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

This syllabus was adopted by the Board of the School of Economics and Management on 13 April 2007 and amended on 14 September 2012 and 16 June 2014. See also Regulations for Third-Cycle Studies at the School of Economics and Management, adopted on 18 December 2013, reg. no EHL 2013/182.

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 Business Administration at the Lund University School of Economics and Management 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.

On completion of the programme, the doctoral students shall be able to

- demonstrate broad knowledge in business administration and a systematic understanding together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field
- demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular
- demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly analysis and synthesis and in independent, critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate issues, critically, independently and creatively, and to plan and, using appropriate methods, conduct research and other advanced tasks within specified time limits, and to scrutinise and evaluate such work
- demonstrate, in a thesis, their ability to make a substantial contribution to the development of knowledge by their own research
- demonstrate an ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge, and
- demonstrate a potential to contribute to the development of society and support other people’s learning, both in the field of research and education and in other advanced professional contexts
- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity and an ability to make ethical assessments relating to research, and
- demonstrate deeper insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used

For the overall aims of the programme, see also Regulation for Third-Cycle Studies at the School of Economics and Management and the Qualifications Ordinance for third-cycle degrees (licentiate and doctor) in the Higher Education Ordinance Annex 2.

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\(^1\), 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).

Pursuant to a transitional provision applicable up to the end of 2015, a student who met the general entry requirements for doctoral programmes before 1 July 2007 will also be considered to meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes after that.

2.2. 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.

3 Admission and selection

Admission to third-cycle studies takes place twice a year. A student admitted to studies for a degree of licentiate must apply again to be admitted to studies for a degree of doctor.

The head of department decides on admission to the programme in consultation with the director of research studies and, when necessary, a specialist in the area of the applicant’s planned research project. The overriding selection criterion is the applicant’s ability to benefit from the programme. Other selection criteria are the applicant’s study record, research achievements, papers, reports etc., as well as the research project plan that the applicant will be expected to submit. First- and second-cycle degree projects are particularly important.

Prior to admission, the department considers to what extent appropriate supervision can be offered, i.e. that there is at least one member of the academic staff who has the qualifications of a reader and adequate knowledge of the applicant’s research field, and who is available for supervision. A financing plan must also be submitted on admission, showing that the applicant’s entire period of study is appropriately financed.

Before studies can commence, the student must register for the programme and state the degree of activity for the studies. Subsequently, the research student must register at the beginning of each semester and state the degree of activity, decided in consultation with the supervisor.

\(^{1}\) 240 higher education credits correspond to 160 credits in the previous provisions, so that 1.5 higher education credits correspond to 1.0 "old" credit.
4 Programme structure and content

4.1. Programme structure

The third-cycle programme comprises courses and thesis work. Tuition is offered in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision. The programme demands four years of full-time study. If the student is granted a doctoral studentship and carries out departmental duties to an extent of no more than 20 per cent of the post, the duration of the period of study will be extended correspondingly.

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for all doctoral students, stating the structure of the studies and the financing. The study plan is to be drawn up in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the head of department. It is to be reviewed at least once every year. If a doctoral student fails considerably to follow what is stated in the study plan, the right to supervision and other resources may be revoked. Further rules regarding study plans can be found in the faculty regulations for third-cycle studies.

The programme encompasses 240 credits, divided into a course component of 90 credits and a thesis component of 150 credits.

4.2. Courses and other components

The course component consists of the following compulsory elements:

- Overview of research methods comprising 15 credits
- Qualitative research methods comprising 7.5 credits
- Quantitative research methods comprising 7.5 credits
- Theory of science comprising 7.5 credits
- Theory of Business Administration comprising 7.5 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 45 credits consist of optional courses that can be selected from the full range of third-cycle courses at the department. Second-cycle courses passed during first- or second-cycle studies may be transferred to the third-cycle programme. Other courses taken at Lund or other higher education institutions (including institutions abroad) may also, if approved by the head of department, be included in the third-cycle programme. This also applies to courses equivalent to the compulsory elements of the programme.

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 students at work-in-progress seminars.

During work on the thesis 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 two internal seminars during the period of study; one is to take place at an early stage and consist of a critical discussion and assessment of the planned subject of the thesis; the other is to take place at a late stage and consist of a discussion and assessment of the complete thesis. In addition, the student is given the opportunity of having at least one more seminar, midway through the programme. This is not a requirement but is recommended by the department.
4.3 **Doctoral thesis**

The doctoral thesis can be designed either as a monograph or as a compilation thesis consisting of a collection of papers structured into a unity. The thesis shall be based on independent research. If the thesis is co-authored by several authors, it must be possible to discern the individual contributions. The thesis is assessed by a grading committee usually consisting of three members. Further instructions regarding the thesis, public defence, grading committee etc. can be found in the Regulations for Third-Cycle Studies at the School of Economics and Management.

4.4. **Supervision**

All doctoral students at the department are entitled to at least two supervisors, one of whom is to be appointed principal supervisor and have the qualifications of a reader. Admitted students are entitled to supervision corresponding to four years of full-time study and with a duration of no more than eight years from the time of admission. The supervisors should provide the doctoral student with advice on which courses to choose and how to focus the thesis work as well as support throughout the work.

5 **Tuition and examination**

Tuition 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, general seminars and guest lectures are provided.

Doctoral students with teaching duties should attend at least two weeks of the University’s teacher training and all doctoral students shall be offered the opportunity to take courses in teaching and learning in higher education.

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

Further information regarding the thesis, public defence and the grading committee is available in Regulations for Third-Cycle Studies at the School of Economics and Management, reg. no EHL 2013/182.

6 **Further information**

Information on admission and application deadlines is provided by the department.