

DOCTORAL STUDIES ORGANISATION

TRAINING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES BY COURSE WORK; TRAINING OF SUPERVISORS

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Principal types of courses

	Generic	Subject- specific	Thesis- specific
Mandatory	X		
Voluntary	(X)		

- Course syllabus (specification)
- ECTS awarding
- Planned in the contract/general syllabus
- Examination
- Balancing the different types of courses

Generic courses

Help to fulfil the generic national goals of outcome for the Degree of Doctor as stated in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance – Qualifications Ordinance. The HEI may have additional common goals for all its programmes as well as the individual programmes (general study plan)

Knowledge and understanding (generic)

For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral candidate shall

 demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Outcome (continued)

Competence and skills (generic)

For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral candidate shall:

- 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 capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity

Outcome (continued)

Judgement and approach (generic)

For the Degree of Doctor the doctoral candidate 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 (the citizens) for how it is used.

Arrangement of generic courses at the HEI, starting points

- Open for doctoral candidates from all programmes
- Meeting-place for doctoral candidates with different perspectives
- Consolidates the doctoral candidates collective
- Each course connects to a generic goal in the national Qualification Ordinance
- Standardized syllabi for the courses
- Centrally organized/organized by a faculty

Arrangement of generic courses at the HEI, examples from Malmö University:

- Supporting the Learning of others, 5 credits
- Research methodology: Qualitative and mixed research methodology, 5 credits
- Research Ethics and Responsible Conduct in Research, 4 credits
- Communicating research, 5 credits
- Academic writing and publishing, 5 credits
- Theory of Science, 6 credits

Getting a driving license to supervise

Requirements at the HEI:

- Conviction at management level about the necessity of supervisor training
- Decision about rules that at least one of the doctoral candidate's supervisor has to have formal training in supervising
- Training aimed to those that are about to be promoted to associate professor (docent)
- Each HEI (faculty) compose a fitting supervisor training and selection criteria

Example from Malmö University

Learning outcomes:

- Know about the prerequisites and delimitations of doctoral education
- Know about (inter)national and local control documents
- Show critical reflection on the goals, content and form of the doctoral education, the supervisor tasks and the role of the doctoral candidate
- Be able to problematize and discuss different research traditions
- Show understanding for situations that can occur while supervising and know about techniques that support the supervising process
- Be able to problematize and discuss supervision in relation to power concerning class, gender, ethnicity and generation
- Be capable to discuss different possibilities to development and career of the doctoral candidate

Example from Malmö University

Training model:

- Centrally organized
- Circa 10 days spread out during a year
- Kick-off, boarded, group socialization, share own experiences of being supervised
- Lectures, group discussions and case studies
- Literature list
- Written essay seminar; reflections on supervision
- "Pass" is a must for promotion

Example from Malmö University

Continuous training:

- Target audience: all active supervisors (associate professors and professors)
- Refresh and maintain supervising competence
- Thematic meetings, twice a year
- Present round's topics:
 - Supervision as enhancement for quality in doctoral education
 - Recent changes in doctoral education
 - Support to doctoral candidates
 - National survey of the situation of doctoral candidates
 - Local Quality Framework for doctoral education
 - Equality in supervision and in research groups
 - Judging doctoral candidates' progress