

GRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION IN ECONOMICS

Program Description

This is a translation from Swedish of the program description (studieplan) approved February 1, 1996 by the board (hereinafter "the board") of Handelshögskolan (the School of Economics and Commercial Law). Relevant articles of the University Code are referenced in the Swedish original.

Admission Requirements

A limited number of students are admitted to the graduate program each year for work towards licentiate or doctoral degrees. To be eligible for admission, one must:

- meet a general requirement,
- meet a specific requirement,
- and have the overall ability to complete the program.

The general requirement is a basic college education of at least 120 points (a Bachelors degree), or its equivalent.

The specific requirement is satisfactory completion of 60 points (1 ½ years full-time) of undergraduate economics courses, or the equivalent .

Suitability for the program is determined by the graduate education committee, based on the student's undergraduate record as well as other material, such as essays and reports, recommendations from former teachers, and a personal interview with the applicant.

Program Goals

The student should:

- achieve a good overview of the field of economics, deeper understanding of some major branches, and specialist knowledge in the thesis area;
- be able to understand and evaluate various working methods, scientific traditions, and research findings in the field of economics;
- acquire the ability to systematically survey and analyze both Swedish and international economic matters;
- develop a good ability, both independently and in collaboration with other researchers and practitioners, to formulate questions, gather relevant theoretical and empirical evidence, apply the methods of economic science, and reach well-documented results through appropriate investigations and analyses.

The Educational Program

As a rule the graduate student is assigned a supervisor (and possibly a co-supervisor) upon admittance to the program. Doctoral students have the right to supervision during a period equivalent to four years of full-time studies; part-time students have the right to supervision to a corresponding extent. In special circumstances, the Social Sciences Faculty Board may authorize supervision for a longer period or to a greater extent.

The educational program is conducted through teacher-led courses and seminars (in addition to the academic supervision discussed above). Basic method and subject courses are arranged,

and there are also special courses in various areas. Information about current courses is available each semester in special program notices.

Regular unit and special departmental seminars deal with draft research papers, chapters and partial chapters of on-going thesis work. Guest lecturers are also invited to seminars as part of the program. It can also be very beneficial in many cases, especially in connection with thesis work, to take part in educational opportunities at other scholarly institutions inside or outside the university.

Degree Requirements

Overview

For the doctoral degree, 160 points are required (equivalent to four years of full-time studies): normally 80 points (weeks) of coursework, and at least 80 points for the thesis. The student must pass examinations on the coursework, and must successfully defend the thesis at a public presentation.

The licentiate degree can be taken earlier in the program (normally 40 points of coursework, and 40 points for the thesis). Additional information on the licentiate degree can be found below.

Coursework

Coursework consists of:

- required courses (40 points) that are the same for all students in the program, and
- elective studies (40 points) appropriate to each individual student.

Normally the required courses are taken in the first year, as follows:

- Mathematics	10	points	(weeks)
- Econometrics	10	"	"
- Microeconomics	9	"	"
- Macroeconomics	8	"	"
- Term Paper	3	"	"

40 points (weeks)

Elective studies are for further broadening and deepening of knowledge, and will be determined to some degree by the student's choice of specialization for their thesis. Students should plan their elective coursework in consultation with their supervisor, taking into account all the program goals listed above, and giving consideration to their prior preparation in relation to these goals when they entered the program.

Points, examinations, and grades

For each course a set number of points is normally given, but in many cases the supervisor can change the number of points granted, considering the student's previous knowledge and educational goals. Before a student registers for a teacher-led course, they should get information

from their supervisor regarding to what extent the course can be credited towards required or elective coursework.

There are normally written examinations on courses in the program, but they could also take the form of an oral examination, for example, or writing a paper. Examinations on teacher-led courses are scheduled as soon as possible after the end of the course, as well as one or more later occasions. Grades are decided by the teacher appointed by the Social Sciences Faculty Board.

Attendance at classes and seminars is basically voluntary, but it can happen that participation in certain events is necessary in practice, because the understanding which can be gained there cannot be obtained in any other way. Active participation in seminars is especially important. Points can be granted by the supervisor for thoroughly prepared questions and discussion at special departmental seminars.

Students who have passed courses at another university (in Sweden) have the right to transfer points into the program. The teacher who decides the grade may allow the student to get credit for a course from a foreign educational institution as well. In some cases, undergraduate courses can give the type of broadening or deepening of knowledge at which the program aims, and points may then be granted on an individual basis. Normally a maximum of 6 points from courses in related areas outside economics can be applied to the program.

To some extent, the student can also get elective points for writing papers, either alone or in cooperation with others, which will be discussed at regular unit or special departmental seminars; and also for participating in discussions of others' papers. If one or more of such papers later become part of the student's thesis, corresponding points will not also be counted towards elective studies.

A student who has not met all the requirements for a degree but who has passed examinations in the program may get a certificate to that effect upon request.

The thesis

The student must write a thesis, including method, source, and literature studies beyond those included in the coursework. In form and content the thesis shall be of suitable quality to be published, entirely or in summary, in a recognized scientific monograph series or journal.

The thesis can be written either alone or together with others (if the contributions of the authors are distinguishable), and can consist of a single comprehensive work (monograph) or of several scientific papers and a short summary ("combination thesis"). The thesis shall normally be written in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, English, French, or German. A thesis not written in English, French, or German shall include a summary in one of those languages, and in any case, a short English summary shall be included.

Thesis defense and grade

The public thesis defense shall take place during the academic semester at a time and place set by the vice-chancellor (rektor). Notice of the defense shall be given well ahead. At least three school-weeks before the defense, the doctoral candidate shall deliver a prescribed number of copies of the thesis (including the related papers, in the case of the combination thesis) to individuals and institutions, as follows:

- 1 copy to the opponent and 1 to each member of the examining committee;
- 25 copies to the university library;

- if printing subsidy has been received (application for printing subsidy is made according to instructions from the Social Sciences Faculty), 150 additional copies of the thesis must be delivered to the university library if the thesis is printed (excluding the related papers in the case of the combination thesis), or 100 additional copies if the thesis is duplicated in some other way;
- 2 copies to the Social Sciences Faculty Office, plus a receipt for copies delivered to the university library;
- 1 copy to every economics department in Sweden and, in consultation with the supervisor, to other institutions and individuals who should know about the thesis.

Before the end of the academic year during which the defense has taken place, a short summary of the thesis in English (maximum 60 typed lines) shall be sent to the Scandinavian Journal of Economics for publishing.

The defense shall be led by a chairman, and there shall be an academic (faculty) opponent, both appointed by the board. The defense begins with the opponent giving their views of the thesis and the student answering questions. Then everyone in the audience has the right to pose questions and give their views of the thesis, in an order determined by the chairman. The student shall answer the questions.

The thesis shall be graded either pass or fail, taking into account both the content of the thesis and its defense. The grade shall be decided by an examining committee, specifically appointed for each thesis, consisting of three or five members appointed by the board. At least one of the members of the committee should be from faculty in another department or at another university. The committee has a quorum when all members are present, and appoints its own chairman. The committee's decision is the opinion of the majority.

The teacher chosen as supervisor shall attend meetings of the committee and participate in discussions, but not in the decision, except in unusual circumstances. The opponent has the right to attend meetings of the committee and to participate in discussions, but not in the decision.

A comprehensive (monograph) thesis written by two or more persons together may pass as the thesis for the author(s) whose contributions can be distinguished. When a combination thesis is being judged, scholarly papers which the student has written together with another person may also be taken into account only to the extent that the student's contributions can be distinguished.

The Name of the Degree

The doctoral degree in economics may be called either the doctor of philosophy in economics degree (PhD in economics) or the doctor of economics degree (ED), at the successful candidate's discretion. The licentiate degree in economics may be called either the licentiate of philosophy in economics degree (PhLic in economics) or the licentiate of economics degree economic (ELic), at the successful candidate's discretion.

Other Guidelines

Information about current courses, etc., shall be made available to students at the beginning of each semester. Some important matters that are not dealt with in this program description are regulated by the laws and regulations concerning higher education, such as the "common rules for licentiate of philosophy degree and licentiate of economics degree of the Social Sciences Faculty". Some additional information on the licentiate degree is given next.

Licentiate Degree

The licentiate degree in philosophy or economics can end a stage in the program, but there is no requirement to take the licentiate degree before the doctoral degree.

Temporary rules

Those who registered in the program before June 30, 1993, may take the licentiate degree before June 30, 1999, with 60 points coursework and 20 points on the thesis.

Coursework

Course requirements (normally 40 points) consist of courses given for the doctoral degree.

The licentiate thesis, defense, and grade

The licentiate thesis must be worth at least 40 points. Though the thesis shall normally be written in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, English, French, or German, the supervisor may permit another language. A short summary (not more than 250 words) shall be included.

The grade for the licentiate thesis shall be pass or fail, decided by an examiner from the program. Before the grade is decided, the licentiate thesis shall be presented at a special departmental seminar, in which a specially appointed academic opponent gives their views of the thesis. The seminar shall take place after the paper has been available in the department for at least three school-weeks.