General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in Economic History for the Degree of Doctor at Lund University

The syllabus for third-cycle studies in Economic History was adopted by the Board of the School of Economics and Management on 18 December 2013. See also Regulations for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management, adopted on 18 December 2013, reg. no EHL 2013/182, Regulations for third-cycle education, approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 13 June 2013 (reg. no LS 2012/718) and Admission rules for third-cycle education, approved by the University Board on 15 June 2013 (reg. no LS 2012/719).

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

1 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.

For a degree of Doctor in Economic History research students are expected to have attained the advanced knowledge and skills required to be able to

- present in-depth knowledge of the historical development of production and distribution, population growth and living standards and the institutions and systems for the overall organisation of production and distribution
- account for and use the general research methods of Economic History
- account for and use econometric methods in research in Economic History
- critically review and assess scholarly texts
- independently identify and formulate general issues within Economic History relevant to the understanding of economic development and social change
- independently identify, collect and process source and database material that is relevant to the analysis of economic development and social change
- independently delimit, design and execute a research task relevant to both the theoretical foundation of the research field and the selected issue in Economic History
- apply scholarly methods
- present their own and others’ research results in a pedagogical and interesting manner
- communicate research results and perspectives of Economic History to both experts and non-experts
2 Admission requirements

2.1. 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).

2.2. 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. An applicant is also eligible if he or she has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad.

3 Admission and selection

3.1. Admission
Applications should be submitted to the head of department. The admission procedure is initiated by the advertisement of a place or places available on the programme. The head of department decides on admission in consultation with the supervisors’ committee. A decision to admit new students to the programme implies that a financing plan has been settled.

3.2. Selection
Selection among the eligible applicants will be based on the applicant’s ability to benefit from the programme. The selection criteria are the breadth, depth, relevance, and independence of the applicant’s earlier work, as well as the applicant’s ability to work independently and participate actively in the research environment. Special attention is paid to degree projects.

Selection may also be based on a research project plan, letters of recommendation from established research contacts and, in certain cases, a personal interview.

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. In cases where a student is appointed to a doctoral studentship and fulfils departmental duties to a certain extent (no more than 20 percent), the programme is extended correspondingly. The programme comprises a course component of 75 credits and a thesis component of 165 credits. Courses in Milestones in Economic History and Research Design 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 two final years are devoted to work on the thesis.

4.2. Programme content

4.2.1. Courses
The following compulsory courses of 45 credits in all are included in the course component:
- Foundations in Economic History (15 credits)
• Designing a Ph.D. (7.5 credits)
• Research Seminar (7.5 credits)
• Quantitative Methods (7.5 credits). Comprises either Econometrics or Advanced Time Series Analysis, or another second-cycle course in quantitative methods worth 7.5 credits
• Theory of Science (7.5 credits)

In addition to these courses, a number of elective courses totalling 30 credits are included. The selection of elective courses is regulated in the individual study plan in accordance with the specialisation of the individual student. Doctoral students admitted in accordance with the earlier study plan (reg. no EHL 2009/147) may combine the compulsory courses from both study plans. The components included in both study plans (Designing a Ph.D. and Quantitative Methods/Econometrics) are compulsory.

A doctoral student is entitled to apply for credit transfer of second- or third-cycle courses taken at Lund University or other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad. This also applies to courses equivalent to the compulsory components of the programme with the exception of Designing a Ph.D. and the Research Seminar. The assessment of applications for credit transfer is to be carried out by the examiner by delegation of the head of department. An assessment may result in the doctoral student having to supplement his or her work in order to have credits transferred.

4.2.2. Doctoral thesis
During work on the thesis the research student is expected to present work in progress at departmental seminars. The doctoral student’s complete thesis should be discussed and assessed at a final seminar.

The doctoral thesis should document the research student’s ability to address a research problem. The doctoral thesis should be designed either as a unified, coherent work – a monograph – or as a compilation thesis consisting of a collection of articles with a summary. Scholarly work in which the doctoral student is co-author may also be included in or comprise the doctoral thesis. In such cases, the individual doctoral student’s contribution must be clearly identifiable. More detailed information on the guidelines for writing a doctoral thesis can be found on the website for third-cycle studies.

4.3. Supervision
The research student is entitled to two supervisors, one of whom is to be appointed main supervisor, during the period needed to complete the programme of 240 credits. The main supervisor should be active within the Department of Economic History. The research student has the right to request a change of supervisor. The rules for changing supervisor are approved by the faculty board. The supervisors should provide the research student with advice and instructions on how to choose courses, and how to focus, plan and carry out the thesis work. The doctoral student should be in regular contact with the supervisors, keep them informed of the progress of the work and ask for the supervisors’ advice about planning of further work.

The doctoral student shall, in consultation with the supervisors, draw up an individual study plan for the courses and components that should be included in the programme. This plan is to be reviewed once a year. The supervisors ensure that the study plan is well adapted to its purpose. The head of department and the director of research studies are responsible for the continuous follow-up of the doctoral students’ individual study plans.
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. Tuition 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 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 in Economic History that are related to recently published literature. Furthermore, it is assumed that the doctoral student will keep up to date with journals related to Economic History. All doctoral students should have the opportunity to participate in the University’s courses in teaching and learning in higher education, and those involved in teaching must take at least two weeks of such courses.

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. The doctoral thesis must be defended orally in public and will be assessed by an examining committee.

Further information regarding the thesis, public defence and the examining committee is available in Regulations for third-cycle studies at the School of Economics and Management, reg. no EHL 2013/182.