



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

*School of Health and Welfare*



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY

*School of Education and  
Communication*

## General syllabus for third-cycle education in

### *Disability Research*

**within the Research School of Health and Welfare at  
the School of Health and Welfare and the doctoral  
programmes at the School of Education and  
Communication**

Degree of Licentiate 120 credits

Degree of Doctor 240 credits

Established: 28 March 2007 by the Faculty Board, Jönköping University

Revised: The Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) 9 May 2018

## Degree regulations

The regulations contained in the Swedish Higher Education Act (1993:792) on entitlement to issue certain degrees form the basis for third-cycle education at Jönköping University. The requirements placed on the Degree of Doctor are contained in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), Appendix 2 Degree Ordinance. In addition, the specified objectives and degree requirements established in the general syllabus for third-cycle education within the subject and the local regulations for education at third-cycle level established by the Board of Education and Research Education (NUF) at Jönköping University also apply. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Disability Research and Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Disability Research are the names of the degrees covered by this syllabus.

## Subject description

The subject of **Disability Research** is an interdisciplinary subject, and covers knowledge relating to behavioural science, social science and cultural science, as well as medical and technical knowledge.

The research focuses on studying the relationships between the individual's circumstances (particularly the disability), the opportunities and limitations of the individual's immediate surroundings in terms of living an active life, and the social conditions under which people with disabilities live. These aspects are related to the individual's involvement in his or her living situation, i.e. everyday functioning, at different stages of life.

## Programme description

Third-cycle education in Disability Research within the Research School of Health and Welfare at the School of Health and Welfare and the doctoral programmes at the School of Education and Communication aims to develop theoretical and methodological knowledge and the capacity for independent and critical research work within the field. The thesis work shall be independent scientific work that contributes new knowledge within the field. Where possible, the education shall have an international element and shall develop the doctoral student's ability to exchange knowledge at a scientific level.

The main responsibility for third-cycle education in Disability Research within the Research School of Health and Welfare lies with the School of Health and Welfare, and the main responsibility for third-cycle education in Disability Research within the doctoral programmes at the School of Education and Communication lies with the School of Education and Communication. The education takes place in cooperation with the School of Health and Welfare or the School of Education and Communication, and with other schools at Jönköping University. The teaching mainly takes the form of supervision, courses and scientific seminars. The teaching is carried out in English where required for the participation of all doctoral students.

## Degree of Licentiate

### Goals

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within Disability Research, including current specialist knowledge within a defined area of Disability Research, as well as advanced knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of Disability Research in particular

#### *Skills and abilities*

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and, with scientific accuracy, identify and formulate research problems, to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out a limited research project and other advanced assignments within given timeframes and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge, and to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability to, in both national and international contexts, and orally and in writing, clearly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the skills required to independently participate in research and development work and to work independently in other advanced contexts

#### *Evaluation ability and approach*

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make ethical research assessments in their own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge

## Degree of Doctor

### Goals

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of Disability Research, as well as in-depth and current specialist knowledge within a defined area of Disability Research
- demonstrate familiarity with academic methodology in general and the methods of Disability Research in particular

#### *Skills and abilities*

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis and the ability to independently and critically examine and assess new and complex phenomena, research problems and situations
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with scientific accuracy, identify and formulate research problems, to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out research and other advanced assignments within given timeframes and to review and evaluate this work
- through producing a thesis, demonstrate their ability to significantly contribute to the development of knowledge through their own research
- demonstrate the ability to, in both national and international contexts, orally and in writing, present and

discuss with authority research and research results in dialogue with the academic community and society in general

- demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge
- demonstrate the ability to, both within research and education, and in other qualified professional contexts, contribute to societal development and support the learning of others

### *Evaluation ability and approach*

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- demonstrate intellectual independence and scholarly integrity as well as the ability to make ethical research assessments
- demonstrate in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used

## **The structure and content of the education**

The education for the Degree of Doctor normally requires four years of full-time study and is worth a total of 240 credits, divided up between a course element worth 60 credits and a thesis element worth 180 credits. The Degree of Licentiate may consist of milestone objectives or the termination of third-cycle education.

The education for the Degree of Licentiate requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study and is worth a total of 120 credits, divided up between a course element worth 30 credits and a thesis element worth 90 credits.

The emphasis in the education of doctoral students is on the thesis work. For each doctoral student, one main supervisor and the number of assistant supervisors needed for the thesis work are appointed. The main supervisor should be a docent/professor at the School of Health and Welfare, the School of Education and Communication or another educational institution by special agreement.

## **Courses**

Course elements and thesis work should be carried out in parallel. Of the course elements, 47.5 credits consist of compulsory courses for the Degree of Doctor and 27.5 credits consist of compulsory courses for the Degree of Licentiate. Other course credits consist of relevant methods and/or subject courses within Disability Research.

## **Compulsory courses for the Degree of Doctor**

### **Courses within the Research School of Health and Welfare**

- one course on the design of scientific studies (7.5 credits)
- one course on quantitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- one course on qualitative research methods (7.5 credits)

### **Courses within the subject (Disability Research)**

- one course on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity, Foundation course I in Disability Research or equivalent (12.5 credits)
- one course on scientific philosophy, scientific theory and research ethics, Foundation course II in Disability Research or equivalent (12.5 credits)

## Compulsory courses for the Degree of Licentiate

### Courses within the Research School of Health and Welfare

(doctoral students should study two of the following courses)

- one course on scientific philosophy and scientific theory (7.5 credits)
- one course on the design of scientific studies (7.5 credits)
- one course on research ethics (7.5 credits)
- one course on quantitative research methods (7.5 credits)
- one course on qualitative research methods (7.5 credits)

### Courses within the subject (Disability Research)

- one course on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity, Foundation course I in Disability Research or equivalent (12.5 credits)

## Scientific thesis (Degree of Doctor)

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student must have passed a scientific thesis (doctoral thesis) worth at least 180 credits. The scientific thesis can ideally be written in English, but can also be written in Swedish.

## Scientific paper (Degree of Licentiate)

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student must have passed a scientific paper worth at least 90 credits. The scientific paper can ideally be written in English, but can also be written in Swedish.

## Quality assurance

Quality review takes place through a review of the doctoral student's research plan (RSP) and two completed compulsory review seminars (half-time and final seminars), and on an ongoing basis through monitoring the ISP (Individual Study Plan) and through the doctoral student presenting his or her work at national and international conferences.

Thesis within third-cycle education are normally compilation theses that usually consist of two and four articles for a licentiate thesis and doctoral thesis respectively, of which at least half should be accepted for publication in peer-reviewed international journals or equivalent at the time of the seminar/thesis defence. It is a stated aim of third-cycle education that all articles in theses should be published in highly respected journals.

## Eligibility requirements and admission requirements

### General eligibility

In order to be accepted for third-cycle education within the subject of Disability Research at the School of Health and Welfare or the School of Education and Communication, the applicant must meet the general eligibility requirements for third-cycle education in accordance with the Regulations and guidelines for education at Jönköping University. The general eligibility requirements for education at third-cycle level are:

- the completion of a degree at second-cycle level,
- the fulfilment of course requirements totalling at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits must be at second-cycle level, or
- the acquisition of essentially equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad.

The requirements for specific eligibility imposed in the general syllabus should be necessary in order for the doctoral student to be able to assimilate the education successfully.

### **Specific eligibility**

The specific eligibility requirements in order to be accepted for third-cycle education within the subject of Disability Research are having completed studies worth at least 90 credits in a subject of relevance for Disability Research and having completed an independent project at second-cycle level worth at least 15 credits within the subject. A candidate who has acquired essentially equivalent knowledge in some other way, either in Sweden or abroad, also meets the specific eligibility requirements.

### **Selection and admission**

Admission follows the guidelines established by the Dean of the School of Health and Welfare or the Dean and the Research Board at the School of Education and Communication. Applicants will be evaluated based on their previous academic qualifications, research focus and suitability for third-cycle education, and on their ability to complete the education successfully within the established study period. Decisions on admission at the School of Health and Welfare are made by the Dean in consultation with subject representatives and the head of the research school, and are notified to the steering group of the Research School of Health and Welfare. Decisions on admission at the School of Education and Communication are made by the Research Board and then by the Dean.

### **Accreditation**

Doctoral students who have passed tests included in the third-cycle education at another educational institution are entitled to have these accredited following the recommendations of the subject representative.

Accreditation of third-cycle education courses shall always be based on an individual assessment of the course's contents, scope, level of literature and examination forms, and on the competence of the examiner. The assessment shall be approved by the main supervisor in consultation with subject representatives, and shall be documented on a specific form that can be found on the websites of the School of Health and Welfare and the School of Education and Communication.

### **Grading and examinations**

In order to pass a Degree of Doctor or a Degree of Licentiate, pass grades are required for all courses included in the education, and for the thesis and its defence. The thesis shall be defended orally, in English or Swedish, at a public thesis defence. The thesis will be assessed using the grades fail or pass.