

## **General study plan for third-cycle studies in Romance languages: general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish**

Romance Languages: General Specialisation, Specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish

### **1. Decision**

This general study plan for third-cycle studies in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish was established by the Faculty Board of Humanities at Stockholm University on 13/06/2018 and has been revised on 12/05/2021. The general study plan is applicable from 12/05/2021.

### **2. Subject description**

Third-cycle studies in Romance languages are offered with five specialisations: French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and general. The studies mainly consist of general literary studies or linguistics within each specialisation.

### **3. Programme objectives**

The third-cycle studies in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish can lead to a Degree of Licentiate or Doctor. A doctoral student in Romance languages with the above specialisations can complete a licentiate degree as part of their third-cycle studies. The licentiate degree is not a compulsory part of a doctoral degree.

#### **3.1 Doctoral degree**

A doctoral degree is completed after the doctoral student has completed studies corresponding to 240 higher education credits within a third-cycle subject.

##### Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

- display broad knowledge within and a systematic understanding of the research field, along with a deep and contemporary specialist knowledge within a defined part of the research area, and



- display familiarity with academic methodology in general and with the methods of the specific research area in particular.

### Skills and ability

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

display an ability to perform scientific analysis and synthesis as well as independent critical examination and assessment of new and complex phenomena, questions, and situations,

display an ability to critically, independently, creatively, and with scientific precision, identify and formulate questions and to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out research and other qualified tasks within given time frames and to review and evaluate such work,

in a thesis, display an ability to, through research, significantly contribute to knowledge development,

display an ability to, in national as well as international contexts, orally and in writing, authoritatively present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the academic community and society at large,

display an ability to identify needs for more knowledge, and

display the prerequisites to, within research and education as well as in other qualified, professional contexts, contribute to society's development and the learning of others.

### Consideration ability and approach

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student shall

display intellectual independence and academic integrity, and an ability to make research-ethical considerations, and

display advanced insight into the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society, and people's responsibility for how it is used.

### Academic thesis (doctoral thesis)

For a Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student must have completed an approved thesis (doctoral thesis) of at least 120 higher education credits.

### 3.2 Licentiate degree

A licentiate degree is completed either after the student has completed studies of at least 120 higher education credits within a third-cycle subject, or after the student has completed at least 120 credits of a programme which is set to end with a doctoral degree, if the university finds that such as a licentiate degree can be offered at the university.

#### Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

display knowledge and understanding of the research field, including contemporary specialist knowledge within a defined part of this field, and advanced knowledge of scientific methodology in general and the methods of the specific field in particular.

#### Skills and ability

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

display an ability to critically, independently, and creatively, and with scientific precision, identify and formulate questions, and to plan and, using adequate methods, carry out limited research and other qualified tasks within given time frames, thereby contributing to knowledge development, and to evaluate this work,

display an ability to, in national as well as international contexts, orally and in writing, clearly present and discuss research and research findings in dialogue with the academic community and society at large, and

display the ability needed to independently participate in research and development work, and to independently participate in other qualified work.

#### Consideration and approach

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student shall

display an ability to make research-ethical considerations in their own research,

display insight into the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society, and people's responsibility for how it is used, and

display an ability to identify their own need for additional knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

### Academic thesis

For a Degree of Licentiate, the doctoral student must have completed an approved thesis of at least 60 higher education credits.

## 4. Entry requirements

### 4.1 General entry requirements

A person meets the general entry requirements for the programme if they have

1. completed a degree at second-cycle level,
2. completed course requirements of at least 240 credits, of which at least 60 credits at a second-cycle level, or
3. otherwise, in Sweden or abroad, acquired equivalent knowledge.

The university may, for individual applicants, grant exemptions from the general entry requirements if special grounds exist.

### 4.2 Specific entry requirements

To meet the specific entry requirements for third-cycle studies in Romance languages: general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, the applicant must have:

- completed second-cycle courses of at least 30 credits in French, Italian, Spanish, or Portuguese including a thesis of at least 15 credits.
- have a grade of at least pass in English 6 or the equivalent.

The entry requirements can also be met by a person who, in Sweden or abroad, has acquired the equivalent competence.

Any assessment of such equivalent competence is prepared and carried out according to the department's decision-making and delegation procedure.

## 5. Advertisement and admission procedure

Decisions regarding the admission of applicants to a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, is made by the department board at the Department of Romance Studies and Classics. The department board may not delegate decisions regarding admission. The department board may only admit students to third-cycle programmes if the students are employed as doctoral students.



Admission decisions for third-cycle studies with funding other than employment as doctoral student or admission to third-cycle studies ending in a licentiate degree are made by the Faculty Board of Humanities.

A doctoral student who has previously been admitted to third-cycle studies resulting in a Degree of Licentiate, who following completion of a licentiate degree wishes to continue their doctoral studies in the same subject, must apply for a position in the next call for applications. In such cases, admission refers to studies during the remaining period leading up to a Degree of Doctor.

Available places on the third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish can be advertised twice annually on the Stockholm University website, with the final application dates of 15 April and 15 October, respectively.

### **5.1 Assessment and selection criteria**

The basis for selection of applicants who fulfil the entry requirements for third-cycle studies in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish is the applicant's capacity to complete such studies. The selection is made by the department board. The selection is made based on the following criteria:

1. General previous education. The assessment takes into consideration the depth and broadness of previous education.
2. Earlier scientific production. On the basis of first-cycle and second-cycle degree projects and, if applicable, other scientific production, the applicant's capacity to complete the programme is assessed according to the following criteria: critical ability, analytical ability, creativity, independence and scientific diligence. The assessment must also take into account the time aspect, i.e. the extent to which the applicant has demonstrated the ability to complete previous scientific assignments within the given time frame. In addition, an assessment is made of the applicant's academic development based on a comparison between scientific productions.
3. Research plan. In conjunction with their application, the applicant must give an account of their intended research area. This account must contain formulation of problem(s) and a description of how the research will be conducted. The research plan is assessed based on relevance, originality, feasibility within the given time frame (meaning within a period corresponding to four years of full-time studies for a doctoral degree and two years of full-time studies for a licentiate degree).

4. Cooperative ability. The applicant's cooperative ability is assessed, for example, based on references, certificates or interviews.
5. Other. There are strict requirements regarding the applicant's ability to adequately express themselves in academic French, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish. An assessment of this ability is made based on previous scientific works.
6. In the admission and selection of applicants to a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, the department board must consider the regulations set out by the Faculty of Humanities.

## 6. Content and structure of the programme

The programme is set up so that it takes four academic years to obtain a doctoral degree and two academic years for a licentiate degree for a doctoral student conducting their third-cycle studies full time. In addition, the doctoral student is expected partly to commit fully to the studies, and partly to utilise the teaching and supervision effectively. At the doctoral student's request, the employment may refer to part-time work, however, no less than half-time, i.e. eight years for the doctoral degree and four years for the licentiate degree. For a part-time doctoral student, the study period is extended in proportion to the reduced study activity.

Third-cycle studies in Romance languages have the following specialisations:

1. French
2. Italian
3. Portuguese
4. Spanish
5. General specialisation

For a doctoral degree, the third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish consists partly of a course segment of 60 credits, and partly of a thesis segment of 180 credits, corresponding to full-time studies over two and six semesters respectively. For a Degree of Licentiate, the programme consists partly of a course segment comprising 30 credits, and partly of a thesis segment comprising 90 credits, corresponding to full-time studies over one semester and three semesters respectively.

All doctoral students admitted to a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish, must follow this general study plan. Any collaboration in the form of cotutelle, participation of an individual



doctoral student in a graduate school or externally funded project can only impact on the individual differences in the programme which are documented in the individual study plan.

The details of the study programme are determined under item 6.3 and in the individual study plan.

### **6.1 Individual study plan**

Individual study plans must be established for all active doctoral students in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. The individual study plan contains the respective commitments of the university and the doctoral student, a financing plan and a schedule for the doctoral student's studies. The plan is established by the board of the Department of Romance Studies and Classics following consultation with the doctoral student and their supervisor.

The individual study plan is followed up at least once per year after consulting the doctoral student or their supervisor, and it is changed by the university to the extent necessary.

For details regarding the establishment, management and follow-up of the individual study plan, see Chapter 6, Sections 29 and 30 of the Higher Education Ordinance and Regulations for Third-Cycle Education and Examination.

### **6.2 Supervision and other resources**

At least two supervisors are to be appointed for each doctoral student at the start of the programme, and one of them is to be the principal supervisor. Supervisors are appointed by the board of the Department of Romance Studies and Classics or, according to the board's decision, by the Head of Department or a special committee established for this purpose. If the assignment is given to the Head of Department, they must, before making a decision, consult the teachers serving as supervisors for third-cycle education in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The supervisors and the doctoral students are to annually look at the student's achievements in relation to their individual study plan and establish a detailed plan for their studies in the coming year.

The principal supervisor is to ensure that the delimitation of the thesis subject is done in such a way that the studies can be completed within the established standard study period.

When it comes to the scope of supervision, this can vary depending on where in the programme the doctoral student is at. The Faculty Board of Humanities has established that at least 80 working hours per year and doctoral student must be devoted to supervision. Of these, 30–40 hours should be contact hours. For part-time doctoral students, the supervision is

adapted to the study activity. The allocation of both time and content between the supervisors must be stated in the individual study plan. It must also indicate the number of supervisor meetings per semester.

A doctoral student is entitled to change supervisors upon request. A request to change supervisors must be made to the board of the Department of Romance Studies and Classics.

The doctoral student is entitled to supervision throughout their studies, as long as the President has not decided otherwise pursuant to Chapter 6, Section 30 of the Higher Education Ordinance. The President may decide that a doctoral student is no longer entitled to supervision and other resources for their studies, if the doctoral student has essentially neglected their obligations according to the individual study plan. See “Regulations for third-cycle education and examination” and “Instructions and comments regarding individual study plans within the Humanities and Social Sciences Academic Area” for further information.

### 6.3 Courses and examination

For a Degree of Doctor, the course segment comprises full-time studies over two semesters, i.e. 60 credits, and it must be structured so that parts of the programme objectives set out in item 3.1 above are met. For a Degree of Licentiate, the course segment comprises full-time studies over one semester, i.e. 30 credits, and it must be structured so that parts of the programme objectives set out in item 3.2 above are met.

#### Compulsory courses for a Degree of Doctor, 30 credits:

1. Philosophy of the Cultural Sciences, 7.5 credits, or equivalent  
or  
Scientific Methods and Research Ethics, 7.5 credits, or equivalent

Philosophy of the Cultural Sciences, or an equivalent course in scientific theory, is compulsory for any doctoral student who has not passed Scientific Methods and Research Ethics, 7.5 credits, or equivalent during their second-cycle studies.

2. History of Romance Language and Text Analysis, 7.5 credits
3. Research Methodology and Academic Writing, 7.5 credits

The course can be taken at the Department of Romance Studies and Classics, at a collaborating department or equivalent. The title and structure of the course can therefore vary slightly. Unless there are special circumstances, Research Methodology and Academic Writing must be taken as a teacher-led course. The course must be approved by the principal supervisor before the doctoral student begins. Theoretical course, 7.5 credits



#### 4. Theoretical course, 7.5 credits

The course can be taken at the Department of Romance Studies and Classics, at a collaborating department or equivalent. The title and structure of the course can therefore vary slightly. Unless there are special circumstances, the theoretical course must be taken as a teacher-led course. The course must be approved by the principal supervisor before the doctoral student begins.

#### Compulsory courses for a Degree of Licentiate, 22.5 credits:

The courses are the same as for the doctorate degree, with the exception of Philosophy of the Cultural Sciences, 7.5 credits, or Scientific Methods and Research Ethics, 7.5 credits.

The names and examination forms for the courses must be indicated in the individual study plan. For a doctoral student within a graduate school, deviations from the compulsory courses must be set out in the individual study plan.

#### Other courses for a Degree of Doctor, 30 credits:

Other courses must be selected to ensure that the doctoral student acquires broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of the research field, as well as deep and contemporary specialist knowledge within the research contexts that are most relevant to the doctoral student's own degree project. The other courses may include a course on teaching and learning in higher education comprising no more than 7.5 credits. (All doctoral students must participate in a brief introduction to teaching and learning in higher education for doctoral students, which is not included as a credit-yielding course.)

#### Other courses for a Degree of Licentiate, 7.5 credits:

Other courses must be selected to ensure that the doctoral student acquires broad knowledge and a systematic understanding of the research field, as well as deep and contemporary specialist knowledge within the research contexts that are most relevant to the doctoral student's own degree project.

Other courses must be approved by the principal supervisor before the doctoral student begins. The names and examination forms for the courses must be indicated in the individual study plan.

Examiners on proficiency tests for a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish must be teachers appointed by the department board. Proficiency tests are graded as Pass or Fail.

### 6.3.1 Credit transfer

Decisions on whether credits from previous education can be transferred are made by the board of the Department of Romance Studies and Classics upon the doctoral student's request.

The credits affect the study time so that the funded time of the education (net study time) is shortened to a corresponding extent, according to the principle of one week per 1.5 equivalent ECTS.

### 6.3.2 Other compulsory elements

During the programme, the doctoral student must regularly attend seminars to present the results of their ongoing research efforts, participate actively in the review of the work of others and participate in discussions regarding other contemporary texts and themes. The seminars are a central arena for practising the skill of independent and critical review and assessment, the skill of oral presentation and discussion of research and research results, and the skill of making assessments regarding research ethics. The seminars are also a resource for broadening knowledge and acquiring a systematic understanding of the research context in which the doctoral student is active.

## 6.4 Doctoral thesis and public defense

For a Degree of Doctor, an approved thesis is required. The subject of the doctoral thesis is chosen in consultation with the supervisors at an early stage of the doctoral studies. One point of departure for this consultation is the research plan that the doctoral provided with their application for third-cycle studies.

The thesis is to demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to independently and in a scientifically adequate manner – within or outside the scope of a team effort – solve the chosen research task so that parts of the objectives set out in item 3.1 above are attained.

The thesis is to be formulated either as a uniform, cohesive scientific paper (monograph thesis) or as a combination of scientific papers that the doctoral student has authored alone or together with another, including an introductory and closing framework text (compilation thesis).

If the investigation is conducted within the scope of a team effort, the doctoral student's contribution must be distinguishable.

The investigation and the obtained results are to be presented in a production of such a quality that the thesis (whether a monograph or a compilation thesis) is assessed to fulfil reasonable requirements to be included in a scientific series or journal of good quality.

The recommended number of pages for a doctoral thesis is 200–250.



### Criteria for a compilation thesis

A compilation thesis must consist of at least three scientific articles (3–5 articles are normally included).

The articles included in the thesis must be 1) published, 2) accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific publication, or 3) submitted to a journal but not yet peer-reviewed.

At least two of the articles must belong to the first two categories, i.e. Be published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific publication. Non-peer-reviewed articles must be assessed to be of such quality that they can be considered publishable (review is carried out after a presentation at the final seminar).

The doctoral student must be the main or sole author of at least two of the articles published or accepted for publication.

The published articles included in the compilation thesis may not be changed (with the exception of possible errata). All amendments, problematisations and discussion of summary conclusions must be contained in the introductory chapter.

The interconnecting part of the thesis, the introductory chapter, must clearly account for what is the doctoral student's own contribution and, when applicable, what other authors have contributed.

In cases where the thesis consists of a previously approved licentiate thesis in full, the doctoral thesis must contain at least two additional articles (of which one article must normally have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal), and a summary introductory chapter accounting for how the licentiate thesis fits into the whole of the thesis.

The following requirements are also made:

- the thesis must be a result of independent research, which significantly contributes to the knowledge development,
- the aim, problems and scientific method must be clearly presented and justified,
- the method must be correctly applied,
- the research situation must be presented to clearly distinguish earlier research from the doctoral student's own contributions, as reported in the thesis, to research,

- the material must be presented and characterised, and the manner in which the material may have been delimited must be reported and justified,
- the scientific accuracy in terms of notes, source and literature references, tables and diagrams, etc. must be good,
- the thesis must be logically structured, and the structure must be consistent,
- the thesis must be linguistically adequate, and
- the results must be summarised.

### Language

A monograph thesis within a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish must be written in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the thesis must be written in one of the four Romance languages: French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

For a compilation thesis, at least two of the articles included should be written in the specialisation language (French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish). For the general specialisation, at least two of the articles included must be written in one of the four Romance languages indicated above. The remaining articles may be written in English, Swedish, Danish or Norwegian. There may be exemptions from this language policy however. A decision in this respect is made by the department board upon request from the doctoral student. The request must be certified by the principal supervisor along with a clear justification.

The introductory chapter of the thesis must be written in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the introductory chapter must be written in one of the four Romance languages indicated above.

The thesis must contain summaries in both Swedish and English. The summary must be detailed enough for a reader without prior knowledge of the thesis language to gain a clear idea of the aim and main contents of the thesis, the scientific method used and the obtained results. Reference is to be made to the various chapters of the thesis. The doctoral student's principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the summary has the prescribed content. When grading the thesis, the assessment of the summary is included in the assessment of the thesis as a whole.

Each doctoral thesis must be appended with a short abstract in English of no more than 2,000 characters including blank spaces. The abstract must:

- indicate the title of the thesis, what language the thesis is written in, the author/authors, as well as the university and department,
- present the content of the thesis according to the structure: problem, methods and results,
- include key words and other information relevant to literature searches in automatic information systems.

The doctoral thesis in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish must be reviewed before the public defence (see the department guidelines for third-cycle education) and be orally defended at a public defence. The review is led by an especially appointed opponent. The public defence is conducted in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the public defence is conducted in the language of the thesis. The public defence must adhere to the rules set out by the Faculty of Humanities.

The doctoral thesis is graded as Pass or Fail by a grading committee appointed especially for each thesis. When grading the thesis, consideration must be given to both its contents and the public defence. At least one person in the grading committee must be active at another higher education institution.

### **6.5 Licentiate thesis and licentiate seminar**

For a Degree of Licentiate, an approved thesis is required. The subject of the licentiate thesis is chosen in consultation with the supervisors at an early stage of the doctoral studies. One point of departure for this consultation is the research plan that the doctoral provided with their application for third-cycle studies.

The thesis is to demonstrate the doctoral student's ability to independently and in a scientifically adequate manner – within or outside the scope of a team effort – solve the chosen research task so that parts of the objectives set out in item 3.2 above are attained.

The thesis is to be formulated either as a uniform, cohesive scientific paper (monograph) or as a combination of scientific papers, including an introductory and closing framework text that the doctoral student has written alone or together with someone else.

If the investigation is conducted within the scope of a team effort, the doctoral student's contribution must be distinguishable.

The investigation and the obtained results are to be presented in a production of such a quality that the thesis (including its chapters) is assessed to fulfil reasonable requirements to be

included in a scientific series or journal of good quality. The recommended number of pages for a doctoral thesis is 100–125.

### Criteria for a compilation thesis

A compilation thesis must normally consist of at least two scientific articles. The articles included in the thesis must be 1) published, 2) accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific publication, or 3) submitted to a journal but not yet peer-reviewed.

At least one article must be published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed scientific publication. Non-peer-reviewed articles must be assessed to be of such quality that they can be considered publishable (review is carried out after a presentation at a seminar).

The doctoral student must be the main or sole author of at least one of the articles published or accepted for publication.

The published articles included in the compilation thesis may not be changed (with the exception of possible errata). All amendments, problematisations and discussion of summary conclusions must be contained in the introductory chapter.

In the case of co-authored articles, it must be clear from the introductory chapter what constitutes the doctoral student's independent contribution.

The following requirements are also made:

- the thesis must be a result of independent research, which significantly contributes to the knowledge development,
- the aim, problems and scientific method must be clearly presented and justified,
- the method must be correctly applied,
- the research situation must be presented to clearly distinguish earlier research from the doctoral student's own contributions, as reported in the thesis, to research,
- the material must be presented and characterised, and the manner in which the material may have been delimited must be reported and justified,
- the scientific accuracy in terms of notes, source and literature references, tables and diagrams, etc. must be good,

- the thesis must be logically structured, and the structure must be consistent,
- the thesis must be linguistically adequate, and
- the results must be summarised.

For doctoral students who have not clearly declared an intent to delimit their studies within the third-cycle programme to the licentiate stage, a subject must be chosen that can be expanded into a doctoral thesis.

### Language

A monograph thesis within a third-cycle programme in Romance languages with general specialisation or specialisation in French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish must be written in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the thesis must be written in one of the four Romance languages: French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish.

For a compilation thesis, at least one of the articles included should be written in the specialisation language (French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish). For the general specialisation, at least one of the articles included must be written in one of the four Romance languages indicated above. The remaining articles may be written in English, Swedish, Danish or Norwegian. There may be exemptions from this language policy however. A decision in this respect is made by the department board upon request from the doctoral student. The request must be certified by the principal supervisor along with a clear justification.

The introductory chapter of the thesis must be written in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the introductory chapter must be written in one of the four Romance languages indicated above.

The thesis must contain summaries in both Swedish and English. The summary must be detailed enough for a reader without prior knowledge of the thesis language to gain a clear idea of the aim and main contents of the thesis, the scientific method used and the obtained results. Reference is to be made to the various sections of the thesis.

The doctoral student's principal supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the summary has the prescribed content. When grading the thesis, the assessment of the summary is included in the assessment of the thesis as a whole.

### Licentiate seminar

A licentiate thesis must be reviewed and defended at a public licentiate seminar. The seminar is to be announced in good time, and the thesis must be available at the department in good



time ahead of the seminar. An opponent along with an examiner or grading committee are appointed for the seminar.

Supervisors may not participate in the grading of the thesis. The licentiate seminar must be conducted in the language of the chosen specialisation. For the general specialisation, the licentiate seminar is conducted in the language of the thesis. The licentiate seminar must adhere to the rules set out by the Faculty of Humanities.

The licentiate thesis as well as the doctoral student's defence at the licentiate seminar are given a grade of Pass or Fail.

## **7. Transitional provisions**

Doctoral students who were admitted to the programme before the general study plan came into force can make a request, following consultation with their main supervisor and the director of studies, to transition to this study plan. Such a request is made to the department board. The individual study plan must subsequently be updated.