

General syllabus for third-cycle studies in performative and media based practices leading to a Degree of Doctor

This general syllabus was approved by the Board of Education and Research on 10 October 2016 and was revised by the Board of Education and Research on 7 October 2019 and on 14 April 2020. The syllabus is valid from 13 May 2020.

There are regulations for third-cycle study programmes in fine, applied and performing arts in the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapters 6 and 7 (1993:100).

There are local regulations on third-cycle study programmes in fine, applied and performing arts in joint steering documents for the Stockholm University of the Arts.

1. Identification

Programme name and specialisation: Third-cycle studies in performative and media based practices
Research domain: Artistic practices
Third-cycle subject area: Performative and Media Based Practices
Scope in credits: 240
Level: Third-cycle
Title of qualification: Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i performativa och mediala praktiker
English title of qualification: Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Performative and Media Based Practices.
Standardised programme length: Four years of full-time studies, a maximum of five years of full-time studies with an agreement concerning departmental duties

2. Subject Description

Performative and Media Based Practices is an artistic research education in artistic practice. It offers possibilities for artists to reflect in, on and through artistic practice.

The artistic research education is based on artistic work within practices that include bodily and vocal practices (for example: circus, dance, opera singing, acting), media based, visual, acoustic, spatial practices (for example: cinematography, sound design, production design, scenography), practices where dramaturgy, composition or curation are in focus (for example: choreography, cinema, stage direction).

The research contributes to the development of performative and media based practices as they manifest in the art field and strengthens their position as a critical voice in the public debate.

3. The artistic research education's purpose and goal

The artistic research education aims to develop the lines of enquiry, the methods and the forms of presentation and documentation that are particular to each doctoral candidate's specific artistic practice or artistic field through an original and concrete artistic research project. The education develops the candidates' practices via interaction or dialogue with other fields and research areas.

The aim of the programme is to enable doctoral candidates to independently and reflectively plan, execute and document an artistic enquiry which create insights and methodologies through - and in relation to - artistic practice, and which are articulated and disseminated in ways that are publicly accessible. The education emphasizes the vital role transdisciplinary discourse plays in the development and articulation of new knowledge in contemporary art practices and processes.

The activities are to be conducted in forms that enable all doctoral candidates to develop in accordance with their personal circumstances and unaffected by irrelevant considerations of gender, ethnic or social background, religion or other belief, sexual orientation or disability. Stockholm University of the Arts (SKH) has a zero-tolerance policy towards all forms of discrimination.

The education qualifies for artistic practice and artistic research in artistic and/or academic contexts nationally as well as internationally.

The third-cycle studies lead to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Performative and Media Based Practices (240 credits) or, as an intermediate exit point, a Degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts in Performative and Media Based Practices (120 credits).

Intended learning outcomes

The intended learning outcomes below agree with that stated for the Degree of Doctor in Annex 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance – Degree Ordinance.

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Doctor in the fine, applied and performing arts the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the area artistic practices as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in the subject performative and media based practices
- demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Doctor in the fine, applied and performing arts the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate creative capacity in his or her artistic field
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a documented artistic research project the ability to make a significant contribution to the formation of knowledge through his or her own research
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the development of society and supporting the learning of others in both research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Doctor in the fine, applied and performing arts the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy, artistic integrity and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

4. Programme structure and content

Employment as a doctoral candidate shall pertain to full-time work. If a doctoral candidate so requests, the employment may pertain to part-time work, although not less than 50 per cent of full time. The period of study may be extended only if there are special reasons to do so. Such reasons may be absence due to illness, duties in the total defence service, commissions of trust within trade union organisations and student organisations, or parental leave.

4.1. Programme structure

The programme comprises 240 credits divided into one component consisting of seminars, courses and other assessed components comprising 60 credits, as well as a documented artistic research project comprising 180 credits.

Within the framework of the third-cycle education, the doctoral candidate shall present his or her on-going research project once around 30%, 50% and 80% of the work has been completed by arranging percentage seminars. At each of these percentage seminars, an external opponent shall participate. The opponent is appointed by the principal supervisor.

The doctoral candidate is expected to actively participate in seminars, as well as national and international conferences. The programme also includes actively participating in the research environment. Among other things, this means that the doctoral candidate shall be involved in his or her colleagues' on-going research projects.

Once the project is in its final phase and the artistic results and documentation exists as a whole in a preliminary version, a final seminar shall be arranged. At the final seminar, a plan for making public and archiving shall be presented. An external opponent shall participate in the final seminar. The opponent recommends if the project should be made public and proceed to public defence or not, or what changes should be made before the project is made public. This is done in a separate report where the opponent also discusses how the intended learning outcomes described in point 3 are considered to be achieved based on the presented material. Even if some intended learning outcomes are not achieved, it does not necessarily prevent the project from being made public as they may be achieved earlier in the programme and documented in the individual study plan. The opponent is appointed by the principal supervisor and the head of the subject area in consultation.

4.2. Supervision

The doctoral candidate is entitled to supervision within the framework of his or her studies. At least two supervisors are appointed for each doctoral candidate by the Vice Chancellor on proposals by the Board of Education and Research. The supervisors jointly have responsibility for the supervision, according to the division of responsibility decided on in consultation with the head of the subject area.

The principal supervisor should have artistic, methodological and/or theoretical knowledge relevant to the doctoral candidate's field of research. The other supervisor's knowledge shall supplement the principal supervisor's.

The total resource for the four-year supervision is 340 working hours for the principal supervisor (5% for four years) and 204 working hours for other supervisors (3% for four years). This time resource pertains to the total time for supervision, including for example correspondence, reading of literature, etc.

The doctoral candidate has the right to change supervisors. A new supervisor is appointed by the Vice Chancellor on proposal by the Board of Education and Research.

The doctoral candidate is obliged to actively participate in the teaching offered. If the doctoral candidate substantially neglects his or her commitments according to the individual study plan, the Vice Chancellor may decide on proposal by the Board of Education and Research to revoke the doctoral candidate's right to supervision and other resources for the education.

4.3. Individual study plan

An individual study plan is prepared by the doctoral candidate in consultation with the principal supervisor at the beginning of the studies. The study plan is decided by the Board of Education and Research. The study plan shall include a timetable for the programme's structure and financing. The individual study plan shall be updated annually, or in addition to this upon special changes.

4.4. Seminars, courses and other assessed components, 60 credits

The purpose of the 60-credit study component is to ensure that the doctoral candidate achieves one or more intended learning outcomes. The study components the doctoral candidate has completed and plans for are stated in the individual study plan.

The 60-credit study component consists of three parts:

- Compulsory courses, 30 credits
 - Knowledge development in artistic research, 7.5 credits
 - Method and methodology in artistic research, 7.5 credits
 - Documentation processes in artistic research, 7.5 credits
 - Exposition of artistic research, 7.5 credits
- Compulsory doctoral student seminars, 15 credits
- Elective courses and other assessed components, 15 credits

The purpose of elective courses and other assessed components for 15 credits is to support specialisation and deepening of the doctoral candidate's research project, and are planned in consultation with the principal supervisor. Other assessed components are examined in the form agreed with the supervisor/the examiner appointed by the university.

After agreement with the principal supervisor, the doctoral candidate can attend courses, primarily third-cycle level, that are offered outside his or her own university and have them included in the programme. If the supervisor deems it relevant for the doctoral candidate's research project or goal attainment, second-cycle courses may also be included in the programme, and in exceptional cases also first-cycle courses.

For courses attended at other universities, the number of credits to be transferred is determined by an examiner.

4.5. Documented artistic research project, 180 credits

The results of the third-cycle education in fine, applied and performing arts is a documented artistic research project comprising 180 credits. The project is expected to create an original and concrete contribution to artistic knowledge in relation to a specific area.

The documented artistic research project most often includes artistic processes that lead to one or more publicly available artistic results. Documentation of the artistic research project shall also be included where process, reflection, context or other aspects of the artistic research are presented. The documentation shall be conceptually cohesive and can

contain multiple components that use different materials, expressions and configurations. The documented artistic research project shall be made available to the public, both through artistic formats and as archived documentation.

The artistic research project is reviewed through a number of critical and reflecting seminars and discussed with the supervisor through the entire programme.

4.6. Departmental duties

A doctoral candidate can participate in departmental work for a maximum of 20% of the total programme length. The doctoral candidate shall be compensated by a corresponding extension of the financed programme length.

5. Announcement, admission and selection

Admission is for four years of full-time studies and concludes with a Degree of Doctor. Admission of doctoral candidates takes place according to SKH's admission regulations for third-cycle education.

SKH strives for admission of doctoral candidates to take place every two years after announcement of places at a time proposed by the Board of Education and Research and approved by the Vice Chancellor.

5.1. Admissions

The Board of Education and Research decides on the process for doctoral candidate admissions. Only a person who is employed as a doctoral candidate can be admitted. Decisions on admission to third-cycle education in performative and media based practices are made by the Board of Education and Research. Decisions on employment are made by the Vice Chancellor. A doctoral candidate with employment as a doctoral candidate has a right to a workplace and certain working materials at the department.

On condition that an applicant meets the quality requirements, the applicant can also be admitted even with another form of study financing if it can be deemed to be secured for the entire period of study and the applicant is deemed to be able to complete the programme within four years of full-time studies. The assessment of employment as a doctoral candidate with external study financing is prepared by the Vice-Rector for Research. The agreements reached state what resources are to be included in each individual case.

5.2. Selection

In connection with the application, the applicant shall present his or her intended research project in a research plan. The plan shall contain a project description and a sketch of the implementation of the research work. The basis for selection among the applicants is the applicant's qualifications at the time of application. After the first phases of the selection process, interviews are held with the most qualified applicants. When necessary, the admission committee can request supplemental documents.

Criteria for the selection are:

- the applicant's suitability for artistic research work and capacity to take in and use third-cycle education
- the project's artistic quality and implementability within the given time frame (i.e. during a period corresponding to four years of full-time study)
- the research plan's quality with regard to the subject's delimitation, relevance, originality, research issues, ties to and relevance to the collective area of knowledge and its method development
- the research project's content in relation to an assessment of the applicant's earlier qualifications
- the university's wishes with regard to specialisation and possibilities for supervision.

An applicant being deemed to be able to obtain earlier education (such as doctoral studies) or professional activities credited for the education may not provide priority over other applicants in the selection.

6. Entry requirements

6.1. General entry requirements

General entry requirements for third-cycle education involve:

1. having earned a second-cycle degree
2. having completed course requirements comprising at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits at the second-cycle level

or

3. having otherwise acquired primarily equivalent knowledge in Sweden or abroad.

For an individual applicant, exceptions may be made from the general entry requirements if special reasons exist. Decisions on exceptions are made by the Vice-Rector for Research.

6.2. Specific entry requirements

A person is qualified to be admitted to the third-cycle fine, applied and performing arts programme in performative and media based practices if he or she

- has earned a basic degree comprising at least 240 credits in educational programmes that are relevant to performative and media based practices as a subject or has experience of artistic work comparative therewith
- has presented the objective and plan of the intended work (including financial conditions for the implementation) and has had this assessed and approved by the specialisation committee and the admission committee
- has demonstrated continuous and on-going artistic activities and carried out artistic work of such an independent nature that the applicant's suitability for the project component of the programme can be assessed
- has good knowledge of English, both written and spoken

6.3. Credit transfer of earlier second- and third-cycle studies

A doctoral candidate who completed a part of the third-cycle programme in performative and media based practices at another Swedish university or the equivalent with passing results has a right to transfer credit for this to the third-cycle programme at SKH. A doctoral candidate can also transfer credit for studies at foreign universities. The review of whether or not an earlier programme will be able to provide credit transfer and if so to what extent is determined by an examiner. The credit transfer shall be reviewed on the candidate's own request in each individual case.

When done outside the first-cycle education's 240 credits, credits from second-cycle studies shall be able to be transferred in part or in whole within the course components, as well as other supplementary education. However, it is important that the documented artistic research work in the third-cycle education constitutes an identifiable whole, and can be examined as such.

7. Public defence

The documented artistic research project shall be reviewed and defended at a public defence. The public defence normally consists of a public discussion that presents and analyses the completed research project's artistic and reflective components.

The artistic research project, which consists of artistic results (presented or documented) and documentation intended for archiving, shall be made public no later than four weeks before the public defence.

The public defence shall take place during the semester period. The public defence is led by a chairperson, with an external opponent and an examination committee. The documented artistic research project shall be assessed with a grade of Pass or Fail. Passing grades on all knowledge exams included in the third-cycle education and on the documented artistic research project are required to be approved for a Degree of Doctor.

The grade for the documented artistic research project is determined by an examination committee. The examination committee shall consist of three members with relevant subject expertise, of whom at least two shall be active outside the university. The opponent has the right to be present at meetings with the examination committee and to participate in the deliberations, but not in the decision. The same applies for the supervisors.

All educational components shall be completed and passed before the public defence unless special circumstances exist. The head of subject area for the third-cycle education approves when the education is complete, and that the doctoral candidate can go to public defence. The Board of Education and Research approves that the documented artistic research project may be presented for public defence according to the plan for making public and archiving and proposals on public defence date, place, external opponent, examination committee and chairperson.

8. Stage in the third-cycle education – Degree of Licentiate

Students in the third-cycle education in performative and media based practices can begin their studies with a stage comprising four semesters of full-time studies. Anyone who completes this stage with passing results is awarded the Degree of Licentiate upon application.

8.1. Purpose of the stage

The purpose of the Licentiate stage is to provide good preparation for tasks in society where knowledge in artistic research is of value through research-oriented schooling. The purpose is achieved by the student acquiring during the programme subject knowledge, methodological training and an ability to independently implement research projects.

The stage/Licentiate is not compulsory and it is not required that the student shall decide if he or she shall complete the licentiate or not already upon admission to the third-cycle education. The student who does not have a clearly expressed desire to limit his or her studies to this stage is therefore recommended to arrange his or her studies with direct sights set on the Degree of Doctor. Such an arrangement is no obstacle to later directing the studies towards the Licentiate stage as a final goal or an interim goal.

8.2. Programme structure and content

The education within the Licentiate stage consists of one component comprising courses, seminars and a documented artistic research project. Teaching is provided in the form of seminars and courses and supervision individually and in groups. In terms of content, the stage corresponds to the first two years of full-time third-cycle study for the Degree of Doctor.

The two compulsory courses within the stage/licentiate are:

- Knowledge development in artistic research, 7.5 credits
- Method and methodology in artistic research, 7.5 credits

Within the stage, the student shall carry out a documented artistic research project, “the licentiate project”. The focus of this should be chosen early in the studies and planned so that the work can be completed within the scope of the first two years of full-time studies. If the licentiate is completed as an interim goal on the way to the Degree of Doctor, the licentiate project should be planned so that significant parts of it can constitute parts of a potential doctoral project.

8.3. Examination

The artistic research project, the licentiate project, shall be assessed with a grade of Pass or Fail. All educational components included in the licentiate education shall be completed and passed before the Licentiate review. The head of the subject area for the third-cycle education approves when the education is complete, and that the doctoral candidate can go to Licentiate review. The Board of Education and Research approves that the documented artistic research project may be presented for Licentiate review according to the plan for making public and archiving and proposals on external

opponent, examination committee and chairperson. The examination committee shall have two members, of whom at least one is external.

9. Other

Information regarding admission and application periods is provided by SKH.