

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices

Disclaimer: In case of discrepancies between the English and the Swedish version of this document, the Swedish version will prevail.

Decision

This general syllabus was established by the Board of Education and Research on 10 October 2016 and revised on 14th April 2020, 14th of December 2020 and latest on 15th June 2023. The general syllabus is valid from 2023-08-28.

Previous general syllabi expire for doctoral students admitted after 2023-08-28 to third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices. They shall follow this general study plan.

Regulations regarding third-cycle study programmes leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts and admission to such studies, are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, chapters 6 and 7 (SFS 1993:100).

Local rules for third-cycle study programmes are to be found in joint steering documents for SKH.

1. Identification

Programme name	Third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices
Research domain	Artistic practices
Third-cycle subject area	Performative and Media-Based Practices
Scope	240 ECTS ¹
Language of instruction	English
Language of examination	English, Swedish or possibly another Scandinavian language
Title of qualification	Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i performativa och mediala praktiker
English title of qualification	Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Performative and Media Based Practices
Ordinary programme length	Four years of full-time studies – see Higher Education Ordinance

¹ 1.5 ECTS correspond to 1 week of fulltime studies.

2. Subject Description and Programme Outcomes

Subject description

The subject *Performative and media-based practices* accommodates research in artistic practice. It offers possibilities for artists with higher education or equivalent qualifications² to reflect in, on and through artistic practice. This is done by situating a specific enquiry to relevant knowledge and methods within artistic practice, resulting in a documented artistic research project (doctoral thesis).

The third-cycle studies are based on artistic work within fields that include bodily and vocal practices (for example: circus, dance, opera singing, acting), media based, visual, acoustic, spatial practices (for example: cinematography, sound design, production design, scenography) and practices where dramaturgy, composition or curation are in focus (for example: choreography, cinema, stage direction).

The aim of the third-cycle programme *Performative and media-based practices* is to educate the artists and artistic researchers of the present, in both practice and theory, as they endeavour to make meaningful contributions to the art, culture, and society of the future. Programme aims include promoting dialogue about art in and with society, as well as developing collaborations and exchanges between artistic research and other fields of research.

The education qualifies the doctoral student for artistic practice and artistic research in artistic and/or academic contexts nationally as well as internationally.

SKH has opted for a broad third-cycle subject *Performative and media-based practices*, to which all doctoral students are admitted. On completion of their studies, a doctoral student will have a grounding in *Performative and media-based practices*.

The doctoral student and their supervisor(s) are to define the research field(s) in which the doctoral student's research project will be conducted. The relevant field of research is to be clearly stated in the individual study plan. On completion of their studies, a doctoral student will have acquired broad knowledge and systematic understanding of their research field (see Programme Outcomes on page 3 below).

The documented artistic research project is described in the individual study plan. It is unique to each doctoral student. On completion of their studies, a doctoral student will have acquired advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in their artistic field (see Programme Outcomes on page 3 below).

² According to The Swedish Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434) chap 1 § 9 a.

Programme outcomes

These outcomes for third-cycle studies are adopted from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, System of Qualifications.

For the Degree Doctor in the fine arts the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- 1) demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of their research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in their artistic field, and
- 2) demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

- 3) demonstrate creative capacity in their artistic field,
- 4) demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically,
- 5) demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work,
- 6) demonstrate through a documented artistic research project the ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge through his or her own research,
- 7) demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings with artistic legitimacy and well-motivated arguments in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general,
- 8) demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- 9) demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in other qualified professional capacities.

Judgment and approach

- 10) demonstrate intellectual autonomy, artistic integrity and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- 11) demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Documented artistic research project

For a Degree of Doctor in the fine arts the doctoral student shall have been awarded a pass grade for a documented artistic research project (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 credits.

3. Admission

In order to be admitted to third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices, the applicant is required to fulfil the entry requirements in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance. General and specific entry requirements shall be fulfilled at the time of application. The applicant's ability to profit from third-cycle studies shall be assessed.

Admission is for four years of full-time studies leading to a doctoral degree and follows SKH's *Admission regulations*.

General entry requirements

An applicant meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices if they have according to chap 7 § 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance:

- been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
- completed course requirements comprising at least 240 ECTS, of which at least 60 ECTS awarded at second-cycle level, or
- otherwise acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

On special grounds, the Vice-Rector for Research may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for admission to third-cycle studies for an individual applicant.

Specific entry requirements

An applicant meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies in performative and media-based practices if they have:

1. been awarded a degree comprising at least 240 ECTS in educational programmes that are relevant to the subject area *performative and media-based practices* or have experience of artistic work comparative therewith,
2. demonstrated continuous and on-going artistic activities and carried out independent artistic work,
3. good knowledge in English, both written and spoken.

Selection

Selection of applicants who meet the eligibility requirements is based on the applicant's qualifications at the time of application and their ability to profit from third-cycle studies.

In connection with the application, the applicant shall present their intended artistic research project in a research plan. The plan shall contain a description of the research project and a sketch of its execution as well as a budget. Work samples may be attached to the application.

The following criteria form the basis of assessment of the applicant's ability to profit from third-cycle studies:

1. the research plan's content in relation to an assessment of the applicant's earlier qualifications and the applicant's suitability for artistic research work,
2. the feasibility of the project according to the research plan within the given time frame (a period corresponding to four years of full-time study) and allocated project budget,
3. the research plan's artistic quality regarding the subject's delimitation, relevance, originality, research questions, ties with and relevance to the collective area of knowledge and its method development,
4. the research plan's content in relation to the existing research expertise and research fields of SKH as well as good research practice, and the university's possibilities for adequate supervision, and
5. documented good collaboration skills.

The most qualified applicants will be called to interviews. When necessary, the admission committee may request additional documentation.

Credit transfer

An applicant requesting to transfer credits from earlier education or professional activities may not be given priority over other applicants in the selection process. Credit transfer of previous studies shall take place at the start of the third-cycle studies. Crediting of previous studies shall entail deduction from the net study time of four years for fulltime studies at third-cycle level.

Courses that have been included in the fulfilment of the requirements for admission to the programme cannot be included in a doctoral degree.

Assessment of credit transfer takes place in each individual case in relation to what is stipulated in the general syllabus and in relation to the system of qualifications (see section 2).

Admission and Employment

Only the select number of third-cycle students who can be offered acceptable conditions in terms of supervision and study conditions in general shall be accepted to third-cycle education. According to the Higher Education Ordinance chapter 7 section 36, only students who are considered to have guaranteed funding for the entire study period shall be admitted to third-cycle studies.

Only applicants admitted to third-cycle studies can be employed on a doctoral studentship corresponding to four years of full-time studies. The employment may be part-time, but never less than 50% of full-time. A third-cycle student can engage in departmental work for a maximum of 20% of the total programme length.

4. Structure and Content of the Programme

Structure

Third-cycle studies comprising 240 ECTS lead to a *Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Performative and Media-Based Practices* and correspond to 4 years of full-time studies. For a doctoral degree, third-cycle studies include the development, production, and publication of a documented artistic research project (with a scope of 180 ECTS) and a study component (with a scope of 60 ECTS, corresponding to one year of full-time studies). Moreover, the doctoral student shall arrange percentage seminars, a final seminar, Making Public and the public defence. At percentage seminars, the on-going research project is presented at 30%, 50% and 80% of completion.

Third-cycle studies involve active participation in the research environment, e.g. in seminars or workshops, conferences and exhibitions both locally at SKH, nationally and internationally.

Supervision

At least two supervisors must be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them must be appointed principal supervisor. at latest two months after the start of the programme. At least one (preferably the principal) supervisor shall be employed by SKH. The doctoral student is entitled to supervision during their studies unless the vice-chancellor has decided otherwise with support of 6 chap. 30 § Higher Education Ordinance. The doctoral student is entitled to change supervisors on request. The supervisor and doctoral student shall have regular contact on the progression of the studies and the doctoral student's achievements in relation to the individual study plan.

Individual study plan

An individual study plan is established for each doctoral student stating the university's and the doctoral student's commitments, a financing plan and a timetable for the doctoral student's education. The ISP ensures that the studies are planned in such a way that enable the doctoral student to achieve the programme outcomes. The fulfilment of these outcomes is monitored continuously as well as in connection with the doctoral student's percentage and final seminars, making public and the public defence.

Study component (with a scope of 60 ECTS)

The main aim of the study component is to introduce the artistic research praxis. The study component consists of obligatory and elective components, distributed as follows:

- Obligatory course component with a scope of 45 ECTS:
 - *Ways of Knowing in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS
 - *Methods and practices in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS
 - *Processes of documentation in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS
 - *Ways of Sharing in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS, and
 - *Doctoral Seminars: Engaging and Exchanging with Peers*, 15 ECTS (running throughout the doctoral study period).
- Elective component with a scope of 15 ECTS (may include courses in higher education pedagogy up to 7.5 ECTS).

The purpose of the elective component is to support deeper investigations of specific aspects of the documented artistic research project. With the elective component, the doctoral student obtains both an expansive knowledge of the art field and in-depth, up-to-date specialist knowledge in the areas most relevant to their research project. The elective study-component may include courses at second-cycle level.

Documented artistic research project (with a scope of 180 ECTS)

The development, production, and publication of an individual documented artistic research project is central to third-cycle studies. The documented artistic research project constitutes a specific enquiry through artistic practices and processes and is made available to the public, both via artistic formats and as archived documentation. The documentation can contain different approaches, materials, expressions and configurations. However, the doctoral student's own artistic practice constitutes the core of such a project.

Examination

For a doctoral degree, the doctoral student shall have successfully completed the study component of 60 ECTS and the public defence with a documented artistic research project of 180 ECTS. If some of the programme outcomes have been fulfilled earlier during the third-cycle studies as documented in the individual study plan, they may not need to be fulfilled by the documented artistic research project. This does not hinder the approval of the documented artistic research project at the public defence. When combined, the documented artistic research project and the study component ensure that all programme outcomes have been met.

The documented artistic research project shall demonstrate advanced understanding in existing practice and knowledge in the artistic field and be of such quality that meets international requirements for artistic excellence. It shall contribute independently to the field of artistic research and to development of knowledge in relation to the relevant research area(s) and artistic field(s). It shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to work independently and to identify, clearly define and discuss an artistic research task in agreement with good research practice. It shall demonstrate the capacity for artistic activity and the ability to account for and

communicate artistic approaches and research results. The documentation shall include reflections and be conceptually coherent. The documented artistic research project is assessed based on how it articulates such knowledge, conclusions and artistic solutions as intended.

If all or parts of the documented artistic research project have been conducted via team work, the individual contributions shall be clearly distinguishable at examination. They need to be specified and will be assessed as individual pieces of work.

For a doctoral degree, a licentiate research project (see section 5) can be included as part(s) of the doctoral research project, either in revised or unrevised form. If the licentiate is completed as an interim goal during doctoral studies, the licentiate research project should be planned so that it can constitute part(s) of the potential documented artistic research project.

5. Degree of Licentiate

The purpose of the licentiate stage is to provide preparation for tasks in society in which knowledge of artistic research would be of value, in relation to other research-oriented studies for example. During the programme this purpose is achieved by the doctoral student acquiring subject knowledge, methodological training and an ability to independently implement artistic research projects.

The Degree of Licentiate is non-compulsory. It is not required that the doctoral student undertakes a Degree of Licentiate upon admission to third-cycle studies. Any doctoral student who does not have a clearly expressed desire to limit their studies to a Degree of Licentiate is recommended to focus their studies on requirements for the Degree of Doctor. Such an arrangement does not hinder later redirection of studies towards the Degree of Licentiate as interim or final goal. If the licentiate is completed as an interim goal during doctoral studies, the licentiate research project should be planned so that it can constitute part or parts of the potential documented artistic research project.

Programme outcomes for the Degree of Licentiate

These outcomes for third-cycle studies are adopted from the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, System of Qualifications.

For a Degree of Licentiate in the fine arts the doctoral student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in his or her artistic field as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate creative capacity in their artistic field,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake an artistic research project and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgment and approach

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

Licentiate research project

For a Degree of Licentiate in the fine arts the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a pass grade for an artistic research project of at least 60 credits.

Structure for the Degree of Licentiate

Third-cycle studies comprising 120 ECTS lead to a *Degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts in Performative and Media-Based Practices* and correspond to 2 years of full-time studies. For a licentiate degree, third-cycle studies include the development, production, and publication of a licentiate research project (with a scope of 90 ECTS) and a study component (with a scope of 30 ECTS). The latter corresponds to half a year of full-time studies. Moreover, the doctoral student shall arrange a percentage seminar approximately at 50% of completion of the licentiate, a final seminar, Making Public and a licentiate seminar.

Study component for the Degree of Licentiate (with a scope of 30 ECTS)

For a licentiate degree, the study component consists of obligatory and elective components, distributed as follows:

- Obligatory component with a scope of 20 ECTS:
 - Course *Ways of Knowing in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS
 - Course *Methods and Practices in Artistic Research*, 7.5 ECTS, and
 - Course *Doctoral Seminars for Licentiate: Engaging and Exchanging with Peers*, 5 ECTS (running throughout the licentiate study period).
- Elective component with a scope of 10 ECTS (may include courses in higher education pedagogy up to 7.5 ECTS).

The purpose of the elective component is to support deeper investigations of specific aspects of the licentiate research project. With the elective component, the doctoral student obtains both current specialist knowledge in their art field and specialised knowledge of the methods in the areas most relevant to their research project. The elective study-component may include courses at second-cycle level.

Licentiate research project (with a scope of 90 ECTS)

For a licentiate degree, the development, production, and publication of an individual licentiate research project is central to third-cycle studies. The licentiate research project constitutes a specific enquiry through artistic practices and processes within a limited area of the field in question and is made available to the public, both via artistic formats and as archived documentation. The documentation can contain different approaches, materials, expressions and configurations. However, the doctoral student's own artistic practice constitutes the core of such a project.

Examination for the Degree of Licentiate

For a licentiate degree, the doctoral student shall have successfully completed the study component of 30 ECTS and the licentiate seminar with a licentiate research project of 90 ECTS. If some of the programme outcomes have been fulfilled earlier during the third-cycle studies as documented in the individual study plan, they might not need to be fulfilled by the licentiate research project. This does not hinder the approval of the licentiate research project at the licentiate seminar. When combined, the licentiate research project and the study component ensure that programme outcomes for the degree of licentiate have been met.

The licentiate research project shall demonstrate understanding in existing practice and knowledge in the field of research and be of such quality that meets national requirements for artistic excellence. The licentiate research project shall contribute to artistic research and knowledge formation within a limited area of the field in question and be relevant to the development of research within the artistic field. It shall demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to work autonomously, to identify, clearly define, and, using relevant methods, discuss an artistic research task within the framework of their research practice in agreement with good research practice.

It shall demonstrate the capacity for artistic activity and the ability to account for and communicate artistic approaches and research results within their field of research. The documentation shall include reflections and be conceptually coherent. The licentiate research project is assessed based on how it articulates such knowledge, conclusions and artistic solutions as intends.

If the licentiate is completed as an interim goal during doctoral studies, the licentiate research project should be planned so that it can constitute part or parts of the potential documented artistic research project.

If all or parts of the licentiate research project have been conducted via team work, the individual contributions shall be clearly distinguishable at examination. They need to be specified and will be assessed as individual pieces of work.

6. Interim regulations

Doctoral students admitted to third-cycle studies under a previous general syllabus have the right to complete their studies according to that general syllabus within the nominal study time (4 years of net study time as of 28th August 2023) plus a closure period of 2 calendar years or may submit a request to the Head of the Third-Cycle Subject Area to continue their studies according to this new general syllabus. Such a request needs to be supported by the principal supervisor and a positive decision requires an update of the individual study plan.

The previous general study plan is revoked after the nominal study time (4 years net study time from 2023-08-28) plus a closure period of 2 calendar years have passed.

7. Other

Information regarding admission and application periods is provided by SKH.

The third-cycle study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with Guidelines for programme evaluations.