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General Syllabus for the Doctoral Programme in Peace and Conflict Research

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General Syllabus for the Doctoral (Doctoral/Licentiate) Programme in Peace and Conflict Research

1. Goals of the programme

According to the System of Qualifications, to be awarded a Doctoral degree the doctoral student must

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of peace and conflict research as well as advanced and up-to-date specialized knowledge in a limited area of peace and conflict research,
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of peace and conflict research, quantitative as well as qualitative methods, in particular,
- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, questions and situations autonomously and critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate questions 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,
- 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,
- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to assess 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.

Relevant parts of these goals also apply to the Degree of Licentiate.

2. Entry requirements and prerequisite qualifications

For admission to the doctoral programme in Peace and Conflict Research, the applicant must meet the general and specific entry requirements that the Faculty Board has laid down and be considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the doctoral programme (see SFS 2010:1064, Higher Education Ordinance (HEO), Chapter 7 Section 35). The Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences is charged with establishing provisions regarding specific entry requirements (Admissions Ordinance at the Graduate Level, Uppsala University, AFUU, Section 2, RUF Section 4).

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2.1 General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements if the person has been awarded a degree at advanced level, has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded at the advanced level, or has acquired equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds (see SFS 2010:1064, HEO Ch. 7 Sec. 39). Decisions regarding exemptions from general entry requirements are made by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (AFUU Sec. 1).

2.2 Specific entry requirements

To meet the specific entry requirements for admission to the doctoral programme in peace and conflict research, applicants must have completed courses in the social sciences comprising 90 credits, and at least 30 credits in peace and conflict studies or international relations or a closely related subject. Those who have acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad, also meet these specific entry requirements.

3. Admission and selection

3.1 Information and notification of vacancy

Notification of vacancies in the doctoral programme is done on the Department of Peace and Conflict Research website www.pcr.uu.se and on www.uu.se at least three weeks before the deadline for application. The Department website also contains information about how admission to the doctoral programme is arranged, the time period for advertising vacancies in the doctoral programme, documents to be appended to applications, the structure of the PhD education, and forms of financing.

3.2 Admission

Admissions to the doctoral programme and allocations of financial support are done through an open and competitive process. Normally admission takes place once per year. The application should be submitted electronically via the university homepage.

The Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences may only admit applicants to the doctoral programme for whom a plan for financial support covering the entire education period is in place, usually through a PhD employment. The higher education institution may, however, admit applicants who have some other form of funding for their PhD studies if it considers that the funding can be guaranteed during the entire period of study and that the applicants can devote enough time to their studies to enable their completion within four years in the case of a licentiate degree or eight years in the case of a PhD (see SFS 2010:1064 HEO, Ch. 7 Sec. 36, RUF Sec. 3).

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The Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences has delegated to the Head of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research the authority to make decisions, in consultation with doctoral supervisors at the Department, regarding admission to the doctoral programme. Admission of applicants with other sources of financing than a PhD employment must be decided by Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The Faculty Board should also make a decision regarding admission to the doctoral programme comprising 120 credits leading to the Degree of Licentiate, for part-time employment, and when the applicant has funding from other institutions of higher education.

3.3 Selection

In selecting among applicants who meet the entry requirements, their ability to benefit from the doctoral programme shall be considered and be based on the following assessment criteria:

The selection criteria are laid out in three steps. First, there are formal requirements laid out in the Higher Education Ordinance and the department's general syllabus. In the second step, the applications are evaluated based on the main criterion for admission, as formulated by the Department's admission committee: "In order to be admitted, a prospective PhD candidate shall—through relevant and in writing documented scientific ability—be judged able to, within the given time frame, author a PhD dissertation that will, at a minimum, be classified as good by international standards." Third, if there are more applicants meeting the main criteria than there are positions the applicants are ranked based on the quality of the research proposal and the centrality of the proposed PhD theme in relation to peace and conflict research generally, and the research environment and ongoing or planned research projects at the department specifically. In addition, the capacity of the applicant to serve as a resource for the department might be taken into consideration.

The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants (see SFS 2010:1064 HEO, Ch. 7 Sec. 41).

4. Content and structure of the programme

4.1 Structure of the programme

The doctoral programme in peace and conflict research leads to a Degree of Doctor (PhD) or a Licentiate degree. The programme must comprise 240 credits for the doctorate and 120 credits for the licentiate. A doctoral student admitted to the doctoral programme leading to a doctorate may, if the doctoral student wishes, complete a licentiate as a step towards the doctorate.

An applicant may also, if the applicant so wishes and the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences finds it appropriate, be admitted to the doctoral programme comprising 120 credits leading to a licentiate degree (AFUU Sec. 3).

The doctoral programme in peace and conflict research leading to a doctorate comprises four years of net study time and consists of coursework comprising 60 credits and a doctoral dissertation comprising 180 credits.

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The doctoral programme in peace and conflict research leading to a licentiate comprises two years of net study time and consists of coursework comprising 60 credits and a licentiate thesis comprising 60 credits.

Course work and dissertation/thesis work should be pursued in parallel. The doctoral student should start the dissertation/thesis work early on in the programme. The work should normally be continually reported at departmental seminars. Supervisors must regularly discuss the progress of studies with their doctoral students.

4.2 Supervision

For each doctoral student, two supervisors are appointed, one main/principal supervisor with the primary responsibility for the candidate's studies – including dissertation/thesis work – and one deputy supervisor. One of the supervisors must be employed by or adjoined to Uppsala University. The supervisors must hold doctorates/equivalent, and at least one of the supervisors must hold the qualification of senior lecturer (associate professor) (see AFUU Sec. 1).

The doctoral student has the right to supervision during the studies, unless the Vice-Chancellor decides otherwise by virtue of HEO Ch. 6 Sec. 30. A doctoral student who so requests shall be allowed to change supervisor (see SFS 2010:1064 HEO, Ch. 6 Sec. 28).

The main supervisor should, during the first year as supervisor at the latest, complete the training for supervisors. The same is recommended for deputy supervisors. Falling within the responsibility of the main supervisor is the research principal's overall responsibility that the research is conducted in correspondence with good scientific practice (see RUF Sec 8).

4.3 Individual study plan

An individual study plan shall be established for each doctoral student. By delegation from the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, this plan shall be adopted by the head of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research after consultation with the doctoral student and the doctoral student's supervisors.

The individual study plan shall contain a timetable for the doctoral student's studies, information about how the doctoral student's supervision is organized, a description of the other undertakings made by the doctoral student and the Faculty Board (that is, the Department) during the period of studies, and whatever else is required to ensure that the doctoral studies are continuously pursued in an effective manner.

The individual study plan should specify how the doctoral student through supervision and other educational elements concerning research ethics, in particular related to good research practice and ethical review, develops the ability to ensure that the research is carried out in accordance with good research practice.

The individual study plan shall be reviewed by the Faculty Board at least once a year. In this review the doctoral student and the principal supervisor must inform the Faculty Board of the progress of the doctoral studies. The Faculty Board may then, or on any other occasion when it is justified, make any necessary changes to the individual study plan. The period of study may be extended only if there are special grounds for doing so. Such grounds could include leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for military service or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave. Before any change

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is made the doctoral student and supervisor must be given the opportunity to express themselves in the matter.

The doctoral student, the principal supervisor and the head of department must certify in writing that they have read the individual study plan and the changes made to it (see SFS 2010:1064, HEO Ch. 6 Sec. 29).

The form for the individual study plan can be downloaded from the Faculty website www.samfak.uu.se.

5. Courses

The doctoral programme in peace and conflict research consists of coursework comprising 60 credits, to be distributed so that 30 credits consist of mandatory courses and 30 credits consist of elective courses.

Mandatory courses: introductory and methods courses.

Elective courses: Dissertation-related courses. These can be courses offered at Uppsala University or at other higher-education institutions.

5.1 Examinations

Every course in the doctoral programme concludes with written or oral examinations. The examinations are assessed using the grades of Pass and Fail. The grade is to be determined by a teacher specially appointed by the head of department (examiner). According to decision by the Board of Faculty of Social Sciences, the following categories of teachers may be appointed as examiners for courses offered at the PhD level: professors, senior lecturers (associate professors), lecturers, who hold doctorates and have been reviewed by a recruiting group (applied for and selected for employment in competition), and associate senior lecturers.

5.2 Transfer of credit

Doctoral students who have received passing grades for courses included in doctoral programmes at another higher-education institution have the right to transfer credit for these courses with the consent of the examiner. The same applies to courses given within the framework of the Faculty's joint offerings (national graduate school courses) or courses arranged by some other faculty at Uppsala University.

6. Dissertation and public defence

6.1 Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation may take the form of either a uniform, coherent academic work (monograph dissertation) or as a brief summary of academic articles that the doctoral student has written alone or jointly with some other person (compilation dissertation).

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The doctoral dissertation or, where relevant, the academic articles, must maintain a level of quality that meets reasonable requirements for being publishable in a scientific forum.

Dissertations and articles within compilation dissertations written by multiple individuals may be approved in licentiate theses and doctoral dissertations only if it is possible to distinguish the contribution of each author (see UFV 2010/472, Sec. 6 AFUU).

The topic and the language of the dissertation are to be determined in consultation with the supervisors. Each dissertation must be accompanied by a brief abstract in English.

The dissertation manuscript must be put forward at one or more research seminars or be subjected to the equivalent review under the aegis of the Department. State funding of printing of doctoral dissertations is granted following regulations laid down elsewhere by the Faculty Board.

This also applies, in relevant parts, to licentiate theses.

6.2 Public defence

The doctoral dissertation must be defended orally in public. The time and place of the public defence are to be determined by the dean. Public defences and licentiate seminars may take place during the semester and during summer break with the exception of the period from 15 June up to and including 15 August (see RUF Sec. 11).

The public defence must be publicly announced in good time (at least three weeks) by digital publication. A shorter period of availability may be granted by the dean only for extraordinary reasons (see UFV 2009/1993 Sec. 9 RUF). The so-called 'nailing pages' must thus be published digitally, but they may also be "nailed" at the University Main Building. For compilation dissertations, the requirement of digital publication also extends to the introductory chapter. For students admitted to complete the licentiate degree only, the nailing pages must be published digitally (see UFV 2009/1993, Sec. 9 RUF).

Uppsala University guidelines for education at the doctoral level stipulates that a dissertation, at least three weeks prior to the defence should be publicly available at the university library in a sufficient number of copies to allow for a satisfactory review of the dissertation ahead of the public defence (RUF, Sec 9). The Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences has delegated to the departmental board to determine the minimum size of the printed edition for the different types of dissertations (SAMFAK 2021/144). Beyond this, departments are responsible for distributing the dissertation to relevant actors, such as the opponent (faculty examiner), the examining committee and the chairperson of the public defence, as well as to departments at national higher-education institutions with research and a doctoral programme in peace and conflict research.

The public defence is to be led by a chairperson. There must be an opponent (faculty examiner) at the public defence. Decisions about the chairperson of the public defence, the opponent and the examining committee are made by the dean following application using a form that can be downloaded at the Faculty website www.samfak.uu.se.

The opponent (faculty examiner) has the right to be present at meetings of the examining committee and to take part in deliberations but not in decisions. The same applies to the principal supervisor.

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Normally an examining committee at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Uppsala consists of three members, one of whom should be elected as chairperson. The composition of the examining committee should normally be the following: one member from the candidate's own department, one member from another department within the Faculty of Social Sciences at Uppsala University, and one member from another higher-education institution. In addition, an alternate should be appointed (UFV 2019/641). The individual who was the principal supervisor of the doctoral candidate may not belong to the committee unless special circumstances apply. The committee elects its own chairperson. In the appointment of an examination committee, gender balance should be sought. Thus, the examining committee must consist of both women and men, unless there are special circumstances warranting an exception. Exemptions may only be granted by the dean.

A doctoral dissertation is to be assessed using the grade of Pass or Fail. No justification for the grade is to be stated in the certificate or in the minutes of the examining committee. A member of the examination committee who wishes to object to the majority decision may register a dissenting opinion in the minutes or other documentation of the decision, though not in the degree certificate. In assigning a grade, consideration must be given to the content of the dissertation and to its public defence. The grade for a doctoral dissertation is to be assigned by an examining committee that is specially appointed for each dissertation.

All course credit should be completed before the public defence takes place.

6.3 Licentiate seminar

The licentiate thesis must be orally defended at a public seminar. It is to be assessed using the grades of Pass and Fail. In assigning a grade, consideration must be given to the content of the thesis and to its public defence.

The grade is to be determined by an examiner, who is appointed by the head of department.

All coursework should be completed before the seminar takes place.

The time and place of the seminar are to be determined by the head of department.

7. Degrees

The doctoral degree in peace and conflict research is awarded once the doctoral candidate has completed the doctoral programme comprising 240 credits in peace and conflict research and thereby achieved a passing grade on the examinations included in the study programme and written and publicly defended a doctoral dissertation that was approved by the examining committee.

The licentiate degree in peace and conflict research is awarded once the doctoral student has completed the doctoral programme comprising 120 credits in peace and conflict research and thereby achieved a passing grade on the examinations included in the study programme and written a licentiate thesis and defended it at a licentiate seminar, achieving a passing grade from the examiner.

The degree certificate is issued by the Vice-Chancellor upon application to the Graduation Office.

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8. Transitional provisions

The present syllabus took effect on 9 December 2021. Doctoral students admitted under previous syllabuses have the right to complete their study programme in accordance with that syllabus or follow the current.

9. Other instructions

Current governing provisions regarding doctoral programmes are found in:

Higher Education Ordinance (HEO), Ch. 5 (employment as a doctoral student), Ch. 6 (doctoral programmes), and Ch. 7 (admission doctoral programmes)

Admission Regulations and Provisions for Grading in the Doctoral programmes at Uppsala University (AFUU) UFV 2010/472

Guidelines for Doctoral Programmes at Uppsala University (RUF), UFV 2021/641

Delegation of decision concerning the minimum size of the printed edition for dissertations (SAMFAK 2021/144).

Delegation Regulations and Decision-making Structure for the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (www.samfak.uu.se)