



LTH
FACULTY OF
ENGINEERING

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International Office

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Architecture leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts TEKAAF00

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of LTH on 9 April 2025 (reg. no. U 2025/256).

1. Subject description

Architecture as an academic discipline explores and develops knowledge of the practice of spatial design and its significance for people, society and the environment.

Artistic third-cycle studies in architecture provides opportunities for reflection and knowledge formation in, about and through the artistic design of architecture or architecture-related themes.

The third-cycle studies in the subject aim to explore current spatial and design-related issues through artistic and practice-based approaches and methods, while drawing on relevant theory. This provides an opportunity for critical, creative and innovative exploration in the field of architecture. The third-cycle programme thereby contributes to the development of knowledge and experience and supports architecture as a subject, architecture as a discipline and spatially-oriented artistic design.

2. The objective of third-cycle studies leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts at LTH

Third-cycle studies leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts at LTH have an overall objective to contribute to cultural

and societal development through doctoral graduates contributing to the shaping of society and its artefacts, to artistic reflection on people's relation to their surrounding environment, and to the development of design practitioners' forms of expression. The studies aim to develop:

- artistic creativity and independence with the ability to formulate advanced questions, analyse and practically process problems using artistically relevant research methodology
- the ability to plan, implement, present and evaluate a documented artistic research project within limited timeframes
- depth and breadth within their subject area combined with advanced ability in artistic evaluation, practical skills and design expertise

3. Learning outcomes for third-cycle studies

The following learning outcomes for third-cycle studies are stated in the Higher Education Ordinance.

3.1. Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in their artistic 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 of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate creative capacity in their artistic field
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and

creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake an artistic research project and other qualified artistic 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 of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, 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 their artistic development.

3.2. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in their artistic field, and

- demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate creative capacity in their artistic field
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a documented artistic research project the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through their own research
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy, artistic integrity and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Midway review

A midway review, with an aim to check where the doctoral student stands in relation to the qualitative targets, is to be conducted at least once and with an external reviewer in accordance with the faculty's instructions, preferably halfway through the programme period for studies leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts.

4. General and specific admission requirements

4.1. General admission requirements

A person meets the general admission requirements if they have:

1. been awarded a second-cycle qualification, or
2. satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or
3. 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.

4.2. Specific admission requirements

A person meets the specific admission requirements if they have

- at least 180 credits in architecture, interior architecture, landscape architecture, urban design or other equivalent studies that cover spatial design, of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle

- documented artistic skills and suitability for studies in the subject area
- necessary language skills in English to be able to benefit from the programme.

Finally, the student must be judged to have the potential to complete the programme.

5. Selection

Selection for third-cycle studies is based on the student's potential to benefit from such studies.

The assessment of potential is mainly based on credits awarded in the first and second cycle in the subject area or corresponding studies, and on documents that in addition to e.g. degree projects may contain other documented practice-based work that demonstrates relevant artistic spatial design ability. The selection process also involves assessment through references and an interview. In the selection process, the following are given particular consideration:

- Knowledge and skills relevant to the subject area and the documented artistic research project
- Assessed ability for independent work, to be able to formulate subject-relevant issues and to address these using artistic methodology
- Demonstrated ability for subject-relevant communication regarding designed, visualised, written and oral presentation
- Other experience relevant to the third-cycle studies, e.g. professional experience.

6. Degree requirements and title of degree

Third-cycle studies conclude with a doctoral degree or, if the student so wishes or if it is stated in the admission decision, with a licentiate degree. The student also has the right, but no obligation, to obtain a licentiate degree as a stage in third-cycle studies.

6.1. Degree requirements

A Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts requires

- passed courses of at least 30 credits
- a passed documented artistic research project with a scope corresponding to studies of at least 60 credits

The documented artistic research project and courses combined are to comprise 120 credits.

A Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts requires

- passed courses of at least 60 credits
- a passed documented artistic research project with a scope corresponding to studies of at least 120 credits

The documented artistic research project and courses combined are to comprise 240 credits.

6.2. Degree titles

The degree titles that the programme leads to are:

- Konstnärlig licentiatexamen i Arkitektur/Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Architecture
- Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i Arkitektur/Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Architecture

7. Course component

The programme includes courses, and for each course there is to be a written course syllabus which, among other things, states the course title in Swedish and English, the learning outcomes for the course, content and number of credits involved.

The doctoral student's individual study plan is to state the courses that will or may be included in the specific student's programme and the number of credits that are to be earned from each course. Courses completed at another faculty or recognised from another higher education institution may be transferred, after consultation with the

supervisor and a decision by the person responsible for third-cycle studies at the student's department.

7.1. Compulsory faculty-wide courses

Participation and a pass grade are compulsory regarding the course Introductory Workshop for Newly Admitted PhD Students at LTH, GEM056F, 2 credits, or equivalent.

Participation and a pass grade are also compulsory regarding the course Research Ethics, GEM090F, 3 credits, or equivalent.

7.2. Course requirements for licentiate degree

The degree is to include cross-disciplinary courses corresponding to a total of at least 15 credits and which are to cover knowledge development through design, artistic practice-driven methods, architecture research theories, and subject-relevant research communication.

Furthermore, subject-relevant courses are to be included on the history and present status of the artistic practice-based research, corresponding to at least 3 credits.

In addition to this, the programme for the licentiate degree may include courses and credit-earning components specifically related to the individual artistic research project, courses that are to be approved by the head of department or, if delegation applies, by the director of third-cycle studies.

7.3. Course requirements for doctoral degree

The degree is to include cross-disciplinary courses corresponding to a total of at least 25 credits and which are to cover knowledge development through design, artistic practice-driven methods, architecture research theories, and subject-relevant research communication.

Furthermore, a subject-relevant course, or courses, is to be included on the history and present status of the artistic practice-based research, corresponding to at least 7 credits.

A course on teaching and learning in higher education is also to be included, corresponding to at least 3 credits.

In addition to this, the programme for the doctoral degree may include courses and credit-earning components specifically related to the individual artistic research project, courses that are to be approved by the head of department or, if delegation applies, by the director of third-cycle studies.

8. Documented artistic research project

8.1. Focus

The programme is to include a documented artistic research project. The focus and issue of the project are to stem from an artistically based research-related stance. The focus is formulated by the doctoral student in consultation with their supervisor.

8.2. Continuous reporting

Work on the artistic project is reported and discussed continuously at working seminars at stages approximately 25%, 50% and 90% into the total study period. This is conducted in the form of open seminars with invited critics.

8.3. Documented artistic research project for a licentiate degree

The documented artistic research project is to show the third-cycle student's ability to identify, formulate and manage a practice-based research problem. The project is to be presented in a relevant artistic format that is made public, defended and archived.

The documented artistic research project is to be presented and summarised either through a single publishable presentation or as an aggregation of several presentations. After a working seminar at the 90% stage with a subject-expert reviewer, the project is finalised and made accessible to the public in an appropriate way before it is defended to obtain a licentiate degree in discussion with an external critical reviewer. The grade for the documented artistic research

project for the licentiate degree is decided by an examiner appointed by the head of department, and is to be archived following approval.

Work that is carried out and presented by two or more people may be approved as a licentiate project following a special request concerning this, provided that the contributions of the individual presenters can be assessed separately, corresponding to the requirements of third-cycle studies.

8.4. Documented artistic research project for a doctoral degree

The documented artistic research project for a doctoral degree is to show the third-cycle student's ability in a developed, design-based way to identify, artistically formulate and thereby address a research problem in a reflective way. In a developed and subject-relevant way, the documented artistic research project is to be contextualised, presented and published in an optional artistic format.

The final artistic research project can be made up of a single, extensive and well-reported presentation or as an aggregate of a series of documented presentations.

A final seminar (based on a presentation of approximately 90% of the intended artistic research project's final results) is to be held with an externally appointed seminar reviewer, after which the documented artistic research project is supplemented and finalised.

The finalised documented artistic research project is made public in an appropriate way, and is presented in its entirety in connection with the public defence with an external reviewer from another higher education institution, where it is also judged and assessed by an examining committee composed in accordance with the faculty's rules regarding conflict of interest, gender distribution and expertise for the assessment of artistic research. Approximately two months before the public defence, the members of the examining committee are given the opportunity in a preview to assess the status of the project regarding readiness and defensibility.

After the public defence and approval, the documented artistic research project and the associated results are to be archived in a way that is appropriate for the nature of the artistic project.

A documented artistic research project that is presented by two or more people may be approved following a special request, provided that the contributions of the individual presenters can be clearly distinguished and assessed separately corresponding to the requirements of third-cycle studies leading to a doctoral degree.