JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in Media and Communication Studies

Degree of Doctor, 240 ECTS
Degree of Licentiate, 120 ECTS

Adopted by the Board of Education and Research Education 24 January 2024

BACKGROUND

The basis for third-cycle education at Jönköping University (JU) is the regulation in the Swedish Act (1993:792) regarding Permission to Award Certain Qualifications. The requirements for third-cycle degrees can be found in the National System of Qualifications (1993:199), Appendix 2 to the Higher Education Ordinance.

In addition to these, the examination requirements established in this General Syllabus for Third-Cycle Studies in the subject Media and Communication Studies and the local regulations for third-cycle education established by the President of Jönköping University (*Regulations and Guidelines for Education at the First, Second and Third-Cycle Level at Jönköping University*) also apply.

DEGREE TITLES

- Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Media and Communication Studies
- Degree of Licentiate of Social Science in Media and Communication Studies

PERIOD OF VALIDITY

This general syllabus is valid for doctoral students admitted after the general syllabus is established.

Any amendments to this general syllabus must be documented in the individual study plan.

SUBJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

Media and Communication Studies is a broad subject with firmly rooted in the main fields of social sciences and the humanities.

The subject primarily entails efforts to analyze, explain and understand the digital, cultural, political, social, ecological and economic conditions of mediated communication, advocacy processes and sustainability, with a focus on their importance for people, organizations and societies, both nationally and globally.

The theoretical and methodological reference frameworks of media and communication studies are broad. Therefore, the studies are inspired by and contribute knowledge to related fields, such as sociology, political science, economic history, film and literature studies, and pedagogy.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION

To be admitted to a third-cycle education program, applicants must meet the general admission requirements established in the *Admission and Employment Regulations for Doctoral Students at Jönköping University* (Ref. no. 2019/2357-15), as well as specific admissions requirements (see below) and otherwise be judgedto have the skills needed to undergo the training.

SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To fulfil the specific admission requirements for third-cycle studies in the subject of media and communication studies, applicants must has completed at least 90 ECTS in media and communication

studies at the first or second-cycle level, and must also have completed an independent project of at least 15 ECTS (minimum A1 level) of relevance to the subject. The specific admissions requirements may also have been fulfilled in another manner, in Sweden or abroad, through training and professional activities deemed equivalent to the aforementioned specific admissions requirements. In such an assessment, particular emphasis shall be placed on the independent project.

SELECTION AND ADMISSION

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements shall be selected following consideration of their ability to benefit from the education program in question.

Students are admitted to third-cycle education programs in accordance with the *Admission and Employment Regulations for Doctoral Students at Jönköping University* (Ref. no. 2019/2357-15).

THE MAIN STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE EDUCATION

For a full-time doctoral student, the period of study should normally be four years for a Degree of Doctor and two years for a Degree of Licentiate.

A Degree of Licentiate may constitute an intermediate goal or the conclusion of third-cycle studies.

For a Degree of Doctor, the program comprises 240 ECTS and includes:

- a course component, 75 ECTS
- a doctoral thesis component, 165 ECTS.

For a Degree of Licentiate, the program comprises 120 ECTS and includes:

- a course component, 45 ECTS
- a licentiate thesis component, 75 ECTS.

COURSES

The course component of the education program comprises mandatory and elective courses.

A Degree of Doctor entails 45 ECTS of mandatory courses.

A Degree of Licentiate entails 22.5 ECTS of mandatory courses.

Other courses within the framework of each education program are elective, in accordance with the following requirements.

MANDATORY COURSES FOR A DEGREE OF DOCTOR

The following courses (or their equivalent) are mandatory for a Degree of Doctor:

General courses

- Work Process and Writing in Research, 7.5 ECTS
- Research Design I, 7.5 ECTS
- Research Design II, 7.5 ECTS
- Research Ethics, Reflections and Practices, 4.5 ECTS
- Systematic Searches and Scholarly Publishing, 3 ECTS

Subject-specific courses, 15 ECTS

These courses will deal with theories and methods of media and communication studies, as well as both historical and contemporary research in the field of media and communication studies.

MANDATORY COURSES FOR A DEGREE OF LICENTIATE

The following courses (or their equivalent) are mandatory for a Degree of Licentiate:

General courses

- Research Design I, 7.5 ECTS
- Research Ethics, Reflections and Parctices, 4.5 ECTS
- Systematic Searches and Scholarly Publishing, 3 ECTS

Subject-specific courses, 7.5 ECTS

These courses will deal with theories and methods of media and communication studies, as well as both historical and contemporary research in the field of media and communication studies.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Other courses should delve more deeply into the field relevant to the doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis.

EXAMINED ELEMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

To be awarded a Degree of Doctor or a Degree of Licentiate, students must receive a passing grade on all examination elements included in the program, as well as on the doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis and its defense.

In addition, it must be clear from the individual study plan that the degree objectives for the degree pursued have been met.

In the course of their third-cycle education, students' knowledge may be tested through written or oral examination, or by other appropriate means.

The doctoral thesis must be written individually by the doctoral student. It can be written either as a coherent piece of work (a monograph) or as a summary of research articles or book chapters that the doctoral student has written alone or co-authored (a compilation thesis).

A compilation thesis must include three to four original articles, depending on quality and scope. At least two must have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and the other one to two must be ready to be submitted for publication by the time the examining committee is appointed. The doctoral student's own contribution to the different parts of a compilation thesis must be clearly distinguishable. The doctoral student should be the first author of at least two of the original articles. Exceptions to these guidelines may be allowed if justified. A compilation thesis must also include a summarising chapter ("kappa").

A doctoral thesis must be defended at a public defense.

The licentiate thesis can be written either as a coherent piece of work (a monograph) or as a summary of research articles or book chapters that the doctoral student has written alone or co-authored (a compilation thesis). A compilation thesis must include at least two publications. At least one must have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed publication. The doctoral student's own contribution to the different parts of a compilation thesis must be clearly distinguishable. The doctoral student should be the first author of at least one of the publications. Exceptions to these guidelines may be allowed if justified. A compilation thesis must also include a summarising chapter ("kappa").

A licentiate thesis must be defended at a public seminar.

The fulfilment of the degree set forth in Appendix 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance is verified by the responsible person appointed by the university, with the help of the individual study plan.

The examination elements and the doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis are assessed with the grades of 'Fail' or 'Pass'.

LANGUAGE

A doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis must be written in Swedish or English.

A brief summary in Swedish and English must be appended to the doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis.