

General Syllabus for Doctoral Studies in Design in the Area of Textiles and Fashion

1 Area description

The doctoral subject area of Design is one of three subjects in the research area *Textiles and Fashion*. In addition to Design, the other subjects are Textile Material Technology and Textile Management. The overall aim of the doctoral programme in Textiles and Fashion is to contribute to the development of society through research and the development of the textile sector by educating doctoral-level academics for positions in business, cultural life, and academia. We examine definitions, methods, and models of importance for the development and application of textiles and fashion in research, industry, and society at large. In this area, the connections between material and design variables for function and expression in the development and production of textiles and fashion are studied, as well as the relationship between economic and design variables for function and expression in the production, distribution, and trade of textiles and fashion.

Design is, in a broad sense, about defining and expressing/shaping things, products, and systems, which also includes defining what they are in a specific context. The artistic basis for design as a field and craft lies in the ability to express things and in an understanding of the expressiveness of materials and techniques: the ability to make concrete that which is abstract and an understanding of the design possibilities of materials and techniques as well as intended uses in relation to, in one way or another, given contexts.

A central theme for artistic research in the field of design is thus to develop, and through artistic work critically illuminate, the conditions and foundations for the art of expression and to deepen the understanding of the expressiveness of materials and techniques, i.e. to develop, deepen and critically illuminate the artistic basis of design as a field and craft. It is about artistic design research with a strong focus on deepening understanding of, both in theoretical and practical terms, the interplay between analysis and synthesis in the design process, as a basis for the development of design methodology, techniques, and programmes. It takes a practice-based approach: for design, through design. The development of methodology, programmes, and techniques depends on critical experimental artistic work. An in-depth understanding of the expressiveness of materials, techniques, and intended uses depends on experimental artistic work in the same way.

The doctoral education programme in design focuses on artistic design research in the field of textiles and fashion in which there is an opportunity to focus on:

- *textile design*: to develop, deepen, and critically illuminate the artistic basis for design as a field and craft with a focus on the expressiveness of textile materials and techniques as they build and express textile products and environments,
- *fashion design*: to develop, deepen, and critically illuminate the artistic basis for design as a field and craft with a focus on the expressiveness of garments as they dress and express people, bodies, and activities,
- *textile interaction design*: to develop, deepen, and critically illuminate the artistic basis for design as a field and craft with a focus on the expressiveness of the use of textiles as it defines and expresses textile products, environments and people.

2 Learning outcomes

The aim of the programme is to prepare for in-depth research work in the field of design and also for the doctoral student to develop an in-depth professional expertise as a designer.

2.1 Degree of Licentiate

2.1.1 Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in practice-based design research, including current specialist knowledge in design, especially with a focus on the textile field and demonstrate knowledge of artistic research methods in general and methodology in practice-based design research in particular.

2.1.2 Competence and skills

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate creative ability in their artistic field,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with research rigour identify and formulate important artistic questions, to plan and with appropriate methods implement an artistic research project and other advanced artistic tasks within given time frames and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge and 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, or in another way, 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.

2.1.3 Evaluation ability and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of art and technology, their role in society, and people's responsibility for how they are used.
- demonstrate the ability to identify their own need for additional knowledge and to take responsibility for their own artistic development.

2.2 Degree of Doctor

2.2.1 Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of practice-based design research as well as deep and up-to-date specialist knowledge and creative skills in design, especially with a focus on the textile field,
- demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methods in general and with methodology in practice-based design research in particular.

2.2.2 Competence and skills

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate creative ability in their artistic field,
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with research rigour identify and formulate artistic questions and to plan and with appropriate methods conduct research and other advanced artistic tasks

- within given timeframes and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate, with a documented artistic research project, the ability to contribute significantly to the development of knowledge through own research,
 - demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to authoritatively 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 ability to identify needs 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.

2.2.3 Evaluation ability and approach

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student should:

- demonstrate intellectual independence, artistic integrity and research probity and the ability to make ethical assessments of research, 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.

3 How the programme is organised

The programme for the licentiate degree comprises a total of 120 credits, of which 40 credits in the form of courses and 80 credits in the form of a documented artistic research project, which corresponds to two years of full-time study.

The doctoral programme comprises a total of 240 credits, of which 60 credits in the form of courses and 180 credits in the form of a documented artistic research project, corresponding to four years of full-time study.

3.1 Coursework

The coursework for the licentiate degree comprises 40 credits where the following courses are mandatory (individual exceptions can be made by the examiner under special circumstances and must be stated in the individual study plan):

- *Experimental Design Research and History of Science*, 5 credits
- *Artistic Research and Practice-Based Design Research*, 5 credits
- *Presentation and Documentation of Artistic Research*, 5 credits
- *Design Theory*, 5 credits
- *Higher Seminar on Artistic Research I*, 5 credits
- *Research Ethics* (general) 2.5 credits (given within the framework of the university-wide course offerings)

The course part of the doctoral degree comprises 60 credits where in addition to the above courses the following are mandatory (individual exceptions can be made by the examiner under special circumstances and must be stated in the individual study plan):

- *Higher Seminar on Artistic Research II*, 5 credits
- *Academic Writing*, 5 credits (given within the framework of the university-wide course offerings)
- *Research Ethics - Art and Design*, 2,5 credits
- *Supervision and Teaching in Higher Education in Fine Arts*, 2 credits
- *Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*, 3 credits (given within the framework of the university-wide course offerings)

The higher seminars in Design bring together doctoral and Master's students in design as well as design staff every week. The seminars consist of presentations with invited guests, doctoral students, and senior researchers on current research and development in the artistic field of critical discussion with a special focus on practice-based design research.

In addition to the above compulsory courses, the doctoral programme comprises 15 credits and the licentiate degree 12.5 credits in elective courses. These are planned individually and depend on the doctoral student's background knowledge and specific needs. The composition of the courses is decided by the examiner of the doctoral student and stated in the individual study plan.

See also 6.6 for information about the examination of courses.

3.2 Studio and workshop work

Experimental studio and workshop work is a central part of the studies. Studio and workshop work is mainly part of the artistic research project, but is also part of various course components.

3.3 Documented artistic research project

The programme includes an artistic research project documented in a doctoral project of 180 credits or documented in a licentiate project of 80 credits.

The focus of artistic research work is defined in consultation with the principal supervisor. The research work should be continuously reported at the higher seminar with follow-up of developments.

The documentation of the artistic research project should include a written part where the work is motivated, discussed, and related to the current research field as well as to other relevant research.

3.4 Middle seminar

Doctoral students who do not obtain a licentiate degree as a milestone towards a doctoral degree must present and defend a documented artistic research work equivalent to the licentiate work at a seminar termed a "middle seminar".

The middle seminar is conducted when the supervisor and examiner assess that the work is about halfway there. The examiner is responsible for the middle seminar. An external reviewer is appointed by the Artistic Research and Education Board on a proposal from the main supervisor and examiner.

3.5 Credit transfer from previous education

A doctoral student who has successfully completed part of the doctoral education in the same subject at a university within the country may be given credit for this. A doctoral student may also be granted the right to transfer credits at a foreign educational institution. Determination of whether previous education should be credited is up to the examiner.

Passed courses at Master's level may be evaluated by the examiner of the doctoral student for credit transfer in the doctoral programme provided that such courses do not form part of the course requirements of 240 credits required for general entry requirements to the doctoral programme.

3.6 Supervisor and examiner

Each doctoral student must have an examiner, a principal supervisor, and at least one second supervisor. The principal supervisor and the second supervisors form a

group of supervisors. The assistant supervisors are drawn from the university, from other academic departments, and/or other relevant external activities.

The principal supervisor must hold a doctorate and be a senior member of teaching staff active in the artistic field and affiliated with the university. The principal supervisor has primary responsibility for guidance and advice within the framework of artistic project work and the task of guiding the doctoral student's studies and research work to achieve the educational objectives.

The principal supervisor is also responsible for ensuring that the doctoral student receives sufficient supervision.

Second supervisors participate in the supervision of the doctoral student.

Professors and other Associate Professor-level teaching staff who are active in the artistic field and permanently linked to the university may be appointed examiners. The examiner has overall responsibility for the doctoral student's education and is to ensure that the doctoral education meets the quality requirements in terms of research assignment and other elements.

Artistic Research and Education Board, which is responsible for the activities of the doctoral programme, appoints a supervisor and examiner on the proposal of the Director of Studies for the doctoral programme.

3.7 Individual study plan

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, an individual study plan must be drawn up for each doctoral student. This individual study plan, to be approved by the Artistic Research and Education Board after consultation with doctoral students, principal supervisor, and examiner, must be in writing and signed by doctoral students, principal supervisor, examiner and Director of Studies for the doctoral programme.

The individual study plan is to include:

- a timetable for the doctoral student's education;
- information on how supervision is organised;
- the identity of the examiner;
- any specialisation in the education and degree;
- a list of completed and planned courses;
- a description of completed and planned parts of the doctoral student's artistic research project,
- a description of the other commitments that the doctoral student and the university have during their studies, and
- that which is otherwise necessary for the education to be conducted effectively.

The study plan must be followed up on and updated once a year during the study period by the doctoral student, the principal supervisor, and the examiner, for determination by the Artistic Research and Education Board. The follow-up must clearly show how the education is progressing.

3.8 Director of Studies

Doctoral education on an artistic basis at the university is led by a Director of Studies. The Director of Studies is to be an active researcher with a doctorate in the artistic field, unless the Artistic Research and Education Board decides otherwise. The Director of Studies is responsible for establishing an individual study plan for a new doctoral student no later than three months after the start of their studies. The Director of Studies is then responsible for ensuring that each doctoral student's studies are followed up on by two meetings per year with the Director of Studies, the examiner, the principal supervisor, and the doctoral student.

4 Eligibility, selection, and admission

4.1 General entry requirements

General entry requirements for doctoral (third-cycle) studies have been fulfilled if you have completed a degree at the Master's (second-cycle) level, including at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits are at the Master's level, or in some other way within Sweden or abroad constitute essentially equivalent knowledge.

For an individual applicant, the Artistic Research and Education Board may grant exemptions from the requirement of general entry requirements if there are special reasons. The signed decision on exemption must be justified and notified to the Admissions Office at the University of Borås.

4.2 Specific entry requirements

Specific entry requirements for doctoral (third-cycle) studies in design at UB are a completed Master's degree in textile design, fashion design, interaction design, industrial design, product design, architecture or equivalent.

Special requirements are also that applicants in the attached portfolio must demonstrate advanced artistic skills in the field of design.

Applicants from abroad who do not have English or a Scandinavian language as their mother tongue must also normally pass an English language test to be admitted.

4.3 Selection

Selection among applicants for a doctoral education position is based on received application documents and interviews with the most qualified applicants. The basis for selection among the eligible applicants for the doctoral programme is the degree of ability to make the most of the doctoral programme. Applications are reviewed by an admissions group, which is appointed by the Artistic Research and Education Board on a proposal from the research school's Director of Studies. The application group is led by the Director of Studies at the research school.

4.4 Admission

Decisions on the admission of students to the doctoral programme and decisions on the maximum number of doctoral students admitted to the doctoral programme in design are made by the Artistic Research and Education Board. Only the number of doctoral students who can be offered acceptable terms in terms of supervision and study conditions may be admitted to the doctoral programme.

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, only students who intend to pursue their doctoral studies with at least 50% study activity may be admitted to the doctoral programme.

Furthermore, only students can be admitted who, in accordance with the requirements and guidelines laid down by the university, are found to have sufficient maintenance for the entire period of study.

5 Application

Applications to the doctoral programme are made with a design portfolio and an application project in which the applicant describes the desired focus on artistic research projects. The application must be accompanied by a CV.

The application must contain documentation proving the applicant's general and specific eligibility as well as other documentation that may be useful in assessing the applicant's ability to benefit from the programme.

6 Degree and examination

6.1 Degree

At the doctoral level at the University of Borås, the following artistic degrees can be obtained in the field of textiles and fashion: Licentiate in Fine Arts in Design and Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Design. The degree is awarded with or without specialisation specified in the individual study plan.

6.2 Requirements for licentiate degree

A total of 120 credits are required for a licentiate degree, of which 80 credits relate to research and 40 credits are acquired in courses, see 3.1.

6.3 Licentiate seminar (presentation and defence of licentiate thesis) The research task is presented through a documented artistic research project, which is to be presented and defended at a public seminar, in which case it is reviewed by an external reviewer (discussion leader), appointed by the Artistic Research and Education Board after consultation with the principal supervisor and examiner.

The Artistic Research and Education Board determines the form of the seminar after consultation with doctoral students, principal supervisor, and examiner.

6.4 Requirements for a doctoral degree

A total of 240 credits are required for a doctorate, of which 180 credits relate to research and a total of 60 credits are acquired in courses, see 3.1.

6.5 Public defence (presentation and defence of doctoral work)

At least three months before the planned public defence, the main results of the doctoral thesis should be discussed at a final seminar with an external examiner appointed by the Artistic Research and Education Board on a proposal from the Director of Studies after consultation with the principal supervisor and examiner.

The research work is presented through a documented artistic research project, to be presented and defended at a public defence. The defence should be led by a Chair. At the public defence, there must be an external reviewer. The Chair and external examiner are to be appointed by the Artistic Research and Education Board. The Artistic Research and Education Board decides on the external examiner after a proposal from the doctoral student's examiner.

The Artistic Research and Education Board determines the form of the public defence on a proposal from the Director of Studies after consultation with the doctoral student, principal supervisor, and examiner.

6.6 Examination and grades

Course examination: Course examiners appointed by each board. Any credit transfer of courses is examined by the examiner of the doctoral student.

Licentiate examination: The examiner of the doctoral student is to, after consultation with the principal supervisor, assess and grade the overall research work including presentation and defence of the work at the licentiate seminar.

Doctoral examination: An examining committee consisting of two external members and one faculty member are to assess and grade the overall research work including the presentation and defence of the work at the doctoral defence. The Artistic Research and Education Board decides on the examining committee on the basis of a proposal from the doctoral student's examiner.

Courses, licentiate thesis, and doctoral thesis are graded Pass or Fail.