



Regulations on the management of licentiate degrees at the Faculty of Science

Licentiate degrees are regulated in Annex 2 to the Higher Education Ordinance (Qualifications Ordinance), in Admission arrangements relating to graduate education at Lund University (I G 9 6251/2004) and in the Lund University regulations for third-cycle education (LS 2011/701).

The Faculty Board has previously decided that licentiates may be taken in all third-cycle subjects at the faculty. The rules that apply to licentiates at the Faculty of Science are summarised below.

Admission

An individual can be admitted to third-cycle studies leading exclusively to a licentiate. The Faculty of Science does, however, take a very restrictive view of this possibility, and admission to a licentiate should therefore only be approved if there are extraordinary reasons, which will be considered on a case by case basis. Decisions on admission to studies leading exclusively to a licentiate are taken by the dean.

A licentiate can also form a stage in third-cycle studies for those admitted to a PhD.

Requirements for a licentiate

The Higher Education Ordinance states that a licentiate is achieved *either* after a third-cycle student has completed a study programme of at least 120 credits in a subject in which third-cycle tuition is offered, *or* after a third-cycle student has completed one part comprising at least 120 credits of a study programme intended to conclude with the award of a PhD. For a degree of Licentiate the third-cycle student shall have been awarded a grade of pass for a research thesis of at least 60 credits. There are additional specific requirements in each third-cycle subject – these are indicated in the general syllabus for the respective subjects.

The faculty considers that the research project should comprise 60–75 credits. It must be summarised in (at least) one academic paper, which is to be of a quality suitable for publication in a recognised scientific journal.

Seminar and examination

The thesis shall be defended at a public seminar. The pro-dean for research and research studies decides on the time and place of the seminar, delegated from the Faculty Board. The licentiate seminar is to take place during the university semester in accordance with the same rules as for defence of a PhD thesis. The autumn semester starts on or around 1 September. During the Christmas vacation,

around 23 December–8 January, no seminars may take place. The final date for seminars in the spring semester is the Friday a week before Midsummer (around 16 June). The seminar is to be held in Lund. If there are extraordinary reasons, the pro-dean can decide that the seminar should take place in a different location.

A critical reviewer is to be appointed for the seminar. The critical reviewer must hold a PhD and must not work at the Faculty of Science, unless there are extraordinary reasons. The seminar is to be presided over by a chair. The chair and the critical reviewer are appointed by the pro-dean.

The licentiate thesis is to be graded as either pass or fail. In the assessment of the thesis, consideration shall be given to both the content and the defence of the thesis. If the thesis is failed, reasons are to be given in writing. The grade is to be set by an examiner, who is appointed by the pro-dean for each individual thesis. The examiner must attend the seminar. A person who has acted as supervisor to the student, or who has some other conflict of interests, may not serve as examiner.

A template for the grading decision is available on the faculty website. It is to be filled in digitally, printed out, signed by the examiner and sent to the Faculty Office as soon as possible after the licentiate seminar. A passed thesis is registered in LADOK by the Faculty Office. The department is to ensure that the date when all courses for a licentiate are completed is entered into LADOK.

An application for a licentiate seminar is submitted by the department on a form available on the faculty website. The form is to be signed by the subject director (or equivalent) and submitted to the Faculty Office no later than five weeks prior to the seminar. The application is registered at the Faculty Office.

For research students admitted on the basis of an MSc Engineering, it is possible to be awarded a *teknologie licentiatexamen* (Licentiate of Engineering) instead of a *filosofie licentiatexamen* (Licentiate of Philosophy). A request for this must be included in the application for a licentiate seminar.

Announcement, information and distribution of the thesis

The licentiate thesis must be printed in at least ten copies and be available for viewing at the department concerned for at least three weeks prior to the seminar. At the latest three weeks and three working days before the seminar, three copies of the thesis must be submitted to the Faculty Office (two of these copies are forwarded by the Faculty Office to the University Library). The seminar is announced by the Faculty Office three weeks before the appointed date. This means that official information about the seminar is distributed within the faculty and to the appointed critical reviewer, chair and examiner.

The cost of printing the thesis is covered by the department.

Miscellaneous

Change of subject title

Any change to the subject in a degree title must be made before the application for a licentiate seminar is filled in and sent to the Faculty Office. (This primarily applies to the doctoral students admitted to a third-cycle subject that has subsequently changed its name.) The director of third-cycle studies can provide information on how to do this.

Continued study for a doctoral degree

It is possible to take a licentiate after approximately half of the study required for a PhD, i.e. as a stage in PhD studies. If the doctoral student's admission decision states that the student is admitted to a PhD, the student always has the right to continue his or her studies for a PhD after completing a licentiate. This presupposes that the doctoral student has not requested in writing to withdraw from further studies.

If the student has been admitted to third-cycle studies leading only to a licentiate, a new admission decision is required in order for him or her to continue to study for a PhD.

This decision has been taken by the Faculty Board following a presentation by Tobias Nilsson and consultation with the Presiding Committee.

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