

General syllabus for the third-cycle programme in Design in the Textiles and Fashion research area

1 Description of the third-cycle subject area

The third-cycle subject area of Design is one of three within the *Textiles and Fashion* research area; the other two are Textile Materials Technology and Textile Management. The overall aim of the third-cycle study programmes in the Textiles and Fashion area is to contribute to societal development through research and development within the textile sector by satisfying the need for postgraduates in positions within the business community, culture, and academia. The Textiles and Fashion area investigates definitions, methods, and models which are of importance to the development and application of textiles and fashion in research, industry, and society in general. Within the area, the connections between material and design variables in relation to function and expression during the development and production of textiles and fashion are studied, as is the connection between economic and design variables in relation to function and expression during production, distribution, and trade.

In a broad sense, design entails defining and expressing/creating things, products, and systems, and defining what these are in relation to their intended contexts. The artistic basis for design as an activity and craft lies in the expertise required to express things and an understanding of the expressive potential of materials and techniques; the expertise required to give concrete form to abstract prerequisites and an understanding of the design possibilities presented by materials and techniques, as well as potential uses in relation to contexts that are, in one way or another, given.

A central preoccupation of artistic research within the field of design is consequently to, in relation to a given context, develop and critically illuminate the conditions and grounds for art to express and advance an understanding of the expressive potential of materials and techniques through artistic work: to, in short, develop, advance, and critically illuminate the artistic basis for design as an activity and a craft. This concerns artistic design research with a strong focus on theoretical and practical activity, advancing our understanding of the interactions between analysis and synthesis in design processes as a basis for the development of design methodology, techniques, and programmes, and requires a practice-based approach that is undertaken 'for design through design'. The development of methodology, programmes, and techniques requires experimental, artistic work of a critical nature. Similarly, an in-depth understanding of the expressive potential inherent in materials, techniques, and intended applications requires experimental artistic work.

The third-cycle programme focuses on artistic design research within the Textiles and Fashion area, with specialisations in:

- *Textile Design*: Developing, advancing, and critically illuminating the artistic basis for design as an activity and craft, with a focus on the expressive potential of textile materials and techniques which facilitate the construction and expression of textile products and environments.
- *Fashion Design*: Developing, advancing, and critically illuminating the artistic basis for design as an activity and craft, with a focus on the expressive potential of garments in relation to how they dress and express people.
- *Textile Interaction Design*: Developing, advancing, and critically illuminating the artistic basis for design as an activity and craft, with a focus on the expressive potential of textiles in relation to how they define and express textile products, environments, and people.

2 Learning objectives

The programme aims to prepare doctoral students for advanced research work and specialisation as professionals in the field of design.

2.1 Licentiate degree

2.1.1 Knowledge and understanding

In order to be awarded a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

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

2.1.2 Competence and skills

In order to be awarded a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

- Demonstrate creative skills within their artistic field.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and diligently identify and formulate questions of significant relevance in relation to artistic practice through research.
- Plan and, using adequate methods, undertake artistic research projects and other artistic assignments at a qualified level within given time limitations in order to contribute to knowledge development, and evaluate this work.
- Demonstrate the skill to clearly present and discuss research and findings with the research community and society in general, in both national and international contexts and orally, in writing, or otherwise.
- Demonstrate the competences that are required to independently participate in research and development work, as well as to work independently with other activities at a qualified level.

2.1.3 Judgement and approach

In order to be awarded a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall:

- Demonstrate the ability to make ethical judgements in relation to their own research.
- Demonstrate insight regarding the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society, and the responsibility of citizens for how it is used.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify the areas in which they need to acquire further knowledge and take responsibility for their artistic development.

2.2 Doctoral degree

2.2.1 Knowledge and understanding

In order to be awarded a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall:

- Demonstrate wide-ranging knowledge and a systematic understanding of practice-based design research, as well as broad and current specialist knowledge of and creative skills within design, with a particular focus on the textile field.
- Demonstrate intimate knowledge of artistic research methods in general, and methodology within practice-based design research in particular.

2.2.2 Competences and skills

In order to be awarded a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall:

- Demonstrate creative skills within their artistic field.
- Demonstrate the ability to conduct artistic analysis and synthesis, along with independent critical studies and assessments of new and complex phenomena, research questions, and situations.
- Demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and diligently identify and formulate questions of significant relevance to artistic practice through research.
- Plan and, using adequate methods, undertake research and other artistic assignments at

- a qualified level within given time limitations, and evaluate this work.
- Demonstrate the ability to, through a documented artistic research project, contribute significantly to the field.
 - Demonstrate the ability to clearly and with self-assurance present and discuss research and findings with the research community and society in general, in both national and international contexts and orally, in writing, and otherwise.
 - Demonstrate the ability to identify the areas in which they need to acquire further knowledge.
 - Demonstrate the potential to, within both research and education as well as other professional contexts of a qualified nature, contribute to societal development and support the learning of others.

2.2.3 Judgement and approach

In order to be awarded a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall:

- Demonstrate intellectual independence, artistic integrity, and an understanding of and adherence to good research practice, as well as the ability to consider ethical issues related to research.
- Demonstrate advanced insight regarding the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society, and the responsibility of citizens for how it is used.

3 The structure of the study programme

The licentiate degree requires the completion of a total of 120 higher education credits; 40 higher education credits take the form of courses, and 80 higher education credits take the form of a documented artistic research project which is equivalent to two years of full-time studies.

The doctoral degree requires the completion of a total of 240 higher education credits; 60 higher education credits take the form of courses, and 180 higher education credits take the form of a documented artistic research project which is equivalent to four years full-time studies.

3.1 Courses

The licentiate degree requires the completion of courses amounting to 40 higher education credits, including the following mandatory courses (individual exceptions can be made under special circumstances by the examiner, and shall be stated in the individual study plan):

- *Experimental design research and history of science*, 5 higher education credits
- *Artistic research and practice-based design research*, 5 higher education credits
- *Presentation and documentation of artistic research*, 5 higher education credits
- *Design theory*, 5 higher education credits
- *Higher Seminars for artistic research*, 5 higher education credits
- *Research ethics (general)*, 2.5 higher education credits (provided as part of the framework of courses common to the entire University)

The doctoral degree requires the completion of courses amounting to 60 higher education credits, including the following mandatory courses (individual exceptions can be made under special circumstances by the examiner, and shall be stated in the individual study plan):

- *Higher Seminars for artistic research II*, 5 higher education credits
- *Academic writing*, 5 higher education credits (provided as part of the framework of courses common to the entire University)
- *Research ethics – art and design*, 2.5 higher education credits
- *Supervision and teaching in higher education in fine arts*, 2 higher education credits
- *Teaching and learning in higher education introductory course*, 3 higher education credits (provided as part of the framework of courses common to the entire University)

The Higher Seminar convenes every week during semesters, gathering doctoral design students, the design faculty, and second-cycle design students. The seminars consist of presentations by invited guest lecturers, doctoral students, and senior researchers on current research and developments in the artistic field, and are held with the aim of facilitating critical discussion and with a special focus on practice-based design research.

In addition to the mandatory courses listed above, the doctoral degree requires the completion of elective courses amounting to 15 higher education credits; these are planned individually, and depend on the doctoral student's background knowledge and specific needs. The composition of courses taken is decided by the doctoral student's examiner, and is stated in the individual study plan.

For more information on the examination of courses, see 6.6.

3.2 Work in studios and workshops

Experimental work in studios and workshops constitutes a central part of the studies. Work in studios and workshops is conducted primarily as part of the artistic research project, but is also part of various course elements and workshops organised within the framework of the Higher Seminar.

3.3 Documented artistic research project

The third-cycle programme includes an artistic research project, which is to be documented in the form of a licentiate thesis (120 higher education credits) and a doctoral thesis (180 higher education credits). The focus of the artistic research work is defined in consultation with the primary supervisor. The research work shall be presented continuously at the Higher Seminar.

The documentation of the artistic research project shall include a written section in which the research is discussed and related to the relevant research field as well as to other relevant research, and approaches and methods are justified.

3.4 Credit transfer

A doctoral student who has successfully completed a higher education course or study programme in the same subject at a higher education institution in Sweden may be entitled to a transfer of credits. A doctoral student may also be entitled to transfer credits awarded for courses or study programmes completed at a foreign higher education institution. The examiner has the authority to decide whether credits for previous education can be recognised.

Completed Master's degree courses can be assessed for recognition with regard to the third-cycle programme by the doctoral student's examiner, provided they do not constitute part of the course requirement of 240 higher education credits that are part of the general entry requirements for the third-cycle programme.

3.5 Supervisor and examiner

Every doctoral student shall have an examiner, a primary supervisor, and at least one assistant supervisor. The primary and assistant supervisors constitute a supervisory group. The assistant supervisors are to hail from the University, other academic institutions, and/or other relevant external activities.

The primary supervisor shall be a senior lecturer who has a doctoral degree, is active within the artistic field, and is linked to the university. The primary supervisor has principal responsibility for providing guidance and advice within the framework of the artistic project work, and is tasked with providing the doctoral student with guidance regarding their studies and research work in order to facilitate their fulfilling the learning objectives. The primary supervisor is also responsible for seeing to it that the doctoral student receives a sufficient amount of supervision.

Assistant supervisors participate in the supervision of the doctoral student.

Professors and lecturers who are qualified to be appointed a docent, active within the artistic field, and permanently linked to the University can be appointed as examiners. The examiner has the overall responsibility for the doctoral student's education, and shall ensure that the third-cycle programme fulfils quality requirements in terms of the research assignment and other elements.

The Board of the School of Artistic Research and Education (KFU), which is responsible for the third-cycle programme's activities, appoints supervisors and an examiner based on recommendations made by the Director of Studies of the graduate school.

3.6 Individual study plan

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, an individual study plan shall be drawn up for each doctoral student. This individual study plan, which shall be approved by KFU after consultation with the doctoral student, primary supervisor, and examiner, shall be in writing and signed by the doctoral student, primary supervisor, examiner, and Director of Studies for the graduate school.

The individual study plan shall contain:

- A schedule for the doctoral student's education.
- Details regarding how the doctoral student's supervision is to be structured.
- Details regarding the examiner.
- Details of any intention to specialise in a particular subject within the programme and degree.
- A list of completed and planned courses.
- A description of the completed and planned parts of the doctoral student's artistic research project.
- A description of any other commitments that the doctoral student and the University have during the period of study.
- Any other requirements necessary for the education to be conducted effectively.

The study plan is to be followed up and updated twice per year during the period of study by the doctoral student, primary supervisor, and examiner, and this is to be approved by KFU. The follow-up shall clearly state how the education is progressing.

3.7 The Director of Studies

Third-cycle education on an artistic basis at the University is led by a Director of Studies. The Director of Studies shall be an active researcher who has a doctoral degree in an artistic field, unless KFU decides otherwise. The Director of Studies is responsible for seeing to it that an individual study plan is drawn up for new doctoral students no later than three months after their studies have commenced. After this, the Director of Studies is responsible for seeing to it that each doctoral student's studies are followed up at two meetings per year with the Director of Studies, examiner, primary supervisor, and doctoral student.

4 Entry requirements, selection, and admission

4.1. General entry requirements

The general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes are considered to be met by any applicant who has completed a second-cycle higher education degree, fulfilled course requirements of at least 240 higher education credits (at least 60 higher education credits of which were undertaken within second-cycle higher education), or in some other way acquired what can be considered to be near-equivalent knowledge, in Sweden or abroad.

KFU is entitled to grant exemptions from the general entry requirements for individual applicants in extenuating circumstances. Such a decision must be justified and signed off by KFU, and the Admissions Office at the University of Borås must be notified.

4.2 Specific entry requirements

The specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes in design at the University of Borås comprise the completion of a Master's degree in textile design, fashion design, interaction design, industrial design, product design, architecture, or equivalent, and that the applicant demonstrates advanced artistic proficiency within the field of design in an appended portfolio.

In addition, applicants from abroad who do not have English or a Scandinavian language as their mother tongue must under normal circumstances pass an English language test in order to be admitted.

4.3 Selection

The selection of applicants to be admitted to the third-cycle programme is undertaken on the basis of the submitted application documents and interviews with the most highly qualified applicants. The basis of selection among the applicants who are deemed to be qualified for entry to the third-cycle programme rests on assessment of their ability to benefit from the third-cycle programme. Applications are assessed by an admissions group, which is appointed by KFU on the basis of recommendations from the Director of Studies of the graduate school. The applications group is led by the Director of Studies of the graduate school.

4.4. Admissions

Decisions regarding the admission of students to the third-cycle programme and the maximum number of doctoral students who may be studying third-cycle programmes in design at any given time are made by KFU. The number of new doctoral students that can be admitted to the third-cycle programme is limited by the department's capacity to offer acceptable conditions in terms of supervision and study.

An applicant can only be admitted to a third-cycle study programme if they state their intention to adhere to the Higher Education Ordinance's requirement that doctoral students must commit a minimum of 50% of their work hours to activities relating to their studentship.

Furthermore, in accordance with the requirements and guidelines set out by the University, only students whose studies are funded during their entire period of studies may be admitted to the third-cycle programme.

5 Application

Applications for the third-cycle programme are to include a design portfolio as well as a project created by the applicant to present the applicant's intended direction of the studies. A signed and notarised list of qualifications shall be appended to the application.

Applications shall contain documentation that certifies that the applicant meets the general and specific entry requirements, along with other documentation that may be of value with regard to assessment of the applicant's ability to benefit from the third-cycle programme.

6 Degrees and examinations

6.1 Degrees

The following third-cycle qualifications in the fine, applied, and performing arts can be awarded by the University of Borås in the field of Textiles and Fashion:

Degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts in Design, and Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Design.

Degrees can also be awarded with a specialisation, which is stated in the individual study plan.

The Swedish names for these degrees are 'konstnärlig licentiatexamen i design' and 'konstnärlig doktorsexamen i design'.

6.2 Requirements for a Degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts

The requirements for being awarded a Degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts comprise a total of 120 higher education credits, 80 of which relate to research and 40 of which have been obtained through courses (see 3.1).

6.3 The licentiate seminar (presentation and defence of licentiate thesis)

The research assignment is to be presented in the form of a documented artistic research project and accounted for and defended at a public seminar, at which it is reviewed by an opponent (discussion leader) appointed by KFU following consultation with the primary supervisor and examiner.

KFU conducts the proceedings of the seminar following consultation with the doctoral student, primary supervisor, and examiner.

6.4 Requirements for a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts

The requirements for being awarded a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts comprise a total of 240 higher education credits, 180 of which relate to research and 60 of which have been obtained through courses (see 3.1).

6.5 Public defence (presentation and defence of doctoral thesis)

No later than three months prior to the planned date for the public defence, the main results of the doctoral thesis shall be discussed at a final seminar with an opponent who has been appointed by KFU based on recommendations from the Director of Studies, following consultation with the primary supervisor and examiner.

The research assignment is to be presented in the form of a documented artistic research project, which shall be accounted for and defended at a public defence. The public defence shall be led by a chairperson and involve an external reviewer; both of these will be appointed by KFU. KFU selects an external reviewer based on recommendations from the doctoral student's examiner.

KFU conducts the proceedings of the public defence based on recommendations from the Director of Studies, following consultation with the doctoral student, primary supervisor, and examiner.

6.6 Examination and grades

Course examination: The course examiner appointed by the board responsible for the course in question conducts the examination. Any assessment of the possibility of transferring credits for courses completed elsewhere is performed by the doctoral student's examiner.

Licentiate examination: The doctoral student's examiner shall, following consultation with the primary supervisor, assess and grade the collected research work, as well as the presentation and defence of the thesis at the licentiate seminar.

Doctoral examination: An examining committee consisting of two external examiners and one faculty member shall assess and grade the collected research work, as well as the presentation and defence of the thesis at the public defence. KFU appoints the members of the examining committee based on recommendations from the doctoral student's examiner.

Courses and the licentiate/doctoral work are graded either Pass or Fail.