



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Reg. no U 2017/225

Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts, Malmö

## **General Syllabus for Third Cycle Studies in Theatre leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts**

### **1. Programme details**

Programme and specialisation: Third cycle studies in Theatre

Code: KOKOTEA2

Credits: 240

Cycle: Third

Degree title in English: Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Theatre Degree

Title in Swedish: Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i teater

Syllabus approved by the Board of the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts 31 May 2017.

### **2. Subject description**

Theatre as a research subject is based on activities in the stage arts and the specific knowledge that can be derived from such activities. The subject provides opportunities for theatre practitioners to reflect within, on and through artistic practice. The aim of artistic research in theatre is to benefit stage arts activities and learning processes through the development of new knowledge, understanding and skills in the stage arts and by relating the knowledge, understanding and skills to critical and theoretical perspectives. Artistic research can use theories and methods from a broad range of artistic and academic disciplines.

### **3. Objectives and outcomes of the programme**

The focus of the third cycle programme is on an artistic project to be developed through reflection, documentation and specialisation in both the individual student's field of enquiry and other relevant fields. The choice of techniques, theories and methods is to be based on their relevance to the project and is to be made by the student and supervisor in consultation. The aim of the programme is to train students to be able to independently and reflectively plan, execute and document an enquiry in which a clearly defined research issue and relevant methods are used to provide a significant contribution to the art of the theatre.

The activities are to be conducted in forms that enable each and every student 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. The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts has a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of discrimination.

Third cycle studies in theatre lead to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts or, as an intermediate exit point, a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts (see section 8).

For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Theatre the third-cycle student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge and creative ability in theatre, and
- demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

#### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate creative capacity in the field of theatre
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well as the ability 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 with artistic legitimacy and well-supported arguments in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community in general
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and
- demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

#### **Judgement and approach**

- 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 design**

Third-cycle studies comprise 240 credits or four years of full-time study. The programme can also be pursued as part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) or a maximum of eight years of study. The language of instruction is Swedish and, when necessary, English.

#### **4.1 Programme structure**

The programme comprises 240 credits divided into courses and other components of 60 credits and a documented research project of 180 credits.

Each doctoral student is to present work in progress when 25, 50 and 75 percent of the project has been completed. A final seminar is to be arranged when the full documentation is available in a preliminary version. For each of these presentations, at least one external reviewer is to be present. The reviewer is to be appointed by the supervisor and programme director in consultation.

For a degree of Doctor of the Fine Arts, the students must have passed all assessed components of the programme and the artistic project.

#### **4.2 Supervision**

At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student, both of whom are to be responsible for the programme of study and artistic project in accordance with an allocation of duties decided by the Faculty Board. The principal supervisor should have theoretical, methodological and/or artistic expertise of relevance to the student's research area. The student is entitled to have an assistant supervisor appointed who has an expertise

that complements that of the principal supervisor. The principal supervisor, in consultation with the doctoral student, is responsible for specifying the role and duties of the assistant supervisor, and for maintaining a dialogue about the studies and artistic project between the doctoral student, principal supervisor and assistant supervisor. The doctoral student is entitled to supervision within the programme. The maximum allocation of hours for four years of supervision is 340 for principal supervisors (5 per cent of total working hours for four years) and 204 for assistant supervisors (3 per cent). The hours allocated cover all activities associated with supervision, including for example correspondence and reading. The supervision can take place individually or in groups and is provided to assist the student in defining a field of study and to support the progress of the artistic work. The supervisors are appointed by the Faculty Board. The doctoral student is entitled to change supervisor if a sufficiently qualified candidate is available at the department. A change of supervisor has to be approved by the Faculty Board.

A doctoral student or supervisor who finds that the other party has failed to undertake the obligations specified in the time plan may address the matter to the Faculty Board.

### ***4.3 Individual study plan***

The department is responsible for making sure that, at the start of the programme, the doctoral student and principal supervisor together draw up an individual study plan for the duration of the programme. It is to be designed in accordance with a template approved by the Faculty Board and be approved by the Faculty Board. The individual study plan is to include a time plan for the entire period of study, including both the course component and the artistic research project, a plan for the documentation of the artistic research project and a plan for the funding of both the artistic research project and the documentation. The individual study plan is also to state the degree of activity of the student and to be revised annually or when specific changes call for revisions.

The individual study plan is also to specify the duties and responsibilities of the different supervisors.

The research student must register for study at the start of each semester and indicate his or her planned degree of activity during the semester in consultation with the principal supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for leave prior to academic years in which the programme is not pursued full-time.

### ***4.4 Courses/other assessed components, 60 credits***

The research student is to participate in and contribute to the courses and seminars included in the third-cycle programme in theatre. This component amounts to 60 credits and includes courses that support specialisation in the student's artistic research project, provide relevant and critical perspectives on the project, or support the student's ability to reflect on or communicate the artistic process. Teaching is in the form of seminars and courses and supervision individually or in groups and deals with methods and documentation in artistic research. Furthermore, elective seminars adapted to the individual needs of students are included. The doctoral student is entitled to teaching in the form of seminars and supervised individual study components. The department has the right to expect that the doctoral student participates actively in the teaching offered.

The courses are to be selected in consultation with the supervisor. Courses at the home university are assessed in accordance with the requirements stated in the relevant syllabus. Other components are assessed in the form established in agreement with the supervisor/examiner appointed by the department: performance, other forms of presentation, oral discussions, written reflections etc. Parts of the programme can be completed at an arts academy abroad, provided that the level of the studies and their integration in the programme can be guaranteed through an agreement between the institutions. Courses completed at other institutions are to be assessed in the same manner as courses at the home university, but the transfer of credits for courses at other institutions and the assessment of other assessed components are to be carried out by an examiner appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts.

The compulsory work in progress seminars described under the heading "Programme structure" are a key component in the supervisor's and examiner's continuous assessment of the student's partial or complete attainment of the learning outcomes of the programme.

#### ***4.5 Documented artistic research project of 180 credits***

The documented artistic research project is to provide an independent contribution to artistic research and knowledge through a study of a specific field and is the main basis for assessing the student's attainment of the learning outcomes. The documented artistic research project is to be held together by a central idea, possibly including several components. The artistic project is to be presented in interplay with reflective, critical and contextualising components that are to be discussed with the supervisor and at seminars or the equivalent throughout the process. The documented artistic research project is to be presented in a form suitable to the theatre and made available in a library/archive.

#### ***4.6 Departmental duties***

The doctoral student may engage in departmental duties amounting to a maximum of 20 percent of the total time for studies. The programme of study will be extended by the number of hours devoted to departmental duties by the individual student.

### **5. Admission requirements**

#### ***5.1 General admission requirements***

A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if he or she

- has been awarded a second-cycle qualification,
- has satisfied the requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second-cycle, or
- has acquired substantially equivalent knowledge in some other way in Sweden or abroad.

The Faculty Board may permit an exemption from the general admission requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

#### ***5.2 Specific admission requirements***

A person meets the specific admission requirements for third-cycle studies in theatre if he or she

- has been awarded a degree of at least 240 credits in theatre or has equivalent experience of artistic work, and
- has produced artistic work of an independent nature sufficient for assessment of the candidate's suitability for the programme.

#### ***5.3 Credit transfer***

As an elective option and subject to an agreement with the principal supervisor, the student may complete courses, primarily in the third cycle, outside the home department and transfer credits for these. Credits may also be transferred for second-cycle and, in exceptional cases, first-cycle courses, if the supervisor judges them to be relevant to the student's research project or attainment of the learning outcomes.

The credits available for transfer for courses completed at other institutions are determined by the examiner. The courses the student has passed or plans to take are to be listed in the individual study plan.

One- or two-year Master's programmes and certain other top-up programmes completed in addition to the degree of 240 credits shall be available for credit transfer wholly or in part. However, it is important that the documented artistic research project is and can be assessed as an identifiable whole.

A doctoral student who has successfully completed parts of a third-cycle programme at another higher education institution in Sweden is entitled to transfer the credits awarded to the third-cycle programme at Lund University. Studies at a higher education institution abroad may also be available for credit transfer. The extent to which credits for previous education may be transferred is determined by the examiner. Credit transfer is assessed individually and subject to an application from the student.

## **6. Admission and selection**

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts. The admission to third-cycle studies is conducted in accordance with the Lund University regulations for admission to third-cycle studies:

<https://www.staff.lu.se/organisation-and-governance/rules-and-decisions/rules-and-regulations/education-first-second-and-third-cycle>

The Faculty aims to admit research students once a year, following a call for applications at a date determined by the Faculty Board. A student admitted to a programme for a degree of Licentiate must submit a new application to pursue the programme for a degree of Doctor.

### **6.1 Admission**

An admissions board is to be appointed by the head of department in consultation with the programme director. All decisions on admission to third-cycle studies in theatre are taken by the Faculty Board. Only applicants simultaneously appointed to a doctoral studentship or awarded a doctoral grant may be admitted to a third-cycle programme leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts. However, provided that the applicant meets the other admission requirements, the Faculty Board may admit an applicant who has some other form of funding for his or her studies if it considers that the funding can be guaranteed during the entire period of study and that the applicant can devote enough time to his or her studies to enable their completion within four years in the case of full-time studies.

The assessment of forms of funding other than a doctoral studentship/grant is made by the Faculty Board in consultation with the departmental management concerned. The selection criteria are to be determined by the Faculty Board. A doctoral student with a doctoral grant/studentship is entitled to a workspace and equipment at the department.

### **6.2 Selection**

The applicant is to attach a research project plan to the application. The plan is to include a description of the project and a rough outline of its execution. The basic criterion for selection among applicants is their qualifications at the time of application. A shortlisted number of applicants will be called to interviews. When necessary, the admissions board may request additional documentation.

The selection criteria are

- the applicant's plan and aim for an artistic research project and the assessment board's assessment of this,
- the applicant's suitability for artistic research and ability to profit from research studies,
- the artistic quality of the project and its feasibility in relation to the timeframe (i.e. a period of four years of full-time study),
- the quality of the project plan in terms of relevance, originality, research issues, links and relevance to the general area of knowledge and proposed methods, and
- the department's desired specialisation and access to supervisors.

The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not give the applicant priority over other applicants.

## **7. Public defence**

The documented artistic research project is to be reviewed and defended publicly. Before the project can be presented at a public defence, it must be approved by the programme director/director of studies. This final presentation shall include a public discussion reporting and highlighting the artistic and reflective components of the project. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, the student must have passed all the other components prior to the final presentation.

The defence is to take place within the academic year and at a place and time determined by the Faculty Board in consultation with the programme management and supervisor. The public defence is to be led by a chair and

include an external reviewer and an examining committee. The documented components of the artistic research project are to be made available to the public in a library/archive four weeks in advance of the public defence.

A documented artistic project produced jointly by two or more persons can be accepted as long as the individual contribution of the doctoral student can be distinguished.

The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Board for the final presentation and is to have 3 or 5 members. One member is to be from Lund University and one a stage artist of relevance to the project. A supervisor of the doctoral student may not be a member of the examining committee. The external reviewer has the right to be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussion but not in the decision. This also applies to the supervisors.

## **8. Degree of Licentiate – a stage of research studies**

Students admitted to the third-cycle programme in theatre may include a midway stage after four semesters of study for full-time students. Students who pass the stage will be awarded a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts, on application.

### **8.1 Aim**

The aim of the stage is to provide students with training in research that will enable them to assume societal roles in which research in the arts is of value. The aim is achieved by providing the student with subject knowledge, methodological skills and the ability to independently conduct a research project.

For a degree of Licentiate, the third-cycle student shall

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the research field, including up-to-date specialised knowledge in the field of theatre, as well as demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

#### **Competence and skills**

- demonstrate creative capacity in the field of theatre
- 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 an artistic research project and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing or in other ways and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the capacity to participate in research and development work, and to work in some other qualified capacity, autonomously.

#### **Judgement and approach**

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of research ethics in his or her own research,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her artistic development.

### ***8.2 Structure and contents***

The stage includes courses, seminars and a documented artistic research project. The teaching is in the form of seminars and courses, and individual and group supervision. The contents are the same as those for the two first years of the programme leading to the degree of Doctor.

As part of the stage, the student is to complete a documented artistic research project. The focus of the project should be determined early and planned so that it can be completed within the two first years of full-time study. When the Licentiate is a stage in the programme leading to a degree of Doctor, the project should be planned in such a way that major parts can be integrated in the doctoral project.

### ***8.3 Assessment***

The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The documented artistic research project is to be reviewed and defended at a public seminar. The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee appointed by the Faculty Board.

### ***8.4 Miscellaneous***

The stage/degree of Licentiate is not compulsory and the student is not required to decide on admission whether he or she will try to obtain a Licentiate degree or not. Consequently, students who do not explicitly wish to take only a Licentiate are advised to plan their studies so as to obtain a degree of Doctor only, as this will not adversely affect their opportunities to include the midway stage later on.

## **9. Further information**

Information on admission and application deadlines is available from the Faculty Office.