

Department of Business Administration

## **General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in Business Administration for the Degree of Doctor at Lund University School of Economics and Management**

This syllabus was adopted by the Board of the School of Economics and Management on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, revised on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012; June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014; October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018; November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020; October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023; and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Replaces earlier syllabus with reg. no U 2023/809. See also [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#), reg. no STYR 2025/654.

Third-cycle studies are offered to the extent that available resources allow.

### **1 Description of the third-cycle subject area**

Business Administration examines how companies and other organizations function internally and in relation to their environment. It is a broad, multidisciplinary subject with distinct subdivisions – at the School of Economics and Management these subdivisions are Strategy; Marketing; Organization; Entrepreneurship; Accounting and Finance – focusing on different aspects of business enterprise and links to different theoretical and methodological traditions. Business administration research aims both to explain events and to investigate how businesses can be developed for the benefit of different stakeholders and society as a whole.

### **2 Aim of the programme and learning outcomes**

The third-cycle programme in Business Administration aims to provide students with specialised knowledge of the subject of business administration, thorough knowledge of different research methods and a good understanding of the common research issues and their practical application. The overall aim of the programme is to train students to become critical and independent researchers in business administration able to plan and carry out research projects.

*Knowledge and understanding*

For the Degree of Doctor 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 a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

*Competence and skills*

For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a dissertation the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her 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 the Degree of Doctor the doctoral student shall

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

The doctoral programme in Business Administration leads to a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Business Administration. Doctoral students can choose between “filosofie doktor” or “ekonomie doktor”. The English title is the same, “Doctor of Philosophy”.

### **3 Admission requirements**

#### **3.1 General admission requirements**

An applicant has general eligibility for third-cycle studies if he or she has been awarded a second-cycle degree, has completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, including at least 60 second-cycle credits, or has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad (Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 7 Section 39).

#### **3.2 Specific admission requirements**

An applicant is eligible to be admitted to third-cycle studies in Business Administration if he or she fulfils the general admission requirements and has completed at least 90 credits in a relevant subject, as well as an independent project in a relevant subject worth at least 15 credits. An applicant is also eligible if he or she has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad.

### **4 Programme structure and content**

#### **4.1 Programme structure**

The programme encompasses 240 credits, divided into a course component of 90 credits and a thesis component of 150 credits. Tuition is offered in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. The programme demands four years of full-time study.

#### **4.2 Courses**

The course component consists of the following compulsory elements:

- Overview of research methods (15 credits)
- Qualitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- Quantitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- Theory of science (7.5 credits)
- Theory of Business Administration (7.5 credits)
- Research Ethics (3 credits)

Information on which of the courses offered at the department that correspond to compulsory elements is to be found in the current course information.

The remaining 42 credits consist of optional courses.

### 4.3 Thesis work

As a part of the studies and thesis work, the doctoral student shall actively participate in seminars on the research activities of the department and the thesis work of other doctoral students. Moreover, doctoral students are expected to critically review the thesis work of other doctoral students at work-in-progress seminars.

The doctoral student is expected to present the thesis work at the compulsory departmental seminars. It is a minimum requirement that the doctoral student has three internal seminars during the period of study, where written documents are discussed and assessed:

- A *research proposal seminar* is held at a relatively early stage where the doctoral student's thesis idea is discussed and assessed.
- A *mid-seminar* is held about halfway through the programme when the structure and essential parts of the thesis including preliminary results are ready.
- A *final seminar* is held at a late stage where the doctoral student's complete thesis is discussed and assessed.

## 5 Teaching and examination

Teaching is carried out through courses and seminars. The course provision at the department is planned annually, taking into account the resources available in terms of academic staff and funding. Besides the organised course provision, seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a Doctoral degree, the student must have passed all examinations included in the programme and the doctoral thesis.

Further information regarding admission and selection to the doctoral programme is available in [Admission Rules for Doctoral Education at Lund University](#) (STYR 2024/288).

Further information regarding individual study plans, supervision, the thesis, public defense and the examining committee is available in [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#) (STYR 2025/654).

## 6 Other

A doctoral student who originally planned to complete their studies with a doctoral degree shall be able to complete their studies with a licentiate degree if the education covers at least 120 credits and otherwise meets the requirements for a licentiate degree.

# **General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in Business Administration for the Degree of Licentiate at Lund University School of Economics and Management**

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Third-cycle studies are offered to the extent that available resources allow.

## **1 Description of the third-cycle subject area**

Business Administration examines how companies and other organizations function internally and in relation to their environment. It is a broad, multidisciplinary subject with distinct subdivisions – at the School of Economics and Management these subdivisions are Strategy; Marketing; Organization; Entrepreneurship; Accounting and Finance – focusing on different aspects of business enterprise and links to different theoretical and methodological traditions. Business administration research aims both to explain events and to investigate how businesses can be developed for the benefit of different stakeholders and society as a whole.

## **2 Aim of the programme and learning outcomes**

The third-cycle programme for the degree of Licentiate in Business Administration aims to provide students with specialised knowledge of the subject of business administration, fundamental knowledge of different research methods and understanding of the common research issues and their practical application. The overall aim of the programme is to train students to become critical and independent researchers in business administration. The programme can be studied on its own or as a stage towards a degree of Doctor.

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Licentiate the research 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 research 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 research 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.

The doctoral programme in Business Administration leads to a Licentiate of Philosophy degree in Business Administration. Students can choose between “filosofie licentiat” or “ekonomie licentiat”. The English title is the same, “Licentiate of Philosophy”.

### **3 Admission requirements**

#### **3.1 General admission requirements**

An applicant has general eligibility for third-cycle studies if he or she has been awarded a second-cycle degree, has completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, including at least 60 second-cycle credits, or has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad (Higher Education Ordinance Chapter 7 Section 39).

#### **3.2 Specific admission requirements**

An applicant is eligible to be admitted to third-cycle studies in Business Administration if he or she fulfils the general admission requirements and has documented qualifications worth at least 90 credits in a relevant subject, as well as an independent project in a relevant subject worth at least 15 credits. An applicant is also eligible if he or she has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad.

## 4 Programme structure and content

### 4.1 Programme structure

The programme encompasses 120 credits, divided into a course component of 45 credits and a thesis component of 75 credits. Tuition is offered in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. The programme demands two years of full-time study.

### 4.2 Courses

The course component consists of the following compulsory elements:

- Overview of research methods (15 credits)
- Qualitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- Quantitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- Research Ethics (3 credits)

Information on which of the courses offered at the department that correspond to the compulsory elements is to be found in the current course information.

The remaining 12 credits consist of optional courses.

### 4.3 Thesis work

As a part of the studies and thesis work, the student shall actively participate in seminars on the research activities of the department and the thesis work of doctoral students.

The licentiate student is expected to present the thesis work at the compulsory departmental seminars. It is a minimum requirement that the licentiate student has two internal seminars during the period of study, where written documents are discussed and assessed:

- A *research proposal seminar* is held at a relatively early stage where the doctoral student's thesis idea is discussed and assessed.
- A *final seminar* is held at a late stage where the doctoral student's complete thesis is discussed and assessed.

## 5 Teaching and examination

Teaching is carried out through courses and seminars. The course provision at the department is planned annually, taking into account the resources available in terms of academic staff and funding. Besides the organized course provision, seminars and guest lectures are provided.

For a degree of Licentiate, the student must have passed all examinations included in the programme and the licentiate thesis.

Further information regarding admission and selection to the doctoral programme is available in [Admission Rules for Doctoral Education at Lund University](#) (STYR 2024/288).

Further information regarding individual study plans, supervision, the licentiate thesis, the public seminar and the examiner is available in [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#) (STYR 2025/654).