

Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry - Degree requirements of third-cycle (postgraduate) research education

1 August 2015 – 31 July 2020

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

A student admitted to pursue third-cycle research education must complete the following:

- 1) At least 60 credits of postgraduate research studies according to the study plan
- 2) A Licentiate thesis and/or doctoral dissertation which demonstrates an independent and critical approach to the research area and is approved by the Faculty after a public examination.

THIRD-CYCLE (POSTGRADUATE) STUDIES

The purpose of postgraduate studies is to form the necessary knowledge base for the completion of the Licentiate thesis and doctoral dissertation. The studies are planned with a view to the doctoral candidate's previous education and the objectives for postgraduate research education. For this reason, the doctoral candidate should integrate his or her studies and research work in such a way that when the thesis or dissertation is submitted for examination, the studies will have been completed.

The doctoral candidate may not incorporate into his or her third-cycle degree previously completed studies that have already been included in a second-cycle degree.

If the student continues to study the same major subject after completing a Licentiate degree, there is no need to draw up a new postgraduate study plan. If a student with a Licentiate degree in Agriculture and Forestry or Food Sciences wishes to change the major subject of his or her doctoral education, or the Faculty has admitted a holder of a Licentiate degree in Philosophy to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy degree, the professor in charge of the relevant major subject will be requested to submit a written statement on the relevance of a dissertation in that major subject and on the student's qualifications for studies in the new major subject. If the student has completed a Licentiate degree in another major subject, the studies included in a doctoral degree may be considered completed (credit transfer) provided that the content of the studies corresponds to that of equivalent studies in the major subject of the new postgraduate degree and that the studies meet the objectives for postgraduate degrees under the Government Decree on University Degrees. Previously completed studies cannot substitute for a Licentiate thesis or doctoral dissertation as specified in the degree requirements.

The professor in charge of the major subject must approve the applicant's tentative study plan as well as the completed studies. If the plan for the studies included in the postgraduate degree changes considerably during the dissertation process, the student must request that the professor in charge of the major subject review and approve the studies as quickly as possible before the appointment of preliminary examiners for the dissertation.

Postgraduate studies must include courses or other work approvable as general postgraduate studies, the field-specific major subject, the minor subject and methodology studies as well as integrated studies.

General postgraduate studies include studies independent of the major subject, such as theories of science, language studies and academic writing, as well as studies that support the research work, including applied ethics, scientific publishing, the popularisation of science, research policy and management, research funding and planning as well as university pedagogy. Students cannot complete all postgraduate studies by taking general postgraduate studies.

Field-specific studies include courses in the major and minor subjects as well as field-specific methodology courses. As a rule, the studies should be intermediate or advanced courses, and the subject matter should contribute to the student's thesis or dissertation work. Some basic-level courses may also be included in the postgraduate study plan, provided they contribute to the writing of the dissertation.

Major and minor subject studies refer to studies agreed on with the professor in charge and may include field-specific postgraduate courses, a literature examination in the major subject and active participation in postgraduate seminars. The scope of the literature examination and the reading list are agreed on with the professor in charge. Both faculty departments and doctoral schools coordinated by the Faculty offer postgraduate courses.

Field-specific methodology studies comprise studies in scientific research methods relevant to the student's research field and topic, including statistics, data processing, chemical analysis, econometrics, etc.

The studies included in the postgraduate degree can either be organised as independent courses or be integrated with the writing of the thesis or dissertation. Studies integrated into the doctoral degree may include scientific publications not included in the dissertation, the popularisation of research knowledge in the form of popularised articles submitted to specialised journals, teaching, project work not related to the dissertation, the presentation of papers and posters at international conferences as well as international expert assignments. The inclusion of integrated studies in the study plan requires careful planning and a detailed description of the work completed. In addition, the student, together with the professor in charge of the major subject, must assess the workload of the integrated studies and determine the credits to be earned. Students cannot complete all postgraduate studies by completing integrated studies.

The student may include studies completed in other faculties and institutes of higher education in general studies and field-specific studies (credit transfer) upon presenting a certificate of their completion. The Faculty recommends that students spend at least three months pursuing third-cycle studies at a university or research institute abroad.

The third-cycle studies referred to in item 1 of the degree requirements must be completed before the appointment of the examiners of the Licentiate thesis or the preliminary examiners of the doctoral dissertation. The completed studies must appear on the transcript of studies and, if possible, be registered as a postgraduate study module. If some of the studies remain incomplete, a report on them and their estimated timetable of completion must be enclosed with the proposal for the examiners or preliminary examiners.