



GIH THE SWEDISH
SCHOOL OF SPORT
AND HEALTH SCIENCES

GENERAL STUDY SYLLABUS

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General study syllabus for doctoral programme in Sport sciences

GENERAL STUDY SYLLABUS FOR DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN SPORT SCIENCES

This document is a translation. In case of a discrepancy between the Swedish original and the English version of the decision, the Swedish version will prevail.

Introduction

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, a general study syllabus is required for each subject in which third-cycle courses or study programmes are offered. The general study syllabus shall indicate the following: the main content of the study programme, specific entry requirements and any other regulations required (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 sections 26-27). Below follows a description of the research subject, outcomes, entry requirements, programme content and structure, and grades for the doctoral programme in the research subject of Sport sciences at GIH.

Description of research subject

Sport sciences examine all physical activity performed with the purpose of promoting health and well-being, performance and aesthetic experience. The focus is on studies of human movement. The research questions formulated within the subject often require multidisciplinary approaches. At GIH these requirements are fulfilled by sport science research within human biology, humanities and social sciences.

Sport scientific research requires both broad and specialized competence within the research field of sports, physical activity and health. A combination of theory and practice as well as multidisciplinary approaches characterizes the knowledge production within the subject. Sport sciences has societal relevance in terms of the significance of physical activity for health and the importance of sports in society.

Outcomes

The outcomes for doctoral programmes that are stated in the Higher Education Ordinance (Higher Education Ordinance Annex 2 – Qualifications Ordinance) apply for the doctoral programme in the research subject of Sport sciences.

Degree of Doctor

A Degree of Doctor is awarded after the doctoral student has completed a doctoral programme of at least 240 credits in the subject of Sport sciences. For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- 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

- 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.

Judgment and approach

- 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.

Research thesis (doctoral thesis)

For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 180 credits.

Degree of Licentiate

A Degree of Licentiate is awarded after a doctoral student has completed a doctoral programme of at least 120 credits in the subject of Sport sciences. For a Degree of Licentiate the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- 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

- 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.

Judgment and approach

- 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.

Thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate the doctoral student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a research thesis of at least 90 credits.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements if he or she has been awarded a second-cycle qualification, has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 7 section 39).

Final school grades in English corresponding to the level English 6 within the Swedish education system is a general entry requirement. Applicants that do not have grades from a Swedish upper-secondary education shall verify proficiency corresponding to the level English 6 by means of an approved international language test (TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), IELTS (The International English Language Testing System), or Cambridge ESOL, (English Language Assessment)) in accordance with the requirements at universityadmissions.se. Exemption from the requirement for verification is regulated at the same website.

The general entry requirements shall be fulfilled at the specified time of admission to the doctoral programme.

Specific entry requirements

GIH has no general specific entry requirements for admission to the doctoral programme. However, certain entry requirements may be specified for a particular doctoral project. Such requirements are specified in the advertisement of the doctoral position.

Programme content and structure

The programme for the Degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits, i.e. four years of full-time study. The doctoral thesis comprises 180 credits and the remaining 60 credits include courses and credit-bearing activities.

The programme for the Degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits, i.e. two years of full-time study. The licentiate thesis comprises 90 credits and the remaining 30 credits include courses and credit-bearing activities.

Individual Study Plan

An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student by the doctoral student and his or her supervisors. This plan shall contain the undertakings made by the doctoral student and the higher education institution and a timetable for the doctoral student's study programme and be drawn up in accordance with the directives drawn up by GIH (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 29). The individual study plan is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Supervision

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 28). One of the supervisors shall be nominated as the principal supervisor with primary responsibility for the doctoral programme.

If a doctoral student substantially neglects his or her undertakings in the individual study plan, the vice-chancellor shall decide that the doctoral student is no longer entitled to supervision and other study resources according to the Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 30. Resources may not be withdrawn for any period in which the doctoral student has been appointed to a doctoral studentship. If study resources have been withdrawn pursuant to section 30, the doctoral student may, on application to the vice-chancellor, recover his or her entitlement to supervision and other resources according to chapter 6 section 31.

Courses and credit-bearing activities

The doctoral programme in Sport sciences includes courses and credit-bearing activities of 60 credits for the Degree of Doctor and 30 credits for the Degree of Licentiate. After completing the course part of the programme, the doctoral student shall demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field of sports, physical activity and health, and familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of Sport sciences in particular. The doctoral student shall also demonstrate advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field. All courses and credit-bearing activities that are included in the programme shall be stated in the individual study plan.

The programme for the Degree of Doctor comprises compulsory courses of 30 credits and the programme for the Degree of Licentiate comprises compulsory courses of 22,5 credits. The compulsory courses shall be completed with a pass grade before the mid-way review.

The compulsory courses are: Introduction to doctoral studies (5 credits), Theory and ethics of science (7,5 credits), Sport sciences (7,5 credits) and Sport science subject course (10 credits for Degree of Doctor; 2,5 credits for Degree of Licentiate).

The remaining 30 credits for the Degree of Doctor (7,5 credits for the Degree of Licentiate) comprise elected courses within the doctoral/third cycle programme and/or within a second-cycle programme, if there are special grounds. Courses may be taken at GIH or at other higher education institutions. Credits can also be achieved through credit-bearing activities.

Courses are examined by oral or written examinations and/or assignments. The grade shall be determined by an examiner (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 32).

In addition to courses, credits may be given for the following credit-bearing activities:

- Active participation in seminar series. Participation in seminar series shall be verified by the seminar organiser. In order to be awarded credits for the sport science doctoral seminar, regular participation throughout the year is required. For other seminar activities, the supervisor shall assess the amount of work performed. According to these principles, the extent of credits awarded is 1,5 credits. Preparatory work for the seminar is required and the doctoral student shall preferably present his or her own material. Completion of the mid-way review and quality review are compulsory components of the thesis work and shall therefore not be awarded credits. The total amount of credits awarded for participation in seminar series may not exceed 6 credits.
- Presentation at national/international conferences. Presentation at national/international conferences shall be verified by the supervisor and include writing an abstract and presenting a poster or oral presentation at a congress/conference. 1,5 credits are awarded for each presentation at a national/international conference. The total amount of credits awarded for presentation at national/international conference may not exceed 4,5 credits.
- Reading course. The content of a reading course shall be established by the supervisor and comprise subject areas that do not relate directly to the thesis work. The amount of credits awarded shall be assessed in relation to the number of pages and degree of difficulty. The supervisor decides the form of assessment and decides the grade of the course. The total amount of credits awarded for reading courses may not exceed 4,5 credits.
- Research visit at a research group at another higher education institution. The research visit shall be verified by the research leader at the receiving higher education institution and is awarded credits in accordance with the duration of the research visit (1,5 credits per week). The total amount of credits awarded for research visits may not exceed 7,5 credits.

Credit transfer

A student that has successfully completed a higher education course or study programme is entitled to transfer the credits awarded for a course or study programme according to Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 6. A credit transfer regulation regulates the procedures for credit transfer for all educational levels, including the doctoral programme. Decisions about credit transfer may be appealed to the Higher Education Appeals Board (ÖNH).

An individual assessment of the application for credit transfer shall be made on the basis of the outcomes stated in the general study syllabus for the doctoral programme in Sport sciences. Credit transfer of second cycle courses, and in exceptional cases first cycle courses, shall be assessed in relation to the programme outcomes.

Additional compulsory components of the programme

Compulsory reviews of the progression of the programme apply at GIH and take the form of seminars: mid-way review and quality review before public defence of doctoral thesis

or licentiate seminar. At these compulsory seminars, the progression of and the prognosis for the remaining part of the programme is assessed by internal and/or external reviewers. The follow-ups are not formal examinations, but aim to oversee that the outcomes for the doctoral programme will be fulfilled. Mid-way review seminar does not apply for programmes for a Licentiate Degree.

Doctoral thesis and public defence of doctoral thesis

For the Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall have written a doctoral thesis based on an independent scientific project. The doctoral thesis may be written in the form of a compilation of research articles, theses or reports with a summarizing chapter (compilation thesis) or in the form of a continuous publication (monograph thesis).

The doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally in public. A faculty examiner (opponent) shall be appointed for this presentation (Higher Education Ordinance chapter 6 section 33).

An examining committee shall determine the fulfilment of the outcomes by the doctoral student. The assessment shall be based upon the doctoral thesis and the oral defence of this thesis.

Licentiate thesis and licentiate seminar

For the Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall have written a compilation of articles with a short summarizing chapter or a continuous publication in accordance with the principles that apply for a doctoral thesis.

An examiner shall determine the fulfilment of the outcomes by the doctoral student. The assessment shall be based upon the written licentiate thesis, and the oral defence of this thesis at a public licentiate seminar with a faculty examiner (opponent).

The graduate school in physical education (FIHD), The graduate school in physical education didactics in teacher education (FIIL), The graduate school in Sustainable Movement Education (SMOVE) and The graduate school in Schooling, Sports, Screens

Specific regulations apply for The graduate school in physical education (FIHD). Within this graduate school, 30 credits comprise compulsory courses and 90 credits comprise a licentiate thesis. The compulsory courses for a Degree of Licentiate apply with the addition of a number of profile specific courses.

Specific regulations apply for The graduate school in physical education didactics in teacher education (FIIL). Within this graduate school, 60 credits comprise courses and 180 credits comprise a doctoral thesis. The compulsory courses for a Degree of Doctor apply with the addition of a number of profile specific courses.

Specific regulations apply for The graduate school in Sustainable Movement Education (SMOVE). Within this graduate school, 60 credits comprise courses and 180 credits comprise a doctoral thesis. The compulsory courses for a Degree of Doctor apply with the addition of a number of profile specific courses. The remaining 15 credits comprise elective courses or credit-bearing activities.

Specific regulations apply for The graduate school in Schooling, Sports, Screens: Value-Laden Learning Practices. Within this graduate school, 60 credits comprise courses and



180 credits comprise a doctoral thesis. The compulsory courses for a Degree of Doctor apply with the addition of a number of profile specific courses.

Grades

Courses within the doctoral programme are assessed according to the grading scale pass or fail.

A doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis is assessed according to the grading scale pass or fail.