



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Study Plan for Doctoral Studies in Educational Work

Decision	2024-03-21	Ref.no	HS2024/726	Replaces	HS2020/838
Effective from	2024-03-21	until	Until further notice	Officer	Monica Eriksson

Study Plan Approval

The study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Learning in School and Working Life on 2001-11-05 and was revised by the Faculty Board of Learning 2004-06-09 and by the Teacher Education Board 2012-12-12. Revised by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 2017-12-06, 2020-06-11 and 2024-03-21.

The research programme is offered to the extent permitted by available funding. General stipulations for research programmes are provided in the Higher Education Act and in the Higher Education Ordinance.

1. General information

Educational work is an interdisciplinary research field with practical orientation concerned with issues related to the school system and other forms of education. Some of the central research areas are the work done by pupils and their teachers, the socialisation of children and teens, as well as practice-based aspects of education.

The third-cycle programme in Educational Work is offered in close collaboration with the various centres for subject-specific education at Karlstad University, as well as national and international graduate schools/doctoral programmes in educational sciences.

In accordance with Karlstad University's policy for gender equality, the gender perspective shall be taken into account in postgraduate education. Doctoral students shall also gain experience of collaborations across disciplines and insight into interdisciplinary ways of working.

2. Aims and objectives

The general objectives of licentiate or doctoral studies in terms of knowledge and understanding, skills and abilities, and judgement and approach are specified as follows in the Higher Education Ordinance (attachment 2, SFS 2006:1053):

Knowledge and understanding

For a degree of Licentiate research students must

- *demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research, including current specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field and a deeper knowledge of scientific methods in general and of methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

For a degree of Doctor research students must

- *demonstrate broad knowledge in and systematic understanding of the field of research, together with deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a defined part of the field of research; and*
- *demonstrate familiarity with scholarly methods in general and with methods in the specific field of research in particular.*

Skills and abilities

- *demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts.*

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

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- demonstrate relevant specialist knowledge within a clearly-defined part of this field, and;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of the connection between teaching and learning and individual, social and contextual conditions for learning;
- demonstrate deep and relevant specialist knowledge within a clearly-defined part of this field, and;
- demonstrate broad knowledge and understanding of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences.

Skills and abilities

For a *degree of Licentiate* research students must

- demonstrate skills and abilities to, with the support of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences, conduct research within a defined part of the educational system.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate skills and abilities to, with the support of theories and research methods with relevance to the domain of educational sciences, conduct research within the educational system.

Judgement and approach

For a *degree of Licentiate* research students must

- demonstrate the ability to critically approach and evaluate the potential and limitations of educational science research, as well as its role and responsibility in issues that relate to the school system or learning in working life and organisations.

For a *degree of Doctor* research students must

- demonstrate a deeper ability to critically approach and evaluate the potential and limitations of educational science research, as well as its role and responsibility in issues that relate to the school system or learning in working life and organisations.

Postgraduate education in Educational Work shall partly prepare for an academic research career, and partly provide professional skills to perform work tasks within the education system outside the academic community. Possible professional areas can be found within, for example, development

3. Admission requirements

Applicants to doctoral studies must meet the general admission requirements as well as the specific admission requirements and be judged to have the ability otherwise required to pursue the programme successfully.

3.1 General eligibility

Courses for a degree of Doctor must total at least 90 ECTS credits:

- 37.5 ECTS credits mandatory courses:

To Communicate science, 4.5 ECTS credits

Information retrieval and publishing strategies, 3 ECTS credits

Research methodology in Educational Sciences, 15 ECTS credits

Educational Work as Research Arena 7.5 ECTS credits

Knowledge and learning, 7.5 ECTS credits

- 52.5 ECTS credits specialisation courses

Students will actively participate in a general research seminar in educational work throughout the programme. Specialisation courses are chosen in consultation with the supervisor in relation to the student's specialisation and research interest.

6.2 Doctoral and Licentiate Theses

Doctoral students are required to write a thesis for a doctoral or a licentiate degree, either as a monograph or as a compilation thesis. Candidates are required to defend their doctoral thesis at a public examination and their licentiate thesis at a seminar. Further information is provided by the policy documents "Doctoral Thesis Requirements" and "Licentiate Thesis Requirements".

Theses are normally written in Swedish or English.

The thesis project should be presented in least three seminars – a planning seminar, a seminar while the thesis is in progress and a third seminar when the thesis is more or less finished (final seminar).

6.3 Supervision

Doctoral students are entitled to supervisors in accordance with the principles stated in the admission regulations for research programmes at Karlstad University. For doctoral students in educational work, supervision hours are divided equally between individual supervision and joint seminar supervision in accordance with the policy for supervision in education and educational work.

6.4 Individual study plan

Upon admission, each doctoral student must draw up an individual study plan in conjunction with the advisors. 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 revision (at least once a year).

6.5 Examination

Students are assessed in accordance with the requirements of each indi.9 (ti)8.3 (r)2 (en)1u(l)-4.(g)15.30.8 (r)-3.9 (o