity as well as the ability to make judgements that are based on research ethics,
• demonstrate a profound insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people’s responsibility for how it is used.

For the licentiate degree the student shall:

**Knowledge and understanding**

• Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of analytical sociology, including actual specialist knowledge within a limited area of analytical sociology and a profound knowledge of scientific methodology in general and of methods in the specific research area in particular.

**Proficiency and ability**

• demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision, identify and formulate questions, as well as to plan and using suitable methods, conduct a piece of research within a narrow framework, as well as other qualified tasks within given timeframes, and in this way contribute to the advancement of knowledge and be able to critically evaluate this work,
• demonstrate the ability in speech and in writing to clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the research community and society in general, in both national and international contexts and
• demonstrate the skills required to be able to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other qualified fields.

**Judgement and approach**

• demonstrate the ability to make judgements that are ethical from a research perspective in his or her own research
• demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people’s responsibility for how it is used, and
• demonstrate awareness of the need to acquire more knowledge and be able to take responsibility for personal knowledge development.

2. **Conditions for Admission**

2.1 **Basic conditions**

Admission to the research programme requires that the applicant has both the basic eligibility and the specific eligibility qualifications specified below. An additional requirement is that the applicant is deemed to have the capacity that is needed to successfully complete their studies.

2.2 **General eligibility**

General eligibility for admission to research studies is held by a person who has been awarded a degree at master’s level, completed course requirements for at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 are at an advanced level, or in some other way either in Sweden or abroad attained generally equivalent knowledge. In cases where this is sufficiently motivated the Faculty Board may grant exceptions from these general eligibility requirements.
2.3 Special eligibility
A person with special eligibility is one who has minimum of 90 credits in some subject that is of central importance for analytical sociology.

3. Admissions

3.1 Applications
Applications for admission to research studies in Economics should be sent to the Head of the Department of Management and Engineering (IEI) at Linköping University.

3.2 Admission restrictions and selection
Only those doctoral students who can be offered supervision, acceptable study conditions in general and who have financing can be admitted to the research programme. Admission restrictions apply when the number of eligible applicants is greater than the number of available research places. The selection criteria for applicants eligible for admission to research studies in analytical sociology are based on the degree to which the applicants have the capacity to successfully complete such studies. In the selection process, the following are considered:

* Study results that show creativity, maturity, capacity for independent judgement and critical analysis. Specific importance is given to scientific work in the form of an essay or other form of scientific production
* that the applicant has specific knowledge and experience, for example professional experience, that can be significant for the successful completion of the research studies.
* relevant language skills

Selection is made primarily on the basis of documented material provided by the applicants themselves, such as independent study projects and employment testimonials. In addition, other factors in the selection process, such as interviews with the applicant and references can be important. The specific competences of the teachers involved in the research group are also taken into consideration when students are admitted.

3.3 Decisions concerning admissions
Decisions concerning admission to the research programme are taken by the Board of IEI.

4. The design of the studies

4.1 General
A doctor’s degree comprises 240 credits and consists of courses to a total of 60 credits and a dissertation for 180 credits.

The scope of a licentiate degree is 120 credits of which 30 are awarded for courses and 90 for a scientific essay. This degree can either be an end in itself or a stage towards a doctorate.

The student should begin scientific work during the first year of study and in this way, pursue research work in parallel with courses.
4.2 Courses

The doctoral degree incorporates courses to the value of 60 credits comprising:

- Those specified and compulsory courses in the research education relating to scientific method that incorporate scientific theory, research ethics, quantitative and qualitative method, 22.5 credits.
- Those courses that are specified and compulsory within the research education and are intended to provide a wide knowledge of the field analytical sociology, 15 credits.
- Elective courses whose purpose is to provide deeper knowledge within selected special areas, 22.5 credits.

The licentiate degree incorporates courses to the value of 30 credits comprising

- Those specified and compulsory courses in the research education relating to scientific method that incorporate scientific theory, research ethics, quantitative and qualitative method, 15 credits.
- Those courses that are specified and compulsory within the research education and are intended to provide a wide knowledge of the field analytical sociology, 15 credits.

In many of the courses, teaching is given while in others, knowledge is obtained through literature studies.

Research students who teach shall complete a course in university pedagogy. Such a course can be counted as an elective course.

For each individual student modifications can be made, taking into account the knowledge that the student already possesses and the demands of participating in the research environment. Courses are prescribed by the research student’s main supervisor after consultation with the assistant supervisor and the student.

If approved by the main supervisor, courses at master’s level that are not considered to be prerequisites for special eligibility can be included as part of the research education.

Seminars also constitute a part of research studies. This means that the research student is expected to present parts of the dissertation at seminars and actively participate both in the dissertation seminars held by other research students and in seminars with invited guests.

4.3 Further information

Further information about the research programme is available from the Department of Management and Engineering (IEI).

4.4 Dissertation for the doctoral degree

To be awarded a doctorate, the research student must write a scientific dissertation the scope of which is 180 credits. This dissertation must be based on independent research work and be relevant for research in the chosen field. The dissertation can either take the
form of a single, homogenous scientific work (a monography) or a collection of scientific papers that the researcher has written alone or together with other individuals, completed with a discussion that summarises the work (a compilation thesis). The papers in a compilation thesis should ideally have been published or have been accepted for publication in recognized scientific journals, but if this is not the case, shall be of such quality that they can be published in recognized scientific journals. In the case of team work, it must be possible to establish and judge the contribution made by each individual author.

The dissertation shall be defended publically. The rules that apply to a public defense are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, and are supplemented by local regulations stipulated by the University Board and the Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The script for the dissertation is discussed at a general seminar well before the dates its printing and the public defence are decided.

4.5. Licentiate degree thesis

To be awarded a licentiate degree, the research student must write a scientific work that has a scope of 90 credits. The thesis shall be based on independent research. The thesis shall be defended at a public seminar. The board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences decide on the details of how the thesis is presented.

5. The organization of the Research Studies

5.1 An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each research student. This shall include a time plan for the entire education, information as to how supervision is organized, a description of the other obligations of the student as well as other requirements for the studies to be conducted as effectively as possible. The individual study plan is determined by the Department of Management and Engineering (IEI) by delegation of the Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences after discussion with the research student and all of his or her supervisors. The individual study plan shall be followed up at least once a year, and the doctoral student and his or her supervisors shall confirm in writing that they are aware of its contents and in agreement.

5.2 Teaching

Teaching is mainly provided in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. During the course of the education, the research student shall participate in scientific activities by actively participating in seminars, guest lectures etc. The research student can be given the opportunity to participate in classes and in tests of knowledge at other faculties or seats of learning. It is the responsibility of the research environment to offer the student the opportunity to participate in courses and international conferences.

5.3 Supervision

For a doctorate, the student has the right to supervision for a period that corresponds to four years of full-time studies and for a licentiate, for two years. The choice of research topic shall be taken in consultation between the student and all of his or her supervisors.
The supervisors for the research programme are its professors, readers and specially appointed teachers. These individuals have a collective responsibility for the supervision. At least two supervisors are assigned to each research student. One of these will be the main supervisor. The supervisors are chosen in consultation with the research student. The main supervisor must have reader competence, be employed at Linköping University and have taken a course in research supervision. The assistant supervisor must have a doctorate or the equivalent scientific competence. A research study who so demands has the right to change supervisor.

The Vice Chancellor has set down the guidelines for examining the right to supervision and other resources for research students.

6. Examination

Examination is primarily through written or oral tests and is intended to ensure that the aims of the education are fulfilled. These are graded pass or fail. For courses where no specific examiner has been appointed the main supervisor is the examiner and documents the completion of those elements in the education that are not connected to courses or to the dissertation.

The doctoral dissertation is judged by an examining committee in accordance with the regulations in the Higher Education Ordinance as well as local applications stipulated by the University Board and the Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Upon grading the dissertation, the degree of independence in the work, the content of the dissertation and its defence are considered. The dissertation is graded pass or fail.

The specific forms for defending a licentiate thesis are decided by the Board of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The licentiate thesis is graded pass or fail.