

Department of Economic History

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

The syllabus for third-cycle studies in Economic History was adopted by the Board of the School of Economics and Management on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013; revised on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018; June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020; and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Replaces earlier syllabus with reg. no U 2020/471. See also [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#), reg. no STYR 2025/654.

The revised General Syllabus applies to postgraduate students admitted after June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

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

Economic history is the study of the material conditions of social development and people's opportunities for livelihood, as well as how economic change processes are linked to social, technological and political conditions and have environmental and distributional consequences. Economic growth, structural change, income distribution, innovation, environmental history, the labour market, migration and demography are central research themes in economic history.

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

The third-cycle programme in Economic History aims to provide students with knowledge of the key issues in the discipline, understanding of its theories and methods and familiarity with source and reference materials that will enable them to engage in independent research and to place their results in the broader context of Economic History.

*Knowledge and understanding*

For a 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 a 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 a 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 Economic History leads to a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Economic History.

### **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 Economic History if he or she fulfils the general admission requirements and has documented qualifications worth at least 90 credits in Economic History, as well as an independent project (degree project) in Economic History worth at least 15 credits. In individual assessments, persons with equivalent degrees in related subjects such as economics, history and geography may also be admitted if this is considered an adequate qualification. 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 third-cycle programme in Economic History encompasses four years of full-time study, corresponding to 240 credits. The programme comprises a course component of 75 credits and a thesis component of 165 credits. Courses in Foundations of Economic History and Designing a PhD dissertation are included in the first year of the programme, normally together with further compulsory courses. Towards the end of the first year, the doctoral student is to choose a thesis topic and draw up a plan for the thesis. During the second year additional courses are taken in parallel with work on the thesis. The doctoral student shall actively participate in the departmental seminars and present at least two of his or her own works there before the public defense: mid-seminar and final seminar. The two final years are devoted to work on the thesis, and optional courses.

### 4.2. Programme content

#### 4.2.1 Courses

The following compulsory courses of 55.5 credits in all are included in the course component:

- EHEH001 Designing a PhD project (7.5 credits)
- EHEH002 Foundations of Economic History (15 credits)
- EEH002F Research Seminars (7.5 credits)
- Quantitative Methods (7.5 credits). Consists of elective courses in quantitative methods at second- or third-cycle level.
- Theory of Science (7.5 credits)
- Research Ethics (3 credits)
- Qualitative Methods (7.5 credits). Consists of elective courses in qualitative methods at second- or third-cycle level.

In addition to these courses, a number of elective courses totalling 19.5 credits are included.

The selection of elective courses is regulated in the individual study plan in collaboration with the supervisors. Doctoral students admitted in accordance with the earlier general syllabi (reg. no EHL 2009/147 and U 2020/471) may combine the compulsory courses from both study plans.

#### *4.2.2. Thesis work*

During work on the thesis the doctoral student is expected to present work in progress twice at a departmental seminar. The doctoral student's complete thesis should be discussed and assessed at a final seminar. The final seminar is followed up by an exit talk where the department opponent, the supervisors, the doctoral student and a department representative (usually the director of third-cycle studies) discuss what needs to be rectified and draw up a time plan for the work. The doctoral student is then to summarize the action plan in a document which is to be approved by the others.

## **5 Teaching and examination**

The department will provide a specification of planned tuition at the beginning of the academic year. Teaching is carried out through lectures, exercises, seminars and supervision, and is adapted to the resources available, the number of doctoral students, the character of the courses, the supervisors' wishes, etc. Teaching is intended to promote the doctoral students' ability to independently benefit from their literature studies and support them in completing their theses.

As a part of the programme, the doctoral student shall actively participate in the departmental seminars throughout the entire study period. The seminars will deal with theses and papers in progress, along with general research issues presented by specially invited international guests.

Assessment is carried out during or in association with the courses. Examination takes place orally and/or in writing and the grades Pass or Fail are awarded. 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 Economic History for the Degree of Licentiate at Lund University School of Economics and Management

The syllabus for third-cycle studies in Economic History was adopted by the Board of the School of Economics and Management on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013; revised on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018; June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020; and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Replaces earlier syllabus with reg. no U 2020/471. See also [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#), reg. no STYR 2025/654.

The revised General Syllabus applies to postgraduate students admitted after June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

## 1 Description of the third-cycle subject area

Economic history is the study of the material conditions of social development and people's opportunities for livelihood, as well as how economic change processes are linked to social, technological and political conditions and have environmental and distributional consequences. Economic growth, structural change, income distribution, innovation, environmental history, the labour market, migration and demography are central research themes in economic history.

## 2 Aim of the programme and learning outcomes

The third-cycle programme in Economic History aims to provide research students with knowledge of the key issues in the discipline, understanding of its theories and methods and familiarity with source and reference materials that will enable them to engage in independent research and to place their results in the broader context of Economic History.

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a degree of Licentiate, the research student shall:

- knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as specialized 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 Economic History leads to a Licentiate of Philosophy degree in Economic History.

### **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 Economic History if he or she fulfils the general admission requirements and has documented qualifications worth at least 90 credits in Economic History, as well as an independent project (degree project) in Economic History worth at least 15 credits. In individual assessments, persons with equivalent degrees in related subjects such as economics, history and geography may also be admitted if this is considered an adequate qualification. 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 third-cycle degree programme in Economic History for a licentiate degree encompasses two years of full-time study, corresponding to 120 credits. The programme comprises a course component of 60 credits and a thesis component of 60 credits. Courses in Foundations of Economic History and Designing a PhD dissertation are included in the first year of the programme, normally together with further compulsory courses. Towards the end of the first year, the research student is to choose a thesis topic and draw up a plan for the thesis. During the second year additional courses are taken in parallel with work on the licentiate thesis.

### 4.2 Programme content

#### 4.2.1. Courses

The following compulsory courses of 55.5 credits in all are included in the course component:

- EHEH001 Designing a PhD project (7.5 credits)
- EHEH002 Foundations of Economic History (15 credits)
- EEH002F Research Seminars (7.5 credits)
- Quantitative Methods (7.5 credits). Consists of elective courses in quantitative methods at second- or third-cycle level.
- Theory of Science (7.5 credits)
- Research Ethics (3 credits)
- Qualitative Methods (7.5 credits). Consists of elective courses in qualitative methods at second- or third-cycle level.

In addition to these courses, one or two elective courses totalling 4.5 credits are included.

The selection of elective courses is regulated in the individual study plan in collaboration with the supervisors. Doctoral students admitted in accordance with the earlier general syllabi (reg. no EHL 2009/147 and U 2020/471) may combine the compulsory courses from both study plans.

#### 4.2.2. Thesis work

The licentiate thesis comprises 60 credits. The licentiate thesis is to document the research student's ability to treat a research issue. The licentiate thesis should be either a coherent scholarly work – a monograph – or a compilation thesis consisting of a collection of articles with a short summary. Scholarly work in which the research student is co-author may also be included in or comprise the licentiate thesis. In such cases, the individual research student's contribution must be clearly identifiable.

## 5 Teaching and examination

The department will provide a specification of planned tuition at the beginning of the academic year. Teaching is carried out through lectures, exercises, seminars and supervision, and is adapted to the resources available, the number of research students, the character of the courses, the supervisors' wishes, etc. Teaching is intended to promote the research students' ability to independently benefit from their literature studies and support them in completing their theses.

As a part of the programme, the research student shall actively participate in the departmental seminars throughout the entire study period. The seminars will deal with theses and papers in progress, along with general research issues presented by specially invited international guests.

Assessment is carried out during or in association with the courses. Examination takes place orally and/or in writing and the grades Pass or Fail are awarded. For a Licentiate degree, 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 and the examiner is available in [Guidelines for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management](#) (STYR 2025/654).