



UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

POLICY, RULES AND PLANS

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RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THIRD- CYCLE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

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Summary	This document replaces <i>Rules and regulations for postgraduate studies</i> , <i>Regler för finansiering av utbildning på forskarnivå</i> and <i>Regler för förlängning av utbildningstid för doktorand</i> .

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THIRD-CYCLE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

This is a translated version of the Swedish original. In case of differences between the Swedish version and the English translation, the Swedish original shall prevail.

Ethics and democratic values

The activities carried out at the University shall be characterised by mutual respect and consideration between those involved: students, teachers, technical and administrative staff and others. No one is to be treated differently based on gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief system, disability, sexual orientation or age.

1. Introduction

1.1. These rules and regulations apply to all third-cycle studies at the University of Gothenburg and are designed to safeguard that the University provides its students with high-quality education, full legal security and a good psychosocial work environment. Faculty-specific rules may be added to these central provisions.

1.2. These rules are based on the Higher Education Act (1992:1434) and the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100); they constitute an interpretation and application of the general regulations. The rules are also based on the University of Gothenburg's admission regulations for third-cycle studies, rules of procedure and delegation of authority policy. To make it easier to understand the basis of the different rules, each heading is followed by a reference in parentheses to relevant chapters and sections of the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. When it comes to disciplinary measures, expulsion of a third-cycle student and withdrawal of supervisors and other resources, the text merely refers to relevant chapters and sections of the Higher Education Ordinance and the Swedish Ordinance on Expulsion of Students from Higher Education (2007:989). A heading without a reference indicates that the rules are local.

1.3. In this document, a 'third-cycle student' refers to a person who has been admitted to and is pursuing third-cycle studies.

2. Responsibility for third-cycle studies (Higher Education Ordinance 2:2-3, 6:30-31 and 6:36)

2.1. The University Board and the Vice-Chancellor have the overall responsibility for the University's third-cycle education. The University Board decides on the admission regulations and the Vice-Chancellor on withdrawal of resources in cases when third-cycle students substantially neglect their obligations according to the individual study plan.

2.2. In dealing with third-cycle issues, the Vice-Chancellor is supported by the central Board of Education, which comprises the Committee for Third-Cycle Education. The Committee consists of representatives from all Faculties and is headed by a Chair appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The purpose of the Committee is to develop and promote University-wide principles for third-cycle studies and contribute to exchange of experience across Faculty boundaries and overall quality assurance.

2.3. The Vice-Chancellor has delegated to the Faculty Boards the authority to decide on the principles of the respective Faculties' third-cycle education within the framework of the University's normative decisions. Some issues, however, require that the Faculty Boards consult the Board of Education before making any decisions. These issues include introduction and phasing out of subjects at the third-cycle level as well as research schools within the domain of the Board of Education. The Faculty Boards are in charge of strategic planning, overall management and quality assurance of the respective Faculties' third-cycle education. They also have the overall responsibility of providing information about their respective third-cycle programmes and ensuring compliance with applicable general, University-wide and Faculty-specific rules and regulations. The information must be made available in both Swedish and English.

2.4. The Vice-Chancellor has delegated all admission decisions and management duties with respect to third-cycle studies to the respective Heads of Department. The Heads of Department are also to ensure that individual study plans are established and revised at least once a year, and that information about the third-cycle programmes within the domain of his/her Department is made available in both Swedish and English.

3. Establishment of subjects in third-cycle education and general study syllabi (Higher Education Ordinance 6:26-27)

3.1. The Faculty Boards are responsible for the establishment and phasing out of subject areas at the third-cycle level within their respective areas of responsibility following consultation with the Board of Education and Committee for Third-Cycle Education.

3.2. For each subject in which third-cycle education is offered, a general study syllabus is required. The Faculty Boards are in charge of drawing up and deciding on revisions of their respective general study syllabi. All general study syllabi must be made available in both Swedish and English.

3.3. A general study syllabus shall indicate the following:

- The name of the subject and date in which the general study syllabus was confirmed.
- Title of qualification (name of the degree that the studies will lead to).
- The content and disposition of the studies.
- Learning targets according to the Qualifications Ordinance with specifications for the subject.
- Extent of the thesis required, stated in number of higher education credits.
- Extent of compulsory and elective courses, stated in number of higher education credits, as well as other credit-yielding activities that are part of the programme.
- Entry requirements.
- Selection criteria used in the allocation of places to assess applicants' ability to benefit from the studies.
- Any transitional provisions in relation to older general study plan and a description of students' possibilities to change from an older to a current general study plan.

4. Calls for applications for third-cycle studies (Higher Education Ordinance 7:37-38 and 7:41)

4.1. Calls for applications for third-cycle studies are to facilitate competition among applicants. Calls are to be made in ways and via channels that are conducive to the University's aim of increasing its rate of international recruitments. Consequently, calls must be published in both Swedish and English. The time period between an announcement of a call for applications and the application deadline must be at least three weeks.

4.2 Calls for applications for third-cycle studies are to include information about:

- The subject area in question.
- Financing of the announced position(s).
- The assessment criteria used to assess applicants' ability to benefit from the studies.
- The degree that the announced position(s) will lead to upon completion of the studies.

4.3. A call for applications for third-cycle studies may not include any entry requirements that are not stated in the Higher Education Act, the Higher Education Ordinance and the applicable general study syllabus.

4.4. The rules concerning calls for applications for third-cycle studies may be disregarded in the following cases:

- Admission of a third-cycle student financed within a framework where the University of Gothenburg does not serve as employer (external position, so-called *samverkansdoktorand*).
- Admission of a third-cycle student financed via stipends according to Section 6 below.
- When a third-cycle student changes higher education institution or subject area.

5. Eligibility and admission to third-cycle studies (Higher Education Ordinance 7:34-7:35 and 7:39-41)

5.1 To be eligible for third-cycle studies, the applicant must meet both the general and (if applicable) specific entry requirements as laid down in the Admissions Regulations and the general study syllabus for the subject area in question.

5.2. Selection to third-cycle studies shall be based on the general and specific entry requirements laid down in the general study syllabus and on assessments of the applicants' overall ability to benefit from the studies.

5.3. Only applicants who can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study as well as proper financing according to Section 6 below may be admitted to third-cycle studies.

5.4. The Head of Department is to ensure that the third-cycle student is provided an appropriate work area at the commencement of his/her studies, and also that he/she has access to a personal computer and other equipment and material necessary for successful completion of his/her studies. The Head of Department shall also see to it that the third-cycle student is provided a proper introduction as well as relevant information regarding applicable rules and routines.

5.5. An applicant may be admitted to third-cycle studies that lead to either a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree.

5.6. Third-cycle students admitted to a doctoral programme have the right to conclude their studies with a licentiate degree.

5.7. In cases when a student is admitted to licentiate studies, the Head of Department is responsible to inform the student, in writing, that in order for him or her to pursue a doctoral degree, a new admission procedure will be required. This written information is to be enclosed with the student's individual study plan. When a

person with a licentiate degree applies to doctoral studies, he or she may not be favoured in relation to other applicants due only to the fact that he/she may be able to apply his/her licentiate studies towards a doctoral degree.

5.8. Notification of admission is to be in writing and must include:

- The student's name and personal identity number.
- An account of the general and specific entry requirements taken into consideration.
- A funding plan for the entire period of study.
- Information concerning the type of degree the student has chosen to pursue.

5.9. Third-cycle admission decisions are made by the Head of Department. Admission decisions must be registered promptly in the University's computer-based documentation system Ladok, and all applicants must be notified of the decision within three weeks. Admission decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

5.10. Should a third-cycle student desire to pursue a degree in a subject area other than the one to which he or she was originally admitted, he or she must re-apply for admission and report non-completion of studies within the former subject area in writing upon admission to the new subject area.

5.11. A third-cycle student cannot be admitted to third-cycle studies in more than one subject area.

5.12. Only individuals admitted to third-cycle studies may pursue such studies.

5.13. A third-cycle student may submit a request for termination of his or her third-cycle studies. Such requests are to be in writing. Termination of third-cycle studies implies that the student will no longer be admitted to third-cycle studies in the given subject area.

6. Funding of third-cycle studies (Higher Education Ordinance 5:1-5:7 and 7:36)

6.1. As a general rule, each Department is responsible for the funding of their third-cycle students.

6.2. As a general rule, third-cycle studies are to be funded primarily through doctoral studentships or within a framework where the University of Gothenburg does not serve as employer (external position).

6.3. A doctoral studentship shall be a full-time post. If a third-cycle student so requests, the Head of Department may approve a part-time post, but for no less than 50 per cent of a full-time post.

6.4. The Head of Department may grant leave of absence up to a maximum of 50% of full time. The doctoral student may however be given the right to a higher proportion according to law, special agreement or because of work carried out for a student union.

6.5. During a transitional period from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2015, applicants may be admitted to third-cycle studies based on a combination of doctoral grants and doctoral studentships in accordance with the following provisions:¹

- Starting 1 January 2013, applicants admitted to third-cycle studies leading to a *licentiate degree/licentiate degree in the fine, applied and performing arts* shall, following a formal request by the student, be offered a doctoral studentship within one year of full-time studies according to the student's individual study plan. The studies undertaken prior to the doctoral studentship are to be funded via a doctoral grant.
- Starting 1 January 2013, applicants admitted to third-cycle studies leading to a *PhD/doctorate in the fine, applied and performing arts* shall, following a formal request by the student, be offered a doctoral studentship within two years of full-time studies according to the student's individual study plan. The studies undertaken prior to the doctoral studentship are to be funded via a doctoral grant.
- Starting 1 July 2014, applicants admitted to third-cycle studies leading to a *PhD/doctorate in the fine, applied and performing arts* or a *licentiate degree/licentiate degree in the fine, applied and performing arts* shall, following a formal request by the student, be offered a doctoral studentship within one year of full-time studies according to the student's individual study plan. The studies undertaken prior to the doctoral studentship are to be funded via a doctoral grant.

6.6. Starting 1 July 2015, applicants admitted to third-cycle studies leading to a *PhD/doctorate in the fine, applied and performing arts* or a *licentiate degree/licentiate degree in the fine, applied and performing arts* shall, following a formal request by the student, be offered a doctoral studentship.

¹ The University Board has decided that the funding of third-cycle studies via doctoral grants shall be phased out from 1 January 2013 to 1 July 2015. See board meeting minutes 2011:8:8, 12 October 2011.

6.7. Applicants admitted to third-cycle studies can be funded within a framework where the University of Gothenburg does not serve as employer (an external position, so-called *samverkansdoktorand*).²

- For funding within the framework of an external position to be approved, the employer must allow for the student to devote at least 50% of a full-time position to his/her third-cycle studies, so that he/she will be able to finish his/her licentiate degree/licentiate degree in the fine, applied and performing arts within four years or PhD/doctorate in the fine, applied and performing arts within eight years.
- The salary related to an external position shall amount to at least the level specified by the respective Faculty for doctoral studentships.
- Funding within the framework of an external position is to be regulated through a contract between the external employer and the student's home Department. The student is to be given an opportunity to review the contract before it is signed by the parties involved.
- Contracts between the external employer and a Department are to be formulated according to the University of Gothenburg's contract template for funding of third-cycle studies within the framework of an external position.
- Before a Department may enter an agreement regarding funding within the framework of an external position, it must consult the Dean concerning the content of the agreement.
- The contract regarding funding within the framework of an external position is to be enclosed with the individual study plan.
- If the external employer fails to comply with a contract regarding funding within the framework of an external position and this circumstance could not reasonably have been foreseen by the student's home Department, the Department is not responsible to take over the funding responsibility in question. However, if such a situation arises, the Department must work actively to find an alternative source of funding in order for the student to complete his/her studies according to the individual study plan.

² Includes the Ladok categories *företagsdoktorand*, *anställning utanför högskolan* and *anställning som läkare*.

6.8. Exceptions from the rules regarding funding through employment – via a doctoral studentship or an external position – can be made in some cases and based on the following grounds:

- If the admission concerns a third-cycle student funded via scholarships provided within the framework of national or intergovernmental development assistance and capacity building programmes where such scholarships comprise an established form of funding and the student's home Department has good insight into how the scholarship is handled and disbursed.
- If the admission concerns a third-cycle student funded via scholarships provided within the framework of an EU-funded programme/equivalent, where such scholarships comprise an established form of funding among the other parties involved and where funding through employment would interfere with the participation of the student's home Department. The Department in question must have good insight into how the scholarship is handled and disbursed.
- If the admission concerns a third-cycle student whose entire period of study can be funded via pension. Funding via pension is to be documented in the individual study plan. When a student is admitted to studies that will be funded via pension, a specification must be made regarding supervision and study-related costs.

6.9. A decision to admit an applicant to third-cycle studies funded via scholarships according to the above rules must be preceded by documented discussions between the funder and the Department regarding the possibility of funding the studies via employment. The Department is to inform the funder about the disadvantages of scholarship funding to the student. The documentation shall be enclosed with the individual study plan.

6.10. Based on the documentation and following consultation with the Dean, the Head of Department may decide to admit an applicant with scholarship funding if the conditions below have been met via a contract between the Department and the funder. The student is to be given an opportunity to review the contract before it is signed by the parties involved. The contract shall be enclosed with the individual study plan.

- The scholarship is comparable in value to the salary paid for a doctoral studentship. It should be possible to gradually increase the scholarship funding to mimic the respective Faculty's salary structure for doctoral studentships.
- The student has social insurance coverage comparable to the coverage that comes with doctoral studentships. The scholarship, or separate insurance policy, shall enable a proportional extension of the period of study in case of illness or parental leave.

- The student has been informed in writing about his/her funding and insurance coverage.

6.11. Third-cycle students funded via scholarships are to be given access to the University's occupational health services.

6.12. Scholarships aimed to fund third-cycle studies may not be established within the University.

7. Student and course examiners (Higher Education Ordinance 6:22 and 6:32)

7.1 In connection with the admission process, each student is to be assigned a student examiner. The examiner must be a University of Gothenburg employee at least at the level of a Reader (Docent).

7.2. Neither a student's principal supervisor or assistant supervisor may serve as student examiner. The student's examiner must be identified in the individual study plan.

7.3. The student examiner is to establish and revise the individual study plan in consultation with the student and his/her supervisors; the student examiner is also to participate in the monitoring of studies. Decisions regarding the individual study plan are to be made by the Head of Department.

7.4. The Dean is to appoint student examiners following recommendations by Heads of Department. The Dean may grant an exception from the requirement that the student examiner must be at least at the level of a Reader (Docent).

7.5. Course grades in a third-cycle programme are assigned by course examiners. Course examiners must be at least at the level of a Reader (Docent).

7.6. The student's individual study plan shall identify the examiners of the courses that the student has completed.

7.7. The Dean is to appoint course examiners following recommendations by Heads of Department. The Dean may grant an exception from the requirement that the course examiner must be at least at the level of a Reader (Docent).

7.8. A third-cycle student who has taken two examinations in a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner, unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

8. Individual study plan (Higher Education Ordinance 6:29)

8.1 An individual study plan shall be drawn up for each third-cycle student. This plan shall document the undertakings made by the student and the remaining parts of his/her study programme. The study plan is to serve as a steering document for the entire period of study and shall help ensure that the studies are undertaken and followed up effectively. The student and his/her supervisors share the primary responsibility of making the study plan a living document that is used in their daily work.

8.2. The individual study plan shall be established and revised jointly by the student, supervisors and student examiner, and confirmed by the Head of Department. The Head of Department is also in charge of ensuring that the individual study plan is revised and followed up at least once a year. It shall also be revised if relevant changes have occurred and on the student's request.

8.3 An individual study plan for the student is to be established no later than two months after admission to third-cycle studies.

8.4. The individual study plan is to be established according to the University's central template for individual study plans.

9. Courses in third-cycle programmes (Higher Education Ordinance 6:32, 1:14)

9.1. The grading scale for courses in third-cycle programmes comprises pass (G) and fail (U).

9.2. A course syllabus shall be made available for each course in a third-cycle programme. Exceptions may be made for independent studies and courses offered on an occasional basis following written approval by the Head of Department.

9.3. Course syllabi for third-cycle courses shall be confirmed by the Head of Department. Courses developed jointly by several Departments shall be confirmed by all involved Heads of Department.

9.4. Course syllabi must be made available in both Swedish and English.

9.5. Course syllabi shall indicate:

- date of confirmation, course title and course code
- extent of the course stated in number of higher education credits
- entry requirements, if any
- responsible Department(s)
- course content
- learning targets
- type of instruction
- course literature
- grading
- language of instruction
- how student performance is assessed and the course evaluated

9.6. Student performance in courses that are part of third-cycle programmes is graded by the respective course examiners. The course examiners are also to ensure that course results are reported in Ladok.

9.7. The Head of Department may decide on transfer of credits for third-cycle courses or parts thereof.

9.8. Upon completion of a course, each student is to be given an opportunity to voice his/her opinions about the course via a course evaluation. The type of course evaluation used for this purpose depends on the nature of the course.

9.9. The results of the evaluation are to be summarised and made available.

10. Supervision and seminars (Higher Education Ordinance 6:28)

10.1. The third-cycle student is entitled to supervision throughout his/her entire period of study.

10.2. At least two supervisors are to be appointed by the Head of Department within one month of the admission decision. The supervisor(s) shall be identified in the individual study plan. One of them is to be appointed principal supervisor and the other(s) assistant supervisor(s).

10.3. When the supervisors are appointed, the third-cycle student's preferences are to be taken into consideration.

10.4. At least one of the supervisors must have completed the University's training in supervision of third-cycle students or an equivalent programme at another higher education institution.

10.5. When the supervisors are appointed, one of the supervisors must be at least at the level of a Reader (Docent). Supervisors may be recruited from other higher education institutions or outside the academic community. The supervisors are to be affiliated with the University by employment or commission.

10.6. The third-cycle student has the right to change any of the supervisors. The request is to be in writing and shall be presented to the Head of Department. The student is not required to specify a reason for such a request. When a request is made, the Head of Department is to facilitate a swift and convenient change of supervisors.

10.7. In cases of change of supervisors, the individual study plan must be updated. As far as possible, the student shall be given the opportunity to continue the programme with the same focus as stated in the previous individual study plan.

10.8. The student is to be given the opportunity to have regular contact with the supervisors for discussion and feedback during the progression of the thesis work.

10.9. The supervisors are to ensure that the third-cycle student is introduced to the national and international research community.

10.10. Additional assistant supervisors may be appointed at any time during the programme if deemed necessary.

10.11. The Faculty Board is to determine the minimum extent of supervision provided during the course of the third-cycle programme. It is also to specify what counts as supervision within the Faculty's domain.

10.12. Throughout the period of study, the student is expected to repeatedly present his/her thesis work, for example manuscripts and research results, at seminars/equivalent according to guidelines provided by the Faculty Board.

11. Withdrawal of supervisors and other resources (Higher Education Ordinance 6:30-31)

11.1. A third-cycle student who substantially neglects his/her obligations according to the individual study plan may forfeit the right to supervision and other resources according to the stipulations given in the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6, Sec. 30-31. Such a decision can only be made by the Vice-Chancellor.

12. Training in teaching and learning in higher education

12.1. Third-cycle students who teach at the first- or second-cycle level must have completed the course Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 1: Basic Course, 5 higher education credits. Students with other pedagogical training may have their qualifications assessed according to the procedure outlined in the University's official document *Handläggningsordning för prövning och erkännande av pedagogiska meriter*.

12.2. Training in teaching and learning in higher education shall also be offered to third-cycle students who do not teach at the first- or second-cycle level.

12.3. The Faculty Board is to decide whether the training in teaching and learning in higher education shall be completed within the framework of the student's departmental duties or as a credit-yielding activity within his/her study programme.

13. Departmental duties (Higher Education Ordinance 5:2)

13.1. A third-cycle student's departmental duties, if any, must be relevant to and may not have a negative effect on his/her studies. Departmental duties may comprise teaching, research, artistic development work and administration.

13.2. The extent and content of any departmental duties must be specified in the individual study plan.

13.3. Departmental duties may amount to a maximum of 20% of full time spread out over the period of study. Departmental duties are to result in a corresponding extension of the study programme.

14. Extension of period of study due to illness, parental leave etc. (Higher Education Ordinance 5:7)

14.1. A third-cycle student with a doctoral studentship or doctoral grant may have his/her period of study extended in case of illness, parental leave or service in the defence forces. Any extensions shall correspond to the number of days that the student has been absent for these reasons.

14.2. The Head of Department is to ensure that third-cycle students funded via scholarships or external employers are assigned extensions in connection with illness, parental leave or service in the defence forces to the same extent as other third-cycle students.

14.3. The Head of Department is to ensure that extensions due to illness, parental leave and service in the defence forces are accounted for in the individual study plan regardless of the student's source of funding. For students funded via doctoral studentships or doctoral grants, extensions must also be reported in the data warehouse.

15. Student influence and extension of studies due to representative duties and student union work (Higher Education Act 2:7, Higher Education Ordinance 1:7 and 2:14)

15.1. Third-cycle students have the right to carry out representative duties and be represented in all of the University's decision-making and preparatory bodies that deal with third-cycle education and the situation of third-cycle students. Representative duties including departmental tasks should not exceed 20 per cent of full time for an individual third-cycle student.

15.2. The Head of Department is to ensure that students with representative duties, regardless of how their studies are funded, are granted additional time to complete their degrees corresponding to the extent of their duties.

15.3. Upon completion of a representative duty, the extension shall amount to at least the number of days indicated in Appendix 1. In addition to the types of assignments listed here, students may serve on temporary

working groups and other bodies/committees. In these cases, the extent of the assignment shall be assessed prior to its commencement, and the resulting extension shall be estimated in number of days. The granted extension shall be specified in number of days upon completion of the assignment.

15.4. It falls on the individual student to request an extension due to representative duties. Such a request must be presented in writing to the head of the student's home department, regardless of the level within the University at which the assignment was carried out. Enclosed with the request, the student must submit meeting minutes confirming his/her representative duties. The committee/equivalent on which the student has served is to verify the student's participation in writing. Requests are to be submitted at the end of year and no later than 1 December.

15.5. The Head of Department decides on extensions and is to ensure that the decisions made are included in the individual study plans.

15.6. In cases where extensions are granted because of representative duties at the Faculty or central level, the head of the student's home department is to present a request for compensation to the Dean and Vice-Chancellor.

16. Licentiate theses and licentiate seminars

16.1. A licentiate thesis comprises a minimum of 60 higher education credits.

16.2. A licentiate thesis may contain contributions from several authors provided it is clear what the individual student has produced.

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16.3. The licentiate thesis is to be presented and examined at a public seminar, at which an external reviewer must be present. The Department to which the subject area is connected is to cover the cost of reproduction of the thesis for the licentiate seminar.

16.4. The Head of Department decides on the date and time of the seminar and appoints reviewer. The licentiate seminar is to be announced at least three weeks in advance. Before an announcement can be made, the thesis must be made available at the Department.

16.5. The licentiate seminar is to take place within the academic semester. If there are special circumstances, the Head of Department can schedule a seminar at other times of the year.

16.6. Licentiate theses are graded either by an examining committee according to the rules for doctoral theses or by an examiner appointed by the Dean.

16.7. The grading scale for licentiate theses comprises pass (G) and fail (U). The grade assigned shall reflect both the content and defence of the thesis. A grade of U (fail) must be justified in writing.

16.8. In cases where a licentiate thesis is written in a language other than Swedish, a Swedish summary is to be included.

17. Doctoral theses and public defences (Higher Education Ordinance 6:33-35)

17.1. A doctoral thesis comprises a minimum of 120 higher education credits.

17.2. A doctoral thesis may contain contributions from several authors provided it is clear what the individual doctoral student has produced.

17.3. A previously examined licentiate thesis may be included in a doctoral thesis. This work will then form part of the thesis work and is to be defended at the doctoral defence.

17.4. In cases where a doctoral thesis is written in a language other than Swedish, a Swedish summary is to be included. If a doctoral thesis is written in Swedish, an English summary is to be included.

17.5. The required number of copies of a doctoral thesis is decided on a case-to-case basis or according to the guidelines of the respective Faculty Board. The University Library's demand for mandatory copies has to be taken into account. The doctoral student is entitled to at least 20 copies of the thesis.

17.6. A doctoral thesis is made public through 'nailing' of the thesis to the university notice board in Vasaparken. In addition, the student shall be offered the opportunity to publish the thesis electronically via the University Library's system for E-publishing.

17.8. After the ‘nailing’ of the thesis, no changes may be made in the thesis.

17.9. An examining committee comprising three or five members is to assess whether the content and defence of a doctoral thesis meet the quality standards of the scientific or artistic community. The grade assigned shall reflect both the content and defence of the thesis.

17.10. The examining committee shall consist of at least one person who does not have a post at the University of Gothenburg. Examining committees consisting of five members must include at least two such persons. No more than one member of an examining committee may be from the doctoral student’s home Department/equivalent. Persons who have served as the student’s supervisor may not serve on the examining committee for that student. The distribution of examining committee members shall be as gender-equal as possible. The Faculty Board may present specific eligibility requirements for the members of an examining committee.

17.11. A specially appointed faculty examiner (*opponent*) is to review the doctoral thesis at the public defence. Then the examining committee shall present an assessment and record it in the doctoral defence transcript. The faculty examiner may not have a post at the Faculty where the thesis is presented, unless there are special grounds to the contrary.

17.12. The examining committee is competent to make decisions only when all members are present.

17.13. The grading scale for doctoral theses comprises pass (G) and fail (U). **Decisions of the examining committee shall be based on the consensus of most members. An individual member has the right to register a** difference of opinion in the official transcript. A grade of U (fail) must be justified in writing.

17.14. In addition to the members of the examining committee, only the faculty examiner and the principal supervisor may be present at the meeting with the examining committee and participate in the discussions; however, the faculty examiner and the principal supervisor may not participate in the final decision-making.

17.15. A public defence of a doctoral thesis shall be led by a Chair.

17.16 The Chair of a public defence, the faculty examiner and the examining committee are to be appointed by the Dean on request by the Department. The request shall include the title of the thesis as well as the time and venue of the public defence.

17.17. A public defence of a doctoral thesis is to take place within the academic semester. If there are special circumstances, the defence may be arranged at other times of the year, as decided by the Dean.

18. Degree certificates (Higher Education Ordinance 6:9)

18.1. A student who fulfils the requirements for the award of a qualification shall, on request by the student, be provided with a degree certificate.

19. Notification of non-compliance with the rules and regulations for third-cycle studies

19.1. A third-cycle student who wishes to point out non-compliance with the Rules and Regulations for Third-Cycle Studies should contact the Head of Department, and then the Dean, if necessary. The student can also contact the respective student union. The Board of Education and its Committee for Third-Cycle Education may be contacted if the problem is not resolved.

20. Disciplinary measures (Higher Education Ordinance 10:1-10:14)

20.1. Disciplinary action may be taken against third-cycle students according to Chapter 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance.

21. Expulsion (Ordinance on the Expulsion of Students from Higher Education, 2007:989)

21.1. Expulsion of a third-cycle student may occur according to the Swedish Ordinance on the Expulsion of Students from Higher Education (2007:989).