

## General syllabus for doctoral studies in Asian Languages and Cultures

### Asiens språk och kulturer

The regulations concerning doctoral studies are stated in the Higher Education Act (HF 1992:1434) and in the Higher Education Ordinance (HF 1998:100), Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Stockholm University 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Dnr SU 40-0364-09, Dnr SU FV-1.1.1-0138-14 and Guidelines for Doctoral Studies at the Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University 2013-12-10, SU FV-4.1.1-2492-13, revised 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

### 1. Decision

This general syllabus for doctoral studies in Asian Languages and Cultures was adopted by the Faculty Board of Humanities at Stockholm University on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, most recently revised on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The general syllabus applies from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

### 2. Program description

The doctoral program **Asian Languages and Cultures** consists of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies with the focus on one or more of the main language and culture areas: Japan, China and Korea. The thesis project may comprise language, literature, cultural, or regional studies. The program is characterised in that a substantial part of the material consists of both primary and secondary sources in the source language, which is determined by the thesis project.

### 3. Program aims

The aims of the Doctor's degree are stated in Appendix 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance (See 3.1).

Admission to doctoral studies in **Asian Languages and Cultures** is restricted to studies that lead up a Doctor's degree. A Licentiate degree as a stage in doctoral studies in **Asian Languages and Cultures** is not permitted.

## The Board of the Faculty of Humanities

### 3.1 Doctor's degree

A Doctor's degree is awarded after a doctoral student has completed a program comprising 240 university credits (ECTS) within a field of education at the doctoral level.

#### Knowledge and understanding

For a Doctor's degree a doctoral student must demonstrate

broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field and deep and up-to-date special knowledge within a limited part of the research field, and

familiarity with scientific methodology in general and with the methods of the specific research field in particular.

#### Skill and ability

For a Doctor's degree a doctoral student must demonstrate

the ability to perform scientific analysis and synthesis and independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, problems and situations,

the ability to identify and formulate problems critically, independently and with scientific accuracy and to plan and carry out research and other advanced tasks with adequate methods within a prescribed time and to examine and evaluate such work,

the ability in a dissertation to make an important contribution to the advancement of knowledge by his/her own research,

the ability in both national and international contexts, orally and in writing and with authority, to present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the scientific community and society in general,

the ability to identify the need of further knowledge, and

the ability, in both research and education and other advanced professional contexts, to contribute to the development of society and to support other people's learning.

#### Ability to evaluate and attitude

For a Doctor's degree, a doctoral student must demonstrate



intellectual independence and scientific accuracy and the ability to make ethical judgements in research, and

deep insight into science's possibilities and limitations, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used.

#### Scientific dissertation (doctoral thesis)

For a Doctor's degree a doctoral student must have had a scientific dissertation (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 university credits approved.

## 4. Qualifications and knowledge required

To be admitted to doctoral studies, applicants must

1. have the basic qualifications and the special qualification required by the university, and
2. be judged to have other abilities needed to profit from the program (Chapter 7, 35 § Higher Education Ordinance)

These qualifications must be fulfilled when applying.

### 4.1 Basic qualifications

The basic qualifications for applicants to the doctoral program are:

- to have completed a second cycle degree (advanced level),
- to have met the requirement of at least 240 university credits, at least 60 of which in the second cycle (advanced level), or
- to have aquired in some other way in Sweden or abroad in the main corresponding knowledge.

For individual applicants the university may allow exceptions to the demand for basic qualifications if there are special reasons. Decisions concerning exceptions to the demand for basic qualifications for admission to the doctoral program are made by the Faculty Board of the Humanities on delegation from the Board of Human Science Academic Area.

### 4.2 Special qualification

To have the special qualification for admission to the doctoral program in **Asian Languages and Cultures**, applicants must have a Master's degree comprising 120 university credits, with the main focus on Japanese Language and Culture, Chinese Language and Culture, or Korean Language and Culture. The Master's degree must include a thesis of a total of at least 30 university credits.



Doctoral students must be able to assimilate scientific text in the relevant source language, Japanese, Chinese or Korean. A thesis project devoted to language or literature also presumes the ability to assimilate literary or linguistic texts. If the thesis project is wholly or partly devoted to another foreign language, an adequate command of that language is required.

Applicants must also have a command of English sufficient to be able to read and write scientific texts and to carry on academic discussions in English.

These qualifications may also be met by those applicants who have acquired in the main corresponding competence within or outside Sweden.

## 5. Advertising and admission procedures

It is the Board of Supervisors at the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies that usually processes applications and decides on selection. Decisions concerning admission to the doctoral program in **Asian Languages and Cultures** are made by the Department Board at the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies. The Department Board may not delegate decisions concerning admission. The Department Board may only admit to the doctoral program applicants who are to be employed as doctoral students.

Decisions concerning admission to the doctoral program with financing other than doctoral employment are made by the Faculty Board of the Humanities.

For further information on how exceptions are applied in accordance with Chapter 7, 37 § of the Higher Education Ordinance, please refer to the Faculty of Humanities guidelines for the doctoral program.

The Department for Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies advertises places in the doctoral program combined with doctoral employment normally not more than twice a year and at fixed dates.

- Last date of application: 15<sup>th</sup> April, to start the program on 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Last date of application: 15<sup>th</sup> October, to start the program on 1<sup>st</sup> February

The advertisements are published on the Stockholm University central web site one month before the last application date; applications are made via the university recruiting system.

Applications should include a personal letter, curriculum vitae, documentation proving basic and special qualifications, research plan, written work referred to in the application and the names and contact information of two references.

## 5.1 Grounds for assessment and criteria for selection

The grounds for selection among applicants to the doctoral program in **Asian Languages and Cultures** are the degree of ability to profit from the program. Selection is made by the Department Board. Selection is based on the following criteria:

1. Previous education in general. Assessment takes into account both the depth and the breadth of previous education.
2. Previous scientific production. On the basis of examination work from the basic and the advanced level and, where applicable, other written scientific production, an assessment is made of an applicant's ability to profit from the program. In addition, the time aspect is also taken into consideration; that is, to what extent the applicant has shown the ability to carry out his/her previous scientific tasks within the allocated time. Furthermore, on the basis of comparison of the scientific works, an assessment is made of the applicant's scientific development. The scientific production is assessed with respect to critical ability, analytical ability, independence and creativity.
3. Research plan. In their applications, applicants must briefly report on their intended thesis project. This report must include the problem definition(s), and a sketch of the execution of the research work. The plan is assessed with respect to relevance, originality and realisability within the given time frame (i.e during a period corresponding to four years' full-time education).
4. Supervisory competence available.
5. Ability to cooperate. An applicant's ability to cooperate is assessed on the basis of, for example, references, testimonies or interviews.
6. Other. Knowledge and skills in relevant languages. An assessment is made of an applicant's command of at least one of the source languages, Japanese, Chinese or Korean, which must also be relevant to the research plan, as well as an assessment of the applicant's command of English. Realisability presumes that the applicant has an adequate command of at least one of the source languages.

When selecting and admitting applicants to the doctoral program in **Asian Languages and Cultures**, the Department Board must pay attention to what is laid down in the Faculty's guidelines.

## 6. Contents and organisation

The **Asian Languages and Cultures** doctoral program comprises courses for 60 university credits and a dissertation for 180 university credits (30 university credits corresponds to one term of full-time study).

The program is organised so that it requires four years of study for doctoral students studying full time. This presumes that they devote themselves wholly to their studies and use the courses and supervision effectively. If a student requests it, he/she may be employed part time, but for not less than 50 per cent of full time, that is, for eight years.

All students who are accepted for the **Asian Languages and Cultures** doctoral program must follow the prescribed general syllabus. Any collaboration in the form of co-tutelle, private participation in a research school or an externally financed project can only affect the individual differences in the program that are documented in the individual study plan. Details of the organisation of the studies are given in Point 6.3 below and in the individual study plan.

The **Asian Languages and Culture** program has a primary focus on Japanese Language and Culture, Chinese Language and Culture or Korean Language and Culture in accordance with Point 2 above. Regardless of the thesis project, an applicant must have a sufficiently good command of Japanese, Chinese or Korean to be able to assimilate the source material of the primary language, in accordance with the special qualifications in Point 4.2 above.

### 6.1 Individual study plan

Individual study plans must be set up for all active doctoral students in **Asian Languages and Cultures**. An individual study plan comprises the university's and the student's commitments, a financing plan and a time plan. This plan is established by the Department Board after consultation with the student and his/her supervisor.

The individual study plan is followed up at least once a year after consultation with the student and his/her supervisor and adjusted by the university as required.

For details concerning the establishment, management and follow-up of individual study plans, please refer to Chapter 6, 29 and 30 §§ of the Higher Education Ordinance, Regulations for the Doctoral Program at Stockholm University, the Board of Humanities instructions and the Faculty of Humanities guidelines.

## 6.2 Supervision and other resources

At least two supervisors must be appointed for each doctoral student. One of them must be appointed the principal supervisor. A doctoral student has the right to supervision during the program unless the Vice-Chancellor, on the basis of Chapter 6, 30 § of the Higher Education Ordinance, decides otherwise. A doctoral student who requests a change of supervisor shall be granted it (HF Chapter 6, 28 §).

If a doctoral student to a great extent neglects his/her commitments according to the individual study plan, the Vice-Chancellor may decide that the student shall no longer have the right to supervision and other resources. Before that decision is taken, the student and his/her supervisors are given the opportunity to present their cases. The investigation must be carried out on the basis of their reports and any other report that is available. The judgement must include an assessment of whether the university has fulfilled its commitments according to the individual study plan. The decision must be made in writing and with an explanation (HF Chapter 6, 30 §). An appeal against a decision to withdraw resources in accordance with the regulations in Chapter 6, 30 § may be made to the university Board of Appeal (HF Chapter 12, 2 §).

If the resources for education are withdrawn in accordance with Chapter 6, 30 §, the student may get his/her right to supervision and other resources back after applying to the Vice-Chancellor. The student must then prove that it is probable that he/she will be able to fulfil his/her commitments in accordance with the individual study plan either by presenting a coming study result of considerable quality and quantity or in some other way (HF Chapter 6, 31 §).

The Department Board decides about appointing supervisors. Normally, both supervisors should be connected with the Department or another department at Stockholm University. If necessary, supervisors from other universities may be appointed.

The principal supervisor must ensure that the subject of the thesis is clearly defined so that the studies can be completed within the stipulated time.

The supervisor(s) and the student must check off each year what has been achieved in relation to the individual study plan and draw up a detailed plan for the coming year.

The supervision should amount to at least 80 clock hours per annum and full-time student and is divided between the supervisors. For part-time students, the supervision time is adjusted according to the degree of activity. The division of work between the principal and the assistant supervisor is determined by the current needs. Supervision time and its division must be stated in the individual study plan.



The supervision time for a supervisor from another university is determined by the actual need, and decisions are made by the Department Board on the recommendation of the Director of Doctoral Studies after consultation with the supervisor.

A request to change supervisors must be made to the Department Board. No reason for change need be given.

Apart from supervision, students are entitled to a workplace, computer and office material.

The degree of activity and other details concerning supervision and other resources are stated in the individual study plan.

### 6.3 Courses and examinations

The course part of the program comprises two semesters of full-time study, 60 university credits, and must be organised so that parts of the aims of the education will be met in accordance with Point 3 above.

This part of the program comprises both what is compulsory for all students and what is chosen by each individual student in consultation with and after acceptance by the principal supervisor. These courses must be chosen so that they help to give the student a broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the field of research in an international perspective.

The organisation, extent and form of examination of these courses must be stated in the individual study plan. The examination results will be either Pass or Fail.

Compulsory courses, 30 university credits:

1. *Philosophy of Science for the Humanities* (7.5 university credits). The aim of this course is to train the student's reflectivity with respect to their own research in a broad historical and philosophical scientific perspective and to increase awareness of certain general methodological issues. The course is held jointly for all doctoral students in the Faculty of Humanities.
2. *Asian Languages and Cultures* (7.5 university credits). The aim of this course, depending on the student's study background, is to provide a broader or deeper understanding of the languages and cultures in the region. Thus the actual contents of the course are decided in the main by the thesis project but must treat the region's languages and cultures. The course should also include an overview of the state of research nationally and internationally in the particular field and deal with questions concerning, for example, data mining and source material that may be

connected with the region.

3. *Subject-oriented course 1* (7.5 university credits). This course aims to give broader competence within the student's research field.  
The thesis project defines the choice, amount and actual number of pages of the literature. The required reading will also always contain an adequate part in the primary language, Japanese, Chinese or Korean, or another relevant language of which the student has a sufficient command before the start of the program. The actual amount is decided by the supervisor.  
The required reading is chosen in consultation with the supervisor and must to a large extent be relevant to the research work.
4. *Subject-oriented course 2* (7.5 university credits). This course aims to give deeper competence in the student's research field.  
The thesis project defines the choice, amount and actual number of pages of the literature. The required reading will also always contain an adequate part in the primary language, Japanese, Chinese or Korean, or another relevant language of which the student has a sufficient command before the start of the program. The actual amount is decided by the supervisor.  
The required reading is chosen in consultation with the supervisors and must to a large extent be relevant to the research work.

Other courses, 30 university credits:

This part of the program can include courses in other subjects as well as faculty courses in related subjects up to a maximum of 30 credits. Courses dealing with research methods and theory can also be included. Other courses must be approved by the principal supervisor before starting them. The Faculty of Humanities at Stockholm University offers a number of courses and themes at the doctoral level within the framework of the Research School over and above the compulsory course *Philosophy of Science for the Humanities* (see above), and this offer should be considered when choosing courses.

### 6.3.1 Recognition of previous courses

Normally a course should be taken within the framework of the doctoral program. If a student has completed courses that are relevant to his/her studies before being accepted for the doctoral program, he/she may apply to have them recognised. Courses that have been listed to fulfil the requirement for special qualification cannot be recognised for the Doctor's degree. Application should be made to the Department Board, which decides on recognition.

### 6.3.2 Other compulsory elements

As an integral part of the doctoral program, students must take part, through the whole program, in the Department's symposiums and higher seminars and present at them the results of their on-going research work.

Before the public defence of the doctoral thesis, the dissertation must be examined at three seminars, after which a final seminar must be held with an opponent. The dissertation must also be examined by one or two researchers in accordance with the Department's guidelines for public defence (22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015).

### 6.4 Doctoral dissertation and public defence

The subject of the doctoral thesis is chosen in consultation with the supervisors early in the doctoral program. A starting point in the consultation is the research plan that the student submitted when applying for the doctoral program. The thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to solve the chosen research problem independently and in a scientifically satisfactory manner so that parts of the aims in Point 3 above are met.

The thesis must be organised, in accordance with the Faculty's guidelines, either as an integrated homogenous scientific work (monograph thesis) or as a compilation of three to four scientific articles that the doctoral student has written alone and has provided with an introductory and a concluding text (compiled thesis).

The investigation and the results must be presented in a form that is qualitatively at such a level that the dissertation, including the chapters in a compiled thesis, is judged to meet reasonable requirements to be accepted for publication in a scientific series or journal of good quality. For compiled theses, the articles must have been published or accepted for publication in a recognised scientific journal.

The thesis must include studies of source material in the primary language.

The following requirements also apply:

- that the thesis is the result of independent research work that makes an important contribution to the advancement of knowledge;
- that the aims, problem presentation and scientific methods are clearly reported and motivated;
- that the methods are used correctly;
- that the research status is presented so that previous research is clearly distinguished from the doctoral student's own contribution to research, as reported in the thesis;
- that the material is presented and characterised and that the way in which the material may have been defined is reported and motivated;



- that the scientific accuracy concerning notes, source and reference list, tables and diagrams, if any, and the like, is good;
- that the dissertation is disposed in a logical manner and that the disposition is consistently executed;
- that the dissertation is acceptable from a language point of view;
- that the results are summarised.

### Language

Dissertations in the doctoral program in **Asian Languages and Cultures** must be written in English or Swedish. Doctoral theses written in Swedish must include a summary in English, and theses written in English must include a summary in Swedish.

The summary must be so detailed that a reader without knowledge of the language in which the dissertation is written will be able to get a clear understanding of the thesis's aim and main content, the scientific methods used and the results obtained. Reference must be made to all the chapters. The student's principal supervisor is responsible for checking that the summary has the required content. An assessment of the summary must be included in the assessment of the whole dissertation when the thesis is graded. Regardless of the language of the thesis, a brief summary in the primary language of the thesis project, Japanese, Chinese or Korean, must be included.

Every doctoral thesis must include a brief Abstract in English comprising not more than 2,000 characters including spaces. The Abstract must:

- give the title of the thesis, the language in which it is written, the author and the university and department;
- give the content of the thesis according to the disposition, problem, methods and results;
- be provided with key words and other information of importance for reference searches in automated information systems.

To be awarded a Doctor's degree in **Asian Languages and Cultures**, it is necessary to have an approved doctoral dissertation that has been defended in a public disputation. The disputation must be held in English or Swedish. At the disputation there must be a Faculty Examiner (opponent), and the grade given for the dissertation is set by an examining committee appointed for each dissertation.

A doctoral dissertation is graded either as Pass or as Fail; when setting the grade, consideration is given both to the content of the dissertation and to its public defence. For further information on disputation, please refer to Guidelines for disputation at the Faculty of Humanities.



## 7. Transitional rules

A student who started his/her doctoral studies in **Asian Languages and Cultures** before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 in accordance with a previously established study plan has the right to complete his/her studies according to that plan while heeding the regulations in the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance, Regulations at Stockholm University and the Faculty of Humanities guidelines after application to the Department Board at the Department of Asian, Middle Eastern and Turkish Studies. The individual study plan must then be updated.