



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

2021-11-11 Dnr SAMFAK 2021/155

General Curriculum för the PhD Program in Political Science

(Allmän studieplan för utbildning på
forskarnivå i statskunskap)

Fastställd av Samhällsvetenskapliga fakultetsnämnden 2021-11-11

General curriculum for the PhD program in Political Science

(Allmän studieplan för utbildning på forskarnivå i statskunskap)

1. Goals of the Program

According to the System of Qualifications (*Examensordningen*), to be awarded a Doctoral degree the doctoral student (*doktorand*) shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of political science research as well as deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a limited area of political science
- demonstrate familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with political science methods in particular
- demonstrate the capacity for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as for independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions and situations
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific rigor identify and formulate research questions as well as to plan and use appropriate methods, conduct research and other skilled tasks within given time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- with a dissertation, demonstrate their ability to make a significant contribution to the development of knowledge,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively orally and in 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 the development of society and support others' learning through research and education as well as in other professional contexts,
- demonstrate intellectual independence and academic integrity as well as the ability to make research ethics assessments, and
- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

Relevant parts of these goals also apply to the licentiate degree.

For doctoral students who are also part of a research school with doctoral students from other subjects, additional objectives may be specified in a special study plan for the research school.

2. Entry requirements and prerequisite qualifications

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

2.1. General entry requirements

The general entry requirements are met with the awarding of a master level (or equivalent) degree, the completion of courses comprising at least 240 credits (*högskolepoäng*) of which at least 60 credits were awarded at the master level, or the acquisition by some other means, in Sweden or abroad, of the substantially equivalent knowledge.

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 program in political science, the applicant must have completed courses for 90 credits in political science. An applicant who has acquired the equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad also meets these specific entry requirements.

3. Admission and selection

3.1. Information och utlysning

Notification of vacancies in the doctoral program is done on the Uppsala University website <http://www.uu.se> at least three weeks before the application deadline. The Department website also contains information about how admission to the doctoral program is managed, the time for advertising vacancies in the doctoral program, documents to be appended to applications, the structure of the curriculum, and forms of financing.

3.2. Admission

Admissions to the doctoral program and allocations of financial support are done openly and competitively. Normally, admission takes place once per year. Application for admission is done electronically through the University's website.

2021-11-11

The Faculty Board may only admit applicants to the doctoral program for whom there is a plan for financing the position during the entire PhD program, normally by employment as a PhD student. The Faculty Board may, however, admit an applicant who has another form of financing, if the Board judges that this financing can be secured for the entire PhD program and that the applicant can devote enough time to the program that it can be completed within four years (for the licentiate degree) and eight years for the doctoral degree (see SFS 2010:1064 HEO, Ch. 7 Sec. 36, RUF Sec. 3).

The Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences has delegated to the Head of the Department of Government the authority to make decisions, in consultation with doctoral supervisors at the Department (the Collegium of Supervisors, or *Handledarkollegiet*), regarding admission to the doctoral program. Admission of doctoral students with another form of financing than employment as a doctoral student is decided by the Faculty Board. The Faculty Board also makes admissions decisions for admission 1) to a program of 120 credits that ends with a licentiate degree, 2) for part-time studies, and 3) for applicants with financing from other higher education institutions.

3.3. Selection

Selection among applicants who meet the entry requirements will be made with regard to their ability to benefit from the doctoral program and will be based on the following assessment criteria:

Previously completed independent work of a scientific nature (especially MA-degree projects) is examined with regard to independence, methodological clarity and theoretical awareness, analytical and stylistic rigor and critical approach. Some consideration is also given to the applicant's academic background and prior knowledge.

However, the mere fact that an applicant is deemed to be able to have previous education or professional activity credited for the program may not give the applicant priority over other applicants in the selection process (cf. SFS 2010:1064, HF Chapter 7 Section 41).

4. Content and structure of the program

4.1. Structure of the program

The doctoral program in political science leads to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or a Licentiate degree. The degree comprises at least 240 credits for the doctorate and at least 120 credits for the licentiate. A doctoral student admitted to the doctoral program leading to a PhD may, if so desired, complete a licentiate as a step towards the doctorate.

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

2021-11-11

The doctoral program in political science leading to a PhD degree comprises four years of net study time and consists of coursework totaling 60 credits and a doctoral dissertation worth 180 credits.

The doctoral program in political science leading to a licentiate degree comprises two years of net study time and consists of coursework totaling 60 credits and a licentiate thesis worth 60 credits.

Coursework and dissertation/thesis work should be pursued in parallel. Even if the coursework is expected to be most intense during the first years of the program, the doctoral student should start the dissertation work as early as possible.

The work must be continually reported at the Department's research seminars. A first assessment occurs during the third semester (*termin*) where the doctoral student presents an introductory paper (introduktionspromemoria, IP) or plan for the dissertation. After that, the doctoral student presents results from the research project at two additional research seminars (Etapp 1 and Etapp 2). PhD students should continuously discuss the progress of their studies with their supervisors.

For doctoral students who are employed at another university or are part of a graduate school, presentations of thesis sections and reconciliations can be coordinated with collaborating parties, provided that the above requirements are met.

4.2. Supervision

For each doctoral student, two supervisors are appointed, one with the primary responsibility for the candidate's studies (*huvudhandledare*) – including dissertation/thesis work – and one deputy or assistant supervisor (*bihandledare*). One of the supervisors must be employed by or affiliated with Uppsala University. The supervisors must hold doctorates/equivalent, and at least one of the supervisors must be qualified as associate professor (*docent*) (see AFUU Sec. 1).

The doctoral student has the right to supervision during the study program, 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 primary supervisor should have completed a supervisor course during the first year of supervision at the latest, and the same is recommended for the assistant supervisor. It is part of the supervisors' task to ensure that the doctoral research is conducted in accordance with ethical research practices (see RUF 8 §).

4.3 Individual study plan

An individual study plan (*individuell studieplan*, or ISP) shall be drawn up 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 Government after consultation with the doctoral student and the supervisors.

The ISP shall contain a timetable for the doctoral studies, information about how the doctoral student's supervision is organized, a description of the other commitments 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 program is continuously pursued in an effective manner.

The ISP shall document how the PhD student, through supervision and other educational elements regarding research ethics, especially with regard to good research practices and ethics review, will develop a capacity to take responsibility to ensure that good research practices are followed in the research.

The ISP 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 studies. The Faculty Board may then, or on any other occasion when it is justified, make any necessary changes to the ISP. The period of study may be extended only if there are special grounds for doing so. Such grounds can be leave of absence because of illness, leave of absence for military service or an elected position in a trade union or student organization, or parental leave. Before any change is made the doctoral student and supervisor are given the opportunity to comment on the matter.

The doctoral student, the supervisors and the Department Head shall certify in writing that they have read the ISP and understand 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 of Social Sciences website (www.samfak.uu.se).

5. Courses

The curriculum in the doctoral program political science consists a course component with compulsory courses comprising 60 credits as determined by the department's board. The courses shall be divided into general courses about the research frontier in different areas of political science, and courses focusing on advanced social science methodology, philosophy of science and good research practice.

A doctoral program in political science leading to a licentiate degree also consists of a course component comprising 60 credits of compulsory courses (see above).

5.1. Examination

Every course in the doctoral program concludes with a written or oral examination. The examinations are assessed using the grades of Pass and Fail. The grade is to be determined by a teacher specially appointed by the Department Head (examiner). The following categories of teachers may be appointed examiners for doctoral courses: professors, senior lecturers (associate professors - *docent*), lecturers who hold doctorates and have been reviewed by a recruiting group (applied for and selected for employment in competition), associate senior lecturers (*biträdande lektor*), and postdoctoral research fellows (*forskarassistent*).

5.2. Transfer of credit (*tillgodoräknande*)

Doctoral students who have received passing grades for courses included in doctoral programs at another higher-education institution have the right to transfer credits for these

courses with the consent of the examiner. The same applies to courses given within the framework of the Faculty's joint offerings or courses arranged by some other faculty at Uppsala University.

6. Dissertation and public defense

6.1. Dissertation

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

The doctoral dissertation or, where relevant, the scholarly articles, must maintain a level of quality that meets reasonable requirements to be accepted for publication 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 according to the Faculty Board's regulations.

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

6.2. Public defense (disputation)

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

The public defense must be publicly announced in good time (at least three weeks) by electronic publication (*elektronisk spikning*). This excludes the period of 15 June to 15 August. 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" (*spikbladen*) must be published digitally. For compilation dissertations, the summary (*kappa*) must also be published digitally.

At the time of the electronic publication of the nailing pages, the doctoral dissertation must be available at the University in a sufficient number of copies to enable it to be satisfactorily reviewed at the public defense (RUF 9 §). The Faculty Board has delegated to the department boards the authority to decide on the minimum number of dissertations to be printed for the different types of dissertations (SAMFAK 2021/144). The Department is responsible for ensuring that the dissertation is distributed to supervisors, examining committee, chair of the defense and is responsible for ensuring that dissertations are available for review/distribution at the public defense. Publication,

2021-11-11

printing and distribution of the thesis must be done in such a way that the net study time can be maintained.

The public defense is to be led by a chair. There must be an opponent at the defense. Decisions about the chairperson of the public defense, 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 has the right to be present at meeting of the examining committee and to take part in deliberations but not in decisions. The same applies to the primary supervisor.

Normally an examination committee at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Uppsala consists of three members, one of whom must be elected as chair. The composition of the examination committee is normally the following: one member comes from the home department, one member comes from another department within the Faculty of Social Sciences at Uppsala University, and one member comes from another institution of higher education; in addition, a reserve should be appointed (see UFV 2019/641). The supervisor of the doctoral candidate may not belong to the committee unless there are extraordinary grounds. The committee elects its own chair. In the appointment of an examination committee, gender balance should be strived for. Thus, the examination committee shall consist of both women and men, unless there are extraordinary reasons for an exception. Exemptions may only be granted by the dean.

A doctoral dissertation is to be assessed using the grade of pass or fail. A justification for the grade of pass is not to be stated in the certificate or in the protocol of the examination committee. A member of the examination committee who wishes to object to the majority decision may register a dissenting opinion in the protocol or other documentation of the decision, though not in the degree certificate. In assigning a grade, consideration shall be given to the content of the dissertation and to its public defense. The grade for a doctoral dissertation is to be assigned by an examination committee that is specially appointed for each dissertation.

All course credits should be completed before the public defense 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 or fail. In assigning a grade, consideration shall be given to the content of the thesis and to its public defense.

The grade is to be determined by an examiner who is appointed by the Department Head. All coursework should be completed before the seminar takes place.

7. Degrees

The doctoral degree in political science is awarded once the doctoral candidate has completed the doctoral program comprising 240 credits in political science and thereby achieved a passing grade on the examinations included in the curriculum, and written and publicly defended a doctoral dissertation that was approved by the examination committee.

The licentiate degree in political science is awarded once the doctoral student has completed the doctoral program comprising 120 credits in political science and thereby achieved a passing grade on the examinations included in the curriculum, and written a licentiate thesis and defended it at a licentiate seminar, achieving a passing grade from the examiner.

The degree certificate or diploma (*examensbevis*) is issued by the Vice-Chancellor (*Rektor*) upon application to the Graduation Office (*Examensenheten*).

8. Transitional provisions

The present syllabus took effect on November 11, 2021. . Doctoral students admitted to the doctoral program after this date shall follow the current curriculum. Doctoral students admitted under a previous curriculum may, if it is possible with regard to their progress in the program, request to follow the new curriculum. A decision regarding the transition to the new curriculum is made by the Department Head in consultation with the supervisors and examiner. Doctoral students who have been admitted under a previous curriculum have the right to complete the program under that curriculum.

9. Other instructions

Current governing provisions regarding doctoral programs are found in:

- Higher Education Ordinance (HEO), Ch. 5 (doctoral studentships), Ch. 6 (doctoral programs), and Ch. 7 (admission doctoral programs)
- Admission Regulations and Provisions for Grading in the Doctoral programs at Uppsala University (AFUU), UFV 2010/472
- Guidelines for Doctoral Programs at Uppsala University (RUF), UFV 2019/641
- Delegation of Decision on Minimum Print Run for Doctoral Dissertations (SAMFAK 2021/144)
- Delegation Regulations and Decision-making Structure for the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (www.samfak.uu.se)