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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Curriculum for Doctoral Studies in Law

# Curriculum Approval

- *demonstrate the ability to present and discuss research and research results with authority, in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts;*
- *demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge; and*
- *demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the development of society and support the learning of others through research and education, and in other professional contexts.*

### **Judgement and approach**

For a degree of **Licentiate** research students shall

- *demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of their own research;*
- *demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and responsibility of the individual for how it is used; and*
- *demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.*

For a degree of **Doctor** research students shall

- *demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics relating to research; and*
- *demonstrate specialised insight into the potential and limitations of scholarship, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.*

### **Licentiate thesis/doctoral thesis**

For a degree of Licentiate, the research students shall have received a pass grade for a licentiate thesis of at least 60 ECTS credits.

For a degree of Doctor the research students shall have received a pass grade for a doctoral thesis of at least 120 ECTS credits.

### **Subject Specific Objectives**

Upon completed studies, the research student shall have

- *acquired specialised knowledge of jurisprudence theory and philosophy,*
- *acquired enhanced methodological knowledge of different jurisprudence methods,*
- *the ability to plan and complete extensive jurisprudence investigations independently,*
- *the ability to analyse legal and any other source material critically.*

Doctoral studies also prepare students for an academic career and for professional positions in private and public organisations.

## **3. Admission Requirements**

*Applicants to doctoral studies must meet the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and is considered to have the ability otherwise required to pursue the programme successfully. (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7, § 35).*

### **3.1 General eligibility**

*A person who has earned a master's degree of at least 240 ECTS credits of which at least 60 ECTS cr are studies at master's level, or who in some other way in the country or abroad has acquired largely equivalent knowledge has general eligibility for admission. If there are special reasons for doing so, the higher education institution may grant an individual applicant exemption from the general eligibility (Higher Education Ordinance, Ch.7, § 39).*

### **3.2. Specific eligibility**

A person who has earned a Degree of Master of Laws, a Degree of Bachelor of Laws or a Degree of Master (60 credits) of Jurisprudence of at least 240 ECTS cr. has special eligibility for admission to doctoral studies in law. A person who, in some other way in the country or abroad has acquired



normally written in English or Swedish, shall reflect the capacity to address a problem in the field of study independently and with a satisfactorily scholarly/scientific approach.

#### **6.4 Supervision**

Doctoral students are entitled to advisors in accordance with the principles stated in the current policy document at Karlstad University.

A main supervisor and a co-supervisor are appointed in conjunction with the doctoral students on admission. The supervisors give advice and comment on the thesis topic and the thesis process. The doctoral student is expected to keep the supervisor updated on the progress regularly and seek advice on the continuation.

The supervisors are expected to continuously discuss, read and critically review the work in progress before it is submitted for examination.

#### **6.5 Individual Study Plan**

Each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the supervisors within six months. The plan should include a realistic estimate of time for course work, thesis work and supervision as well as an introduction to the proposed research field, problem, aim, methodological and theoretical frames, and relevant ethical considerations.

The individual study plan is subject to continual written revision (at least once a year).

#### **6.6 Quality Assurance**

In addition following up doctoral students through the ISP, for thesis work is assured by means of four mandatory seminar procedures for the *doctor's* degree:

1. Proposal seminar: In the first year the student presents the main ideas for the thesis project.
2. Halfway seminar: Before the end of the second year the student submits a text on one or some sections of the thesis (50-150 pages), gives an account of the research pursued so far and presents a plan for the remaining research period.
3. Text seminar: Around a year before the final submission, the student presents a substantial part of the thesis manuscript for discussion. The theory, method, structure, disposition and the presentation of the work in progress are discussed.
4. Final seminar: Before the public thesis defence, the whole thesis is submitted for a final seminar review.

For a *licentiate* degree, two mandatory seminars are required:

1. Proposal seminar: In the first year the student presents the main ideas for the thesis project.
2. Final seminar: Before the public thesis defence, the whole thesis is submitted for a final seminar review.

A special reviewer shall be appointed for each seminar, and for at least one of the seminars 2, 3, or 4, a special external reviewer shall be appointed.

#### **6.7 Examination**

Doctoral students are examined in accordance with the requirements of each individual course syllabus. Doctoral or licentiate theses are examined in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch.6, §§ 33-34) document.