General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Sport Sciences with specialisation in social sciences and humanities at the Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University

Adopted by the faculty board 17/12-2010

1. Subject description

The third-cycle programme in Sports Sciences with specialisation in social sciences and humanities (IDVsh) focuses on the past, present and future modes of expression and significances of sport in society. Within the programme the term ‘sport’ encompasses anything from competitive sports, exercise and event/adventure/experience sports to physical education as a teaching subject as well as outdoor life and physical recreation.

Sport as part of society is investigated through aspects such as regulation and norm creation in sport; the relationship between sport and the state, market and civil society; the selection mechanisms involved in sport; the manner in which sport affects and is affected by societal structures and social categories such as gender, ethnicity, sexuality and social class.

2. Programme structure and content

The programme is designed so that a doctoral degree demands four years of full time study, and a licentiate degree demands two years. It is expected that the doctoral student has the prior knowledge that is required and utilizes tuition effectively. The programme comprises a course component and a thesis component. For a doctoral degree the course component is 60 higher education credits and the thesis component 180 credits. The licentiate degree programme encompasses a course component of 30 credits and a licentiate thesis of 90 credits. The compulsory courses included in the third-cycle programme are held yearly, if possible.

The programme is directed towards a doctoral degree or licentiate degree. The degree designations are Doctor of Philosophy in Sport studies and Licentiate of Philosophy in Sport studies.

The course component comprises general and thematic as well as optional, subject-specific courses. For the licentiate degree, 20 credits of the course component consist of compulsory courses. For the doctoral degree, 30 credits consist of compulsory courses.

Credits for second-cycle studies or the equivalent may be transferred to the third-cycle programme, if the examiner after assessment deems the previous education acceptable for credit transfer. Credit transfer will be assessed at the student’s own request and for each individual case. Application for credit transfer and decision in the matter will take place after admission to third-cycle studies. If the supervisor approves, the research student may exchange compulsory courses for other courses selected from third-cycle programmes at different higher education institutions or from a different subject area. As part of the thesis work, the research student is expected to participate in research seminars on a regular basis. In addition to courses that provide an international perspective it is recommended that the research student study at a foreign higher education institution for part of the programme.
3. Specific entry requirements

Specific entry requirement refer to the prior knowledge that, in addition to general entry requirements, is necessary for the student to benefit from the programme (HF 7 kap. 40§). Specific entry requirements are established by the faculty board and are stated in the general syllabus for each individual third-cycle subject.

An applicant has special eligibility if he or she possesses the necessary language skills that participation in the programme requires, and has publicly presented an independent second-cycle project in Sport Sciences worth at least 15 higher education credits and has received a passing grade, or has in some other way acquired what Malmö University judges to be the equivalent knowledge.

4. Admission, selection and basis of assessment

Third-cycle studies are offered the extent available resources allow. Places available on the programme are normally advertised once per year.

Selection among eligible applicants to the third-cycle programme will be based on the extent of the applicant’s ability to benefit from the programme. Factors taken into consideration when assessing eligible applicants’ ability to benefit from the programme are the applicant’s independence and planning of earlier work; the previously displayed ability of the applicant to adequately complete projects; the applicant’s ability to formulate areas of research and problems; the level of methodological and scientific maturity in previous projects and in the research project plan, and ability to communicate, orally and in writing.

5. Examinations included in the programme

Course component: Examination of third-cycle courses will be conducted orally or in writing.

Thesis work: The doctoral thesis/licentiate thesis should be designed either as a uniform, coherent scientific work (a monography) or consist of a collection of scientific articles with a short introductory chapter and a concluding summary (a kappa), a so-called compilation thesis. A scientific thesis co-authored by two or more people may be accepted for research students whose individual contributions can be discerned. The dissertation/thesis shall document the research student’s abilities in methodology and presentation, as well as skills in independent treatment of a delimited scientific problem. In this context, the word independent is not to be understood in such a way that supervision and teamwork opportunities are obstructed.

Licentiate degree: For a licentiate degree, the research student must have received a passing grade on a scientific thesis of at least 90 higher education credits. An opponent who has at least a doctoral degree, and who has high knowledge about subject areas and methods relevant to the thesis shall examine the scientific licentiate thesis at a seminar taking place during term time. The thesis shall have been available at the department and at the university library for at least two semester weeks prior to the seminar. Other departments involved in the same subject at the country’s higher education institutions
shall be notified about the examination of the thesis. The scientific thesis will be graded by a grading committee consisting of three people, at least one of who is professor of Sport Sciences. The majority of the committee members shall have the title of reader. The faculty board will select the faculty examiner and examining committee. The grades for courses and theses are either “Fail” or “Pass”. The grade awarded to the thesis shall be reported to the faculty board. In other matters, applicable regulations that govern the third-cycle programme as a whole also apply to the licentiate degree.

**Doctoral degree:** The studies are completed with the student publicly defending a doctoral thesis. To achieve a doctoral degree, the doctoral student must have received a passing grade on a scientific thesis (doctoral thesis) comprising at least 180 higher education credits.

The doctoral thesis shall be defended orally in public. The Vice-Chancellor is to determine the time and location for the defence. The defence of the doctoral thesis must be announced in good time. When it is announced, the doctoral thesis shall be available at the higher education institution in a sufficient number of copies to enable a satisfactory examination of the thesis at the defence. The Faculty Board will decide on the minimum number of copies in preparation for the defence, and on reimbursement of costs for producing this number of copies.

The defence is to be led by a chairperson. A faculty examiner will be present at the defence. The Faculty Board will select the chairperson and faculty examiner. The doctoral thesis will be awarded either of the grades “Fail” or “Pass”. In awarding the grade, both the contents and the defence of the thesis are taken into account.

An examining committee specially selected for each thesis shall decide the grade of a doctoral thesis. An examining committee shall consist of three or five members. The faculty board will decide on the number of members and select them. At least one of the members of the examining committee shall be selected among the teachers from an area belonging to a different faculty board, or from a different higher education institution. The person who has supervised the doctoral student shall not be part of the committee unless there are particular reasons for this. The committee shall select a chairperson among themselves. The faculty reviewer has the right be present at meetings with the examining committee and may participate in discussions but not in decision-making. The same applies to the principal supervisor, if he or she is not a member of the committee. The examining committee is competent to make decisions when all members are present. The committee’s decision shall be based on the majority opinion. The committee shall determine whether the decision shall be motivated and whether reservations shall be accounted for.
6. Intended learning outcomes for third-cycle education in Sport Sciences at Malmö University

**Knowledge and understanding**

For a licentiate degree, the research student shall
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the research domain of Sport Sciences, including relevant specialised knowledge in a limited part of the research area; as well as in-depth
- knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific research domain in particular.

For a doctoral degree the research student shall
- demonstrate broad expertise in and systematic understanding of the research domain of Sport Sciences as well as in-depth and relevant specialised knowledge in a limited area of the research domain;
- demonstrate familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with the methods of the specific research domain in particular.

**Skills and abilities**

For a licentiate degree, the research student shall
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision identify and formulate research questions; plan and, with adequate methods, execute a delimited research project and other qualified tasks within given time-frames, thereby contributing to knowledge development, as well as evaluating this work;
- demonstrate an ability, to clearly present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts demonstrate the skills necessary to independently participate in research and development work, and work independently in other qualified contexts.

For a doctoral degree the research student shall
- demonstrate an ability for scientific analysis and synthesis as well as independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions and situations;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific precision identify and formulate questions as well as to plan and engage in research and other qualified duties within given time-frames, and using appropriate methods, and to review and evaluate such work;
- with a thesis demonstrate an ability to contribute substantially through own research to the development of knowledge;
- demonstrate an ability, to authoritatively present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the scholarly community and society in general, orally and in writing, in both national and international contexts
- demonstrate an ability to identify needs for further knowledge
- demonstrate necessary qualities, in research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts, to contribute to societal development and support the learning of others

**Judgement and approach**

For a licentiate degree, the research student shall
- demonstrate an ability to make assessments concerning research ethics in own research;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limits of science, its role in society and people’s responsibility for how it is used
- demonstrate an ability to identify own needs for further knowledge and assume responsibility for the development of own knowledge

For a doctoral degree the research student shall
- demonstrate intellectual independence and scientific integrity as well as the ability to evaluate research ethics;
- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role and society and people’s responsibility for how it is used