Third-cycle education at the Faculty of Science and Technology

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The Legal Framework

- **Laws and regulations** - The Swedish Higher Education Act (Högskolagen, HL), The Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (Högskoleförordningen, HF) and The Swedish System of Qualifications (Examensordningen, EO)

- **Local rules and guidelines (UU)** - Admissions Ordinance and Regulations regarding Studies at the Graduate Level (UFV 2009/1993 and UFV 2012/2057, http://regler.uu.se/)

- **Local rules and guidelines (Teknat)** (www.teknat.uu.se), Operational plan (VP), TN-regulations (arbetsordning), General study plan (Allmän studieplan)
Responsibility

- Faculty Board - overall responsibility
- Faculty Board (Working group, AU) – admissions, exemptions, faculty guidelines etc.
- Graduate Educational Board (FUN) - overall quality control and evaluation, admissions processing, subject study plans, faculty courses etc.
- Section dean – appoint opponent, examination committee and chair of the public defense
- Subject responsible professor (FUAP) – overall quality, determine the grade on lic, subject study plans, courses
- Head of department – admissions, appoint supervisors, decide on individual study plans
- Director of studies – support to doctoral students, supervisors and FUAP (e.g. intro, admission processing, individual monitoring, courses)
Admission of doctoral students

• General admission requirements (basic eligibility), i.e. a degree at advanced level or a basic education with a minimum of 240 higher education credits of which at least 60 are at advanced level (or equivalent).

• Specific entry requirements according to subject study plan

• Positions shall be openly advertised and occur in competition

• In selecting between applicants who meet the requirements, their ability to benefit from the course of study programmes shall be decisive.
Admission of doctoral students

Delegated to head of department:
- Fulltime students with doctoral studentship (employment as PhD student) at UU.
- Fulltime students with doctoral grant (“utbildningsbidrag”) until 2014-12-31 at UU

Faculty Board after processing in the Graduate Educational Board (FUN):
- Students with all other kind of funding (industry-based students, students with their own funds (such as scholarships), students employed at another higher education institution (incl ”joint doctors”)
- Part time students (not less than 50 %)
- Licentiate students

Forms:
http://www.teknat.uu.se/utbildning/utbildning-pa-forskarniva/Blanketter/
Supervision requirements

- At least two supervisors
- One main supervisor
- At least one shall be employed or co-opted to UU
- At least one supervisor must be docent
- The main supervisor must have taken the supervisor training course - faculty course 4 x ½ days (compare with “Supervising PhD Students” 3 weeks UU common course for docent qualification)
- The student has the right to change supervisor
Study plans

- General study plan (TEKNAT 2014/38) (Faculty Board)
  (rules, goals (the Qualifications Ordinance), general admission requirements, responsibility, admission and selection, education structure and monitoring, supervision, financing, thesis and dissertation)

- Subject study plan (Subject responsible professor – Graduate Educational Board)
  (goals, subject description, specific entry requirements, courses, requirements)

- Individual study plan (Head of department)
  (time schedule (48 months - 100 %), financing plan, research plan, achievements, individual goals, planned and completed courses, supervision agreements etc.)
Monitoring the progression

Revision of individual study plans at least once per year

- Student and supervisors shall jointly summarize achievements and make plans for the coming year(s) and document them in the individual study plan – courses and scientific work
- Accumulated study time, progress 50 % and 80 %, lic, dissertation
- Individual goal achievements
- Financing
- Reflections regarding goals, accomplishments and supervision

If there are major discrepancies from the plan the head of department should request written comments

The individual study plan is an educational tool but also a legal document!
Problems

• **Problems can not be allowed to drag on!**
• Revise the individual study plan more frequently
• Identify clear objectives and goals that can be easily verified
• Discuss with head of department (or whoever head of department has delegated to) and if necessary with the Graduate Educational Board
• Possible actions: change of project or supervisor, additional supervisors
• If undefeatable problems: the head of department may advise the student to interrupt the training
• If the student has significantly failed to fulfill its commitments, supervision and other resources may be withdrawn. Requires careful consideration and the final decision is made by the vice-chancellor (HF ch 6, § 30)
Upcoming evaluation of third-cycle education

The Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ)

Goal achievements according to the Qualifications Ordinance (Examensordning, HF bilaga 2)

Educational environment

Collegial environment
e.g. supervisors, other students, senior scientists, teachers, own collaborators

Study plans

Courses, seminars etc

But we don’t know yet…
Goals

The system of qualifications (HF, Appendix 2) stipulates the requirements doctoral students must meet to qualify for doctoral degrees.

- Knowledge and understanding
- Competence and skills
- Judgement and approach
Knowledge and understanding

To qualify for a doctoral degree, a doctoral student must:

- demonstrate **broad knowledge and systematic understanding** of the research field as well as advanced and **up-to-date specialised knowledge** in a limited area of this field; and

- demonstrate **familiarity with research methodology** in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.
Competence and skills

To qualify for a doctoral degree, a doctoral student must:

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

To qualify for a doctoral degree, a doctoral student must:

- 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.