



Overall guidelines for doctoral education at Malmö University

Background

These overall guidelines support the quality development of Malmö University's doctoral education.

Decision

The overall guidelines for doctoral education at Malmö University set out below have been decided by the Vice-Chancellor. The guidelines were developed by a working group appointed by the Doctoral Education Committee following preparatory work undertaken by the Doctoral Education Committee, the Research Committee and the Management Team. The decision replaces Mahr Ref. no. 15-2013/156.

Overall guidelines for doctoral education

The involvement of doctoral candidates in the production of knowledge is central to all doctoral education. This means that all doctoral programmes are closely linked to research while also constituting a natural continuation of the second cycle educational programmes. High-quality research must therefore be part of our doctoral education to ensure doctoral programmes of high quality. The doctoral candidate's work will take place in a research environment that has a sufficient number of doctoral candidates and supervisors as well as other researchers working in the field. The doctoral education research environment will at all times be characterised by creativity combined with a critical, scientific approach.

Doctoral programmes will prepare the doctoral candidate for both an academic career and a career outside of the higher education sector.

Doctoral education will be informed by Malmö University's general focus on key societal challenges. This requires an open-minded approach and a perspective that is diverse and enriching. In order to achieve this, the following will apply to all Malmö University doctoral educations:

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Admission and introduction

1. The admission procedure will be transparent in order to ensure that those admitted to the doctoral programmes are those best qualified.
2. New doctoral candidates will get a systematic introduction to the programme and their workplace.

The programme

3. A quality assurance framework involving systematic evaluation and monitoring will ensure that doctoral programmes are of the highest quality.
4. The ability of the doctoral candidates to influence the ongoing quality development of the programmes is of greatest importance.
5. All doctoral candidates at Malmö University will be able to take part in doctoral education on equal conditions.
6. Excellent supervisory qualities will be provided, both in terms of how supervisory teams are composed to complement each other, as well as in terms of individual skills in theory, methodology and in the specific subjects at hand. The number of hours of supervision will be sufficient for meeting the needs. Malmö University will provide supervisors with continuous training and development. There must be clear procedures for change of supervisors to avoid any negative impacts on the programme or for the individual doctoral candidates concerned.
7. The quality and progression of the thesis work will be reviewed by members of the faculty several times throughout the programme. Progression will be recorded in the individual study plan that will be reviewed at least once a year.
8. Mobility and international exchanges will be significant elements of the programme.
9. The doctoral candidate must be given the financial resources necessary to cover the cost of essential elements of the programme.
10. Malmö University will maintain regular contacts with the alumni and take their experiences into account to improve quality assurance procedures and career planning.

Examination

11. Candidates will have satisfactory access to relevant courses. A coordinated range of courses offered across Malmö University will enable the doctoral candidates to meet the generic objectives of the national Qualifications Ordinance. A specially appointed examiner will ensure that the courses are relevant to the candidate's programme.

12. Both the licentiate theses and the doctoral theses will be defended in public. The examination process will be impartial, legally secure, and characterised by academic excellence.

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