General study syllabus for a Doctor of Laws Degree in *Legal Science* at the Department of Law

*Higher education credits:*
Third-cycle studies for a Degree of Doctor correspond to studies of 240 higher education credits. A third-cycle student who originally has planned to conclude his or her studies with a Degree of Doctor shall be able to conclude his or her studies with a Degree of Licentiate if the programme comprises at least 120 higher education credits and fulfills the overall requirements for a Degree of Licentiate.

*Established: 12 November 2007 by the Faculty Board of the School of Business, Economics and Law*
*Revised: 26 September 2013 by the Faculty Board of the School of Business, Economics and Law*

1. **Aim of the studies**
The third-cycle studies are designed on a comprehensive level to create conditions for new knowledge within legal science that is characterised by disciplinary rectitude, autonomy, methodological stringency and considerable theoretical awareness as well as trenchant and extensive knowledge within the legal field that is relevant to the dissertation project. With consideration to the Department of Law's establishment at the School of Business, Economics and Law, the studies moreover seek to ascertain that the doctoral student upon completion of his or her degree has good insight into research methods over and above what is traditionally contained within the area of legal science. General aims for third-cycle studies are stipulated in the Qualifications Ordinance, 1993:100 (see Annex 1 in the Study syllabus).

A third-cycle student who has completed a Degree of Doctor in *Legal Science* at the Department of Law in Gothenburg shall have acquired knowledge of the possibilities and limitations of research within legal science, its role in society and its relation to other scientific disciplines. The student shall demonstrate the ability to critically reflect around the own subject from such a perspective.

A third-cycle student who has completed a Degree of Doctor in *Legal Science* at the Department of Law in Gothenburg shall have acquired a good ability to express himself/herself well in speech and writing as well as to communicate his or her research findings pedagogically within and outside academic contexts.

During the third-cycle studies the doctoral student shall acquire knowledge of planning and execution of research projects.
Upon completion of the programme, the doctoral student shall have the ability to serve as an academic teacher and researcher as well as carry out qualified legal tasks within other public or private sector activity.

2. Eligibility
In order to be eligible for third-cycle studies, the applicant must meet both the general and specific entry requirements (the Higher Education Ordinance 7:35). Further, there is a requirement that the applicant is deemed to have the overall ability to assimilate the education.

A student is deemed to meet the general eligibility requirements for third-cycle studies if he or she has graduated at second-cycle level, completed course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits, at least 60 of which must be at second-cycle level, or has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

A student is deemed to meet the specific eligibility requirements if he or she has completed a law degree or the equivalent at a Swedish higher education institution or has acquired knowledge that provides the equivalent competence in Sweden or abroad. In assessing whether the knowledge is sufficient, particular consideration shall be given to what is required in order to successfully carry out the the third-cycle studies within a specific subject area. Applicants shall have the requisite knowledge of Swedish or English.

3. Admission and selection
A decision on admission to third-cycle studies is made by the Head of Department following preparation at the Research Committee. The Head of Department may only admit applicants to the third-cycle studies that are awarded doctoral studentships. Regulations pertaining to conditions for doctoral studentships are found in Chapter 5 of the Higher Education Ordinance and in the provisions of the University of Gothenburg.

Selection among qualified applicants shall in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance 5:5 primarily be based on an assessment of the applicants' ability to assimilate the education. During the selection process, an overall assessment is carried out with consideration to the applicant's capacity, the planned project's qualities as well as the Department's prerequisites for providing the requisite support. More specific instructions on the selection process are detailed in the Department's routines for admission to third-cycle studies.

4. Supervision and the individual study plan
In conjunction with admission to third-cycle studies, two supervisors shall be appointed. The principal supervisor shall have competence of associate professor and must be employed at the Department. The principal supervisor has an overall responsibility for the doctoral student receiving the support that is required in order to carry out the studies, including the dissertation work, and is also responsible for keeping the Research Committee abreast of the progression of the work/studies. At least one of the supervisors must have gone through supervisor training or be deemed to have the
equivalent knowledge. The supervisor's further commitment is detailed in a separate supervisor's instruction.

For every doctoral student, an individual study plan shall be established in conjunction with admission, which is to be established by the Head of Department after consultation with the student, the supervisor and the doctoral examiner (the examiner at third-cycle level). The individual study plan shall be followed up at least once a year and be revised as required. The doctoral student and the supervisor shall in writing confirm that they have partaken of the individual study plan as well as any revisions made.

Both the supervisor and the doctoral student are obliged to report departures from the individual study plan. If specific difficulties may be foreseen, more frequent follow-up as well as complementary procedures should be considered. The individual study plan shall contain declaration concerning timetable, supervisor, funding plan, thesis orientation/title, other items in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance 6:29 and local guidelines.

5. The content of the study programme
Third-cycle studies for the Degree of Doctor correspond to four years' of study.

The main part of the programme consists of the production of a doctoral thesis, corresponding to 180 higher education credits. Further, third-cycle courses of 60 higher education credits shall be carried out.

Compulsory courses (30 higher education credits)
The compulsory courses are aimed at familiarising the doctoral students with scientific theory and methodology in general, strengthening the students' capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as creating opportunities for independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations. The compulsory part of the study programme comprises 30 higher education credits. The following courses are offered by the Department.

1. Theory of science and legal scholarship, 7.5 higher education credits
2. Societal and behavioural scientific method with relevance for legal scholarship, 7.5 higher education credits
3. Legal research methodology, 15 higher education credits

Elective third-cycle courses (30 higher education credits)
The chosen courses shall clearly contribute to the initially stated general aims of the third-cycle studies being met.

The elective courses partly aim to ascertain that the doctoral students are given the possibility for in-depth studies in methods, theories and discourse that are of importance to the dissertation project. The student has the possibility to be credited with courses, seminars, conferences and the like, internal or external, where he or she takes an active part, comprising a total of 15 higher education credits.

The elective courses also aim to ascertain that doctoral students in various ways are encouraged to engage in external, international contacts during the study programme.
The student has the possibility to be credited with such courses, seminars, conferences and the like, where he or she takes an active role, comprising a total of 15 higher education credits.

For doctoral students who are intent on an academic career, the development of a higher education pedagogical ability is of central importance. Pedagogical courses may yield a total of 5 higher education credits.

Decisions on completion of third-cycle courses are taken by the doctoral examiner (the examiner at third-cycle level) after preparation in the Research Committee.

Credit transfer
A doctoral student may be credited with higher education credits from other third-cycle studies. A decision on credit transfer and the attendant abridgement of the period of study is made by the doctoral examiner (the examiner at third-cycle level), following preparation in the Research Committee. Credit transfer shall be connected to decisions on abridgement of the period of funding that corresponds to the credited higher education credits.

Under specific circumstances, a doctoral student may be credited with higher education credits from studies that correspond to the Department’s compulsory courses. The decision is made by the doctoral examiner (the examiner at third-cycle level) following preparation in the Research Committee.

6. Doctoral thesis and public defence
The focus of the studies lies on the production of a doctoral thesis which is to result in the accumulation of new knowledge. The thesis can be styled as a monograph or as a compilation thesis.

The doctoral student’s work with the manuscript of the thesis is followed up through four compulsory seminars that are arranged in conference between the supervisor and the Research Committee. Instructions are found in a separate study guide.

Disposition seminar
During the first year, the doctoral student shall hold a disposition seminar at the Department where the dissertation project is presented.

Two-year seminar
At the seminar, which is to be held before the end of the second year of the studies, the doctoral student shall present an extensive text pertaining to one or more sections of the dissertation.

Text seminar
The seminar should be held approximately one year before the public defence seminar. The doctoral student presents an essential part of his or her dissertation manuscript for discussion. At the seminar, there shall be a discussion on thoughts, structure and disposition as well as the form of the account in the working material.

Final seminar
Before the doctoral student presents his or her dissertation for public defence, the Research Committee shall arrange a final seminar. At the final seminar, an entire manuscript shall be presented.

**Disputation**

A doctoral thesis shall be critically reviewed at a public defence seminar where the doctoral student is provided with the possibility to defend it. The public defence seminar is arranged by the Department of Law.

For a Doctoral Degree, there is a requirement that the doctoral student must have been awarded a pass grade for a scholarly thesis (doctoral thesis) and that the doctoral student must have completed the third-cycle studies at the Department of Law with a pass grade. A doctoral student who wishes to defend a doctoral thesis and who has carried out a final seminar, shall so request by submitting a text to the Research Committee.

A doctoral thesis can obtain the grades fail or pass. The grade is awarded by an examining committee that is appointed specifically for each doctoral thesis. The examining committee shall comprise three or five members. One of these may, if there be special cause, be appointed among persons who are firmly affiliated with the Department of Law in Gothenburg. A decision on external examiner and members of the Examining Committee is made by the Dean of the School of Business, Economics and Law following preparation at the Department's Research Committee.

The Examining Committee is given three months to review the doctoral thesis. The Examining Committee shall assess whether the doctoral thesis is of sufficient quality to be presented at a public defence seminar. The Examining Committee's standpoint shall be motivated in writing.

The Examining Committee may assess that the doctoral thesis can be defended, that it cannot be defended or that it cannot be defended in its current state. If the Examining Committee has assessed that the thesis cannot be defended, the Dean, following preparation in the Research Committee, may take the decision to request the doctoral student to submit a new application for public defence of a revised manuscript within a specified time period, however no sooner than six months after the decision has been made. On this occasion, there should be new members appointed to the Examining Committee. If the Committee has assessed that the doctoral thesis cannot be defended in its current state, the Committee shall assess whether it can be revised in such a way that enables the thesis to be presented for public defence within six months. It is invariably the Dean, following preparation in the Research Committee, who conclusively approves or disapproves of the doctoral thesis being publicly defended.

There is an assumption that the public defence seminar be manuscript-based. A detailed description of the guidelines surrounding the public defence seminar can be found in the Department of Law's routine document for third-cycle studies.

7. Other

Otherwise, please refer to operative legislation, guidelines at the University of Gothenburg and at the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, as well as to local enforcement provisions at the Department of Law.

8. Transitional provisions

The revised general study syllabus is applicable to all students admitted to third-cycle studies at the Department of Law and is effective from the date when the syllabus is approved. For doctoral students admitted before the syllabus comes into effect, an assessment shall be made in each individual case of how already carried out elements are
related to the revised study syllabus, with particular consideration to how far their third
cycle studies have progressed. Doctoral students who have been admitted to education at
third-cycle level in any of the subjects jurisprudence and legal theory, labour law, banking
law, European Union law, public international law, commercial law, intellectual property
law, international private law, information technology law, comparative law, constitutional
law, environmental law, accounting law, law and economics, legal history, maritime and
transport law and social security law, shall be given the possibility to be examined in the
subject to which they have been admitted.

A student that before July 1, 2007 meets the general entry requirements for admission to
third-cycle studies, shall also thereafter be considered to meet general entry requirements
for admission to third-cycle studies, however, until no later than the end of June 2015.
Annex 1

Higher Education Ordinance 1993:100, Annex 2, Qualifications Ordinance (with respect to Degree of Doctor)

Knowledge and understanding
For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field,
- demonstrate advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of the research field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research theory and methodology in general and with the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills
For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as the capacity 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.

Judgement and approach
For the Degree of Doctor the third-cycle student 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 for how it is used.