



# General Syllabus for Doctoral Studies in Textile Management

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# General Syllabus for Doctoral Studies in Textile Management

## Area description

The doctoral subject area of Textile Management is one of three subjects in the research area *Textiles and Fashion*. The area of Textiles and Fashion examines 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 (resources) for function and expression in the production, distribution, and trade of textiles and fashion.

Textile Management is a multidisciplinary area that draws its knowledge base from fields such as business administration, sociology, and industrial economics when it comes to subjects within these that address phenomena of concern to the textile industry. Textile Management studies phenomena that, in a broad sense, can be linked to one or more parts of the textile value chain. Subjects such as management, logistics, marketing, and consumer behaviour can provide theoretical basis for the study of social and environmental sustainability, material and product development, as well as entrepreneurship in the textile field.

Textile Management also includes studies that are not as clearly linked to a business perspective. Both nationally and globally, various forms of "resistance movements" have emerged against consumption and throwaway products, which can be expressed in new consumption patterns such as sharing or redesigning instead of buying your own or new. Textile Management as a subject also addresses these phenomena that typically start outside the corporate sphere, but which influence and inspire the textile industry in their ambition to find business models and strategies to minimise their ecological footprint.

## Purpose of the doctoral programmes in Textiles and Fashion

The overall aim of the doctoral programmes in Textiles and Fashion is to contribute to societal development and success in the textile sector by educating doctoral-level academics for positions in business and industry, academia, and society. A characteristic of a Doctor of Philosophy and Licentiate in Textile Management is that they have in-depth knowledge of management, market, and organisational issues that have been brought to the fore by society's demands for sustainability, and the increasingly advanced material development that promotes textile innovations and creates an increased area of use for textile materials. They have also developed an approach to the textile value chain that is sustainable in a longer perspective, both from an environmental and a social point of view. The doctoral programme aims to develop:

- the doctoral student's personal competence and communication skills,
- an interest in and knowledge of innovations and entrepreneurship,
- the doctoral student's pedagogical skills, and

- a personal network, both nationally and internationally.

In order to achieve these qualities, collaboration, and communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries, and within and outside academia, are central. The doctoral programme in Textile Management is located at the Textile Fashion Center, which provides proximity to, and enables collaboration with, a number of different actors, such as Borås Science Park, the Fashion Incubator, Borås Textile Museum, Borås Marketplace and TEKO. Furthermore, the doctoral programme in Textile Management facilitates:

- participation in international doctoral student programmes that involve doctoral students from other, international higher education institutions placing a shorter or longer period of their doctoral education at UB,
- doctoral students' presenting their work at research conferences, and participate in events where representatives from different stakeholders are present, such as meeting places for innovation, entrepreneurship, smart textiles and recycling/reuse,
- doctoral students' being given the opportunity to spend time in an international research environment for shorter or longer periods.

Objectives for general doctoral level degrees

Intended learning outcomes for general doctoral level (third-cycle) qualifications are stated in the Higher Education Ordinance and are regulated in Chapter 6 of the Higher Education Ordinance § 26-27. These can be found in the appendix.

## **How the programme is organised**

### ***Overview***

Doctoral education in Textile Management that concludes with a Degree of Licentiate comprises 120 credits, which corresponds to two years of full-time study. This programme consists of a course component of 40 credits and a licentiate thesis of 80 credits. A Degree of Licentiate can be a sub-goal in a doctoral degree.

Doctoral education in Textile Management that concludes with a Degree of Doctor comprises 240 credits, which corresponds to four years of full-time study. This programme consists of a course component of 60 credits and a thesis of 180 credits.

### ***Supervisor and examiner***

Each doctoral student is to be appointed a principal supervisor (*huvudhandledare*) and one or more assistant supervisors (*biträdande handledare*). The principal supervisor must have reached the merit of associate professor (*docent*), be active in a relevant field, and be permanently affiliated with the University of Borås. The assistant supervisor(s) must hold a doctoral degree, or if from outside academia, have equivalent validated expert knowledge. The principal supervisor must have completed supervisor training at the University of Borås, or have documented, equivalent, competence.

Supervisors are appointed by the Research Education Committee in Social and Human Sciences (hereinafter FUU SAM-HUM), on the proposal of the Director of Studies, who prepares the matter. The principal supervisor is to be proposed with regard to the doctoral student's project and/or subject specialisation, and appointment is to take place in connection with their admission to the programme. Assistant supervisor(s) should normally be appointed at the same time as the principal supervisor, but if there are reasonable reasons for postponement, for instance a need to discuss what skills are needed, the committee FUU SAM-HUM can approve this.

Doctoral students always have the right to change one or more supervisors. The Director of Studies is to assist a doctoral student who wants to initiate a change. How this is done is regulated in accordance with the policy document *Rules for Change of Supervisor for Doctoral Students*.

Together, the supervisors form the doctoral student's supervisor group, where the principal supervisor is responsible for guidance within the framework of the doctoral thesis work. The principal supervisor is also responsible for a) ensuring that the doctoral student receives supervision to a sufficient extent, and b) that the timetable for the various parts of the education programme follow the plan established in the doctoral student's individual study plan (ISP).

Exceptions to stipulated requirements for principal supervisors, that they have a connection to the university, may be made in cases where the doctoral student is funded by a party outside of higher education, for example a doctoral student employed at another university or by a company.

The FUU SAM-HUM shall appoint an examiner for doctoral students. The academic examiner must be at least an associate professor in the subject and must have several years of experience in research in Textile Management or related subjects and be employed at the University of Borås. The examiner has overall responsibility for the doctoral student's research training and must ensure that the training meets the quality requirements.

## **Individual study plan**

For each doctoral student, an individual study plan (ISP) is drawn up. The doctoral student's individual study plan is drawn up by the doctoral student and the supervisor group jointly, with the support of the Director of Studies. Overall, the ISP contains descriptions of the doctoral student's projects and planned activities (for instance courses, conferences, and major lab work) as well as documentation of results (for instance published articles and conference papers). Overall, the doctoral student's ISP should provide an adequate description of their progression regarding both the progress of the research project and their own development in line with the intended learning outcomes of the programme. Doctoral students' progression in relation to the intended learning outcomes is documented on an ongoing basis in connection with the follow-up of the ISP.

A first version of the doctoral student's ISP must be prepared and approved by FUU SAM-HUM within three months of the doctoral student's admission. The ISP must then be followed up continuously. Updated ISPs as well as intended learning outcome appendix are decided upon by FUU SAM-HUM on an annual basis, as well as in the event of major changes in the doctoral student's education, such as for instance replacement of the principal supervisor or changes in the pace of study. Deviations from the plan that delay the doctoral student's work must be commented on by the principal supervisor, and it is the principal supervisor's responsibility, with the support of the director of studies, to propose measures to keep to the specified timetable.

## Coursework

Doctoral studies in Textile Management leading to a doctoral degree consist of a course component of at least 60 credits, while a licentiate degree consists of a course component of at least 40 credits.

In the education up to the licentiate degree, the focus is primarily on methodological and subject knowledge in the area in which the scientific work is included. The licentiate degree also includes course components in theory of knowledge and research ethics, and the doctoral students are trained in a critical approaches and scientific communication through course seminars and conference participation. In the latter part of the programme, the focus is on the development of research questions and theory within the theme of the scientific work, and the doctoral student further develops their ability to analyse and take a critical approach. Here, they can also choose to develop their skills in subjects such as higher education pedagogy, academic writing, and project management through the range of general courses at doctoral level that are given at the University of Borås.

The courses to be included in the doctoral student's programme are planned individually and depends on their background knowledge and specific needs. The doctoral student's ISP specifies the courses that are to be or can be included in their education, as well as how many credits each course will count as. The composition of courses is determined by the appointed examiner. Courses at the doctoral level in the following subject areas are compulsory:

### ***For Degree of Licentiate***

Skills courses

- Course in Theory of Science, at least 5 credits.
- Course in Research Ethics, at least 2.5 credits.
- Research methods course(s) (qualitative or quantitative methods), at least 7.5 credits.

Subject courses

- At least 15 credits

Elective courses

- Equivalent to 10 credits

### ***For Degree of Doctor***

- Further study of Theory of Science, at least 2.5 credits.
- Skills and subject-related courses, equivalent to 17.5 credits

Deviations from the compulsory courses can be made within the framework of educational collaborations or if special reasons exist. The examiner is responsible for the composition and suitability of the doctoral student's course package. Current course offerings are posted on the university's website for doctoral education. In cases where courses are provided at the University

of Borås, the student is encouraged to take the course on site. Doctoral students can also take courses at another university.

### ***Credit transfer from previous education***

A doctoral student who has successfully completed part of their doctoral education in the same or a closely related relevant subject at a Swedish higher education institution with a passing grade may be credited for all or part of it. A doctoral student may also be granted the right to transfer credits from a foreign educational institution. Questions concerning credit transfer of previous education are addressed by the Director of Studies and the decision is made by the appointed examiner for the doctoral students. Decisions on credit transfer is made in connection with the assessment of the first version of the doctoral student's ISP. Previous studies that are to be transferred towards commenced doctoral studies are listed there under a separate heading.

### ***Inclusion of credits from the master's level***

Doctoral students may also receive credit for one- and two-year master's level courses. The doctoral student's appointed examiner is to examine both the suitability of including the relevant course from the master's level and the proposed scope of course credits. For the doctoral programme in Textile Management, a maximum of 15 credits may be credited from the master's level.

### ***Course examiner***

For courses that are part of the doctoral student's education, there must be an appointed course examiner, as well as an established written course syllabus or equivalent documentation. Professors and other docent-level (Associate Professor) qualified teaching staff who are active in a relevant field and permanently affiliated with the University of Borås may be appointed as doctoral programme examiners in Textile Management.

### ***Scientific work***

The programme includes scientific work documented in a licentiate thesis of 80 credits and a doctoral thesis of 180 credits. If the licentiate thesis is an intermediate goal, the equivalent of 80 credits is included in the 180 credits required for the doctoral thesis.

### ***Doctoral Thesis***

The doctoral thesis must either be designed as a monograph thesis, i.e. a uniform, coherent scholarly work, or as a compilation thesis. The compilation thesis must include papers in which the doctoral student has made their own significant contribution and which in scope and quality correspond to at least four peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. The introductory/summary chapter(s) or "*kappa*" should contain an introduction to the research field as well as a presentation and discussion of the results obtained in the scientific papers. This should be written so that it is independent in relation to the scientific papers, and the results obtained should be discussed in relation to the research field in general.

The doctoral thesis must be defended at a public defence, instructions for preparation and implementation are described in *Guidelines for doctoral thesis defences at the University of Borås*. The grade (pass or fail) for the doctoral thesis is determined by an examining committee, and the board's decision is announced after deliberation in connection with the public defence. The examining committee is appointed by FUU SAM-HUM before each public defence in accordance with the university's *Guidelines for doctoral defense at the University of Borås*.

At least three months before the planned public defence, the main results of the thesis work must be discussed at a final seminar. Doctoral students who do not submit a licentiate thesis must, in addition to the final seminar, also present their ongoing thesis work for review at a planning review and a midway review. The planning review normally takes place within a year and the report is reviewed by a reviewer (who holds, at a minimum, a doctorate) appointed by the supervisor. Reviewers of the doctoral student's work at both the midway seminar and the final seminar are appointed by the FUU SAM-HUM, based on a proposal by the doctoral student's supervisor. A doctoral student in the same subject may be appointed as an assistant reviewer.

### ***Licentiate thesis***

Within the framework of a doctoral education, a licentiate thesis can be named as an intermediate goal or as a final goal. The licentiate thesis must be designed either as a compilation thesis or a coherent, unified work in the form of a monograph thesis. A compilation thesis should be designed as a short summary of at least one scientific paper written by the doctoral student. The scientific paper must be of a quality that corresponds to the requirements for publication in recognised scientific journals with peer review. It must be evident what the doctoral student's contribution is in cases where scientific publications include more than one author. The licentiate thesis should also include any other work that the doctoral student has participated in during their studies. The doctoral student must present their ongoing thesis work for review at a planning review, normally within one year, where the text is reviewed by a reviewer (who holds, at a minimum, a doctorate) appointed by the supervisor.

The licentiate thesis and the research work carried out shall be presented at a public seminar, where the time and place are announced at least three weeks in advance. During this time, the thesis shall be available for review at the university. Grades (pass or fail) are determined by an examiner appointed by the FUU SAM-HUM. Professors and other Associate Professor-level teaching staff who are permanently linked to the university may be appointed examiners for licentiate theses. The examiners for licentiate seminars are two persons, with a doctoral degree or higher, at least one of whom is appointed from outside their own subject.

## **Entry requirements, selection, and admission**

### ***General entry requirements***

To meet the general entry requirements for doctoral studies, the applicant must have:

- 1) been awarded a master's level (second-cycle) qualification

- 2) satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the master's level (second-cycle), or
- 3) acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

Through FUU SAM-HUM, the university may grant an individual applicant an exemption from the general entry requirements, if there are special reasons, HF 7:39 (2010:1064). See UB's local *Guidelines for admission regulations for doctoral studies*.

### ***Specific entry requirements***

Specific entry requirements for doctoral studies in Textile Management at the University of Borås are as follows:

The applicant's degree must have a specialisation that has a sufficient connection to the subject area of the doctoral studies (third-cycle). It is the responsibility of the FUU SAM-HUM to review that the applicant has the skills needed to complete the doctoral education.

Applicants from abroad, who do not have English or a Scandinavian language as their mother tongue, should normally undergo an English language test (e.g. TOEFL 575 (paper-based) or TOEFL 100 (internet-based) before admission.

### ***Selection and admission***

Selection for doctoral studies takes place on the basis of an assessment of the ability to benefit from the same. The FUU SAM-HUM appoints an assessment panel for each recruitment. Assessment is based on the application documents received and interviews with the most qualified applicants. Gender aspects should also be taken into account.

Assessment of the ability to benefit from the education is primarily based on study results at from the bachelor's and master's level (first- and second-cycle levels). In this regard, particular consideration is to be given to the following:

- Knowledge and skills relevant to the subject of study and the thesis work.
- Assessed capacity to work independently. Such an assessment can be made during the interview by discussing the applicant's implementation and experiences from a degree project or another project attached to the application.
- Ability to communicate in English and Swedish.
- Other experience relevant to the doctoral education, such as professional experience.

However, the mere fact that an applicant is deemed to be able to have previous education or professional activity credited in the education may not give the applicant priority over other applicants in the selection process HF 7:7:41 (2010:2064). Otherwise, admission of doctoral students follows the university's local guidelines for admission regulations for doctoral education.



## Qualification requirements

Doctoral education concludes with a doctoral degree or, if the doctoral student so wishes or this has been stated in the admission decision, with a licentiate degree. The doctoral student also has the right, but not the obligation, to complete a licentiate degree as a stage in their doctoral education.

A Degree of Licentiate requires:

- Approved courses of at least 40 credits
- Approved scientific thesis the scope of which corresponds to studies of at least 80 credits, and which has been defended at a public seminar.

A Degree of Doctor requires:

- Approved courses of at least 60 credits
- Approved scientific thesis the scope of which corresponds to studies of at least 180 credits, and which has been defended at a public defence.

Examinations that are part of doctoral (third-cycle) education are to be assessed with one of the grades Pass or Fail.

## Degree title

For doctoral studies in the field of Textiles and Fashion, the following degrees are awarded:

- Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Textile Management (Filosofie doktorexamen i Textilt management)
- Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Textile Management (Filosofie licentiatexamen i Textilt management)

## Entry into force and transitional provisions

The previous general syllabus (Reg. no. 855-18) ceases to apply to doctoral students who are admitted to the doctoral programme after 2024-06-13. By agreement between the doctoral student and the supervisor, the present general syllabus may constitute a governing document for doctoral students who have already been admitted. The doctoral student's ISP must state which general syllabus he or she is following.

## Other provisions

To the extent that resources are available, doctoral students participate in undergraduate education by supervising, teaching, and assisting in seminars. The extent may not exceed 20 per cent of the total time.

In addition, the general provisions for doctoral education laid down by the University of Borås apply, which regulate, for example, employment, approved leave from studies, and doctoral students' rights. Current regulations are available via [www.hb.se](http://www.hb.se)

# Appendix - general intended learning outcomes

## Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student is to show:

- knowledge and understanding in their field as well as relevant specialist knowledge in a limited part of this.
- in-depth knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the specific research area's methods in particular.

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student is to show:

- broad expertise in and a systematic understanding of their field as well as specialised and up-to-date specialist knowledge in a limited part of this.
- familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with scientific methodology in the field in particular.
- in-depth understanding of the critical knowledge needs of the field.

## Skills and capabilities

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student is to show:

- the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work.
- 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.
- the ability to collaborate with professional specialists in the field and such skills as are required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other qualified activities.

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student is to show:

- the ability for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as for independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions, and situations; ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific accuracy identify and formulate questions, to plan and with adequate methods conduct research and other qualified tasks within given time frames, and to review and evaluate such work.

- the ability to identify the need for additional knowledge and show abilities, both in research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts, to contribute to development and support the learning of others.
- 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.
- the ability to collaborate with professional specialists in the field.
- the ability to contribute significantly to the development of knowledge in their field through their own research with a scholarly thesis.

## **Judgement and approach**

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student is to show:

- the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects in one's own research.
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society, and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- understanding of and ability to participate in multidisciplinary collaboration.

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student is to show:

- intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics.
- specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.
- understanding of and ability to participate in multidisciplinary collaboration.