



Dnr. 2019/0423

# **General Syllabus for Innovation and Design at Mälardalen University**

Valid for all doctoral students admitted to the third-cycle subject area from 21 May 2019 onwards. Doctoral students admitted to third-cycle studies in Innovation and Design before 21 May 2019 have the right to complete their studies according to the syllabus that was valid at the time of their admission.

Deciding authority: Faculty Board

This document is a policy document for the third-cycle subject and shall be revised/reviewed no later than four years after the latest ratification. The *School of Innovation, Design and Engineering* is responsible for revision.

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## Introduction

Pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 25 of the Higher Education Ordinance, HF, (1993:100), the Faculty Board at Mälardalen University (MDH) has established subjects which shall be arranged within third-cycle studies. Each third-cycle subject area shall have a ratified general syllabus in which the main contents of the study programme, specific entry requirements and other regulations necessary shall be stated in accordance with HF Chapter 6, Sections 26 and 27.

The School is responsible for establishing and revising the general syllabuses valid for the third-cycle subject areas for which the School acts as the host School. The Faculty Board ratifies the established or revised general syllabuses for the subjects in which third-cycle studies are arranged at MDH.

Furthermore the local policy document *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at MDH* (MDH2016/1961) stipulates that the criteria for general entry requirements, description of selection criteria, description of compulsory modules and requirements for thesis work and course demands shall also be stated in the general syllabus for the subject. In addition to this, recommendations concerning prior knowledge which do not constitute formal entry requirements as well as other relevant information may be given.

## Subject description

### *Research domain*

The research domain of Innovation and Product Realisation focuses on sustainable future development and organisational renewal, in industry and the public sector, by having its point of departure in a holistic perspective that takes into account people, the environment, systems and global challenges. The domain is linked to the first-cycle areas of Information Design, Innovation technology, and Product and Process Development.

### *Third-cycle subject area*

Innovation and Design is a third-cycle subject area with an interdisciplinary approach to the development process from needs/problems to usable solutions, with a profile towards sustainable future development and industrial innovation. Examples of applications are communication and information processes, quality development, management of innovation collaboration between different actors, and also the development and operation of sustainable production systems and their interfaces towards product development. One of the goals is by means of co-production to contribute knowledge of development processes and/or by developing methods, approaches and prerequisites to carry out improvements within the chosen application.

## Programme structure

For each doctoral student an individual study plan shall be established, in which the programme structure is planned in detail. This is regulated in HF and the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH2016/1961). Procedures for the individual study plan are also to be found in the *Guidelines for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH 3.1-186/12). The study plan shall be updated in dialogue with the [principal] supervisor and the plan shall be reviewed in connection with every major change of the programme structure and at least twice per year. In the individual study plan shall be stated, among other things, which courses are to be included in the study programme for the individual student and also how many credits each course corresponds to.

### *Courses*

Included in the study programme shall be courses comprising at least 37.5/75 HE credits for the degree of Licentiate and Doctor respectively. The course part shall contain elements of broadening and deepening of the subject, as well as research methodology. The contents of the course part consist partly of compulsory courses and partly of courses decided by the principal supervisor after consultation with the research student and the other supervisors. The courses shall primarily be courses at third-cycle level. Regulations for credit transfer of courses are described in the local provisions for credit transfer at Mälardalen University (*Local Credit Transfer Regulations at Mälardalen University*).

### *Compulsory courses*

For research studies in Innovation and Design the following courses are compulsory for the degree of Doctor, and have the goal of providing a common platform for the area and the subject:

- Introduction to Innovation and Design (5 credits)
- Research Ethics and Practice (2.5 credits)
- Introduction to Scientific Theory and Methodology (2.5 credits)
- Sustainable Society (2.5 credits)
- Research Communication (2.5 credits)
- Higher Seminar (2.5 credits)

For a degree of Licentiate the above courses corresponding to 10 HE credits must be completed.

Apart from the compulsory courses, the research student shall read courses dealing with research methods/research methodology equivalent to at least 22.5 HE credits for a degree of Doctor and 15 HE credits for a degree of Licentiate.

## Entry requirements

### *General entry requirements*

Admission to the programme is regulated in accordance with HF and is laid down in the *Admission Regulations for Third-cycle Studies* (MDH 2018/1874).

### *Specific entry requirements*

For specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies in the subject of Innovation and Design, a degree or 60 credits at second-cycle level within the main field of study/subject, relevant to the specific third-cycle project, is required. Students with equivalent prior knowledge also fulfil the specific entry requirements.

## Selection

Selection among eligible applicants is made according to the following assessment criteria:

- relevant prior knowledge of the specific research project,
- collaborative ability and drive,
- the ability to express oneself in writing.

## Examination

Third-cycle studies are concluded with a doctoral degree, or if the student so wishes, a licentiate degree. The student also has the right, but no obligation, to take a licentiate degree as a stage in the third-cycle studies. In the study programme shall be included an academic project documented in a licentiate or doctoral thesis. This work may be carried out in the form of a monograph or a compilation thesis.

### *Degree of Doctor*

The guidelines for a degree of Doctor are laid down in the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH2016/1961), but also in the *Guidelines for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH3.1-186/12). In Innovation and Design the following also applies:

- The requirements for a degree of Doctor comprise 240 HE credits, which include approved courses of at least 75 HE credits, and also an approved thesis whose scope corresponds to studies of at least 120 HE credits,
- Compulsory courses equivalent to 17.5 HE credits as well as courses which deal with research methods/research methodology equivalent to at least 22.5 HE credits,
- In the case of a compilation thesis, the doctoral thesis shall be based on 4-6 articles submitted for international publication, of which at least two shall be journal publications or the equivalent that must have been accepted by the time of application for public defence of the thesis.

The guidelines for the structure of the public defence, the choice of external reviewer and the constitution of the examining committee are laid down in the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at MDH*.

### *Degree of Licentiate*

The guidelines for a degree of Licentiate are laid down in the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH2016/1961), but also in the *Guidelines for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH3.1-186/12). In Innovation and Design the following also applies:

- The requirements for a degree of Licentiate comprise at least 120 HE credits, which include approved courses of at least 37.5 HE credits, and also an approved scientific thesis whose scope corresponds to studies of at least 60 HE credits,
- Compulsory courses equivalent to 10 HE credits as well as courses which deal with research methods/research methodology equivalent to at least 15 HE credits,
- In the case of a compilation thesis, the Licentiate thesis shall be based on 2-3 articles submitted for international publication, of which at least one shall be a journal publication. At least one of the articles must have been accepted by the time of application for the Licentiate seminar.

The guidelines for the structure of the Licentiate seminar, the choice of external reviewer and the constitution of the examining committee are laid down in the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at MDH* (MDH2016/1961).

### **Title of degree**

The title of the degree in Innovation and Design is Doctor of Philosophy in Science/Licentiate in Science. If any other title of degree is already in the doctoral student's first-cycle qualification (Social Science or Business and Economics), the doctoral student may apply to the Faculty Board to have this title of degree on the third-cycle qualification as well, in accordance with the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University*.

### **Supervision**

The right to supervisors and supervision is regulated in *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH2016/1961). Each research student shall be assigned at least two supervisors, of which one is the principal supervisor.

### **Preview**

A preview and quality assurance are carried out by means of the benchmarks according to the *Rules and Regulations for Third-cycle Studies at Mälardalen University* (MDH2016/1961) and also the *IPR Doctoral Student Handbook*.

### **Transitional provisions**

These apply for all doctoral students admitted to the third-cycle subject area from 21 May 2019 onwards. Doctoral students admitted to third-cycle studies in the subject area of Innovation and Design before 21 May 2019 have the right to complete their studies according to the syllabus that was valid at the time of their admission.