Malmö university / Faculty of Culture and Society

Translation of decision

Ref.no.
UTB 3.4.1-2019/79

General study plan for third-cycle studies in Interaction Design

Interaktionsdesign

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1. Subject matter and content

Interaction Design is a subject within the design sciences that explores how designed systems, processes, artefacts can shape our world. At Malmo University, research in Interaction Design addresses the urgent need to work collaboratively and creatively on societal futures across a range of materials, including but not exclusively digital materials. This 3rd cycle programme cultivates both practical and theoretical expertise, with an emphasis on integrating design practices with critical reflection. Our research environment supports the development of concepts, methods, techniques and ethics for expanding the field of ID in response to real world events and challenges.

Interaction Design at K3 integrates scholarly research and professional practices. At once acknowledging the roots of Interaction Design in participatory design, human-computer interaction (HCI) and product design, the valuable multidisciplinary influences of the social sciences, arts and humanities also contribute to the unique quality and distinct profile of our PhD programme within Sweden and internationally.

2. Intended learning outcomes

The education aims at a doctoral degree in Interaction design. Under special circumstances the education aims at a licentiate degree in Interaction Design.

The education is intended to provide in-depth knowledge and skills in Interaction Design. The aim is to educate researchers with in-depth knowledge in theory and research methodology and to provide them with the ability to solve problems independently and to assess critically and independently the results

obtained. The education is intended to ensure that students are well prepared for independent research tasks or other comparable duties.

The following are the objectives for the doctoral degree according to the Higher Education Ordinance, as well as the additions that are specific to the subject Interaction design. The additions are marked in bold italics:

Knowledge and understanding
For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and
- demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills
For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- ***demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the formation of knowledge by design-oriented practice***
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a dissertation 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 authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society 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
For the degree of Doctor the third-cycle student shall

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used

The following are the objectives for the licentiate degree according to the Higher Education Ordinance, as well as the additions that are specific to the subject Interaction design. The additions are marked in bold italics:

Knowledge and understanding
For a Licentiate the third-cykle student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of research including current specialist knowledge in a limited area of this field as well as specialised knowledge of research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

Competence and skills
For a Licentiate the third-cykle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake a limited piece of research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames in order to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as to evaluate this work
- ***demonstrate the ability to relate this knowledge to design-oriented practice,***
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and society in general, and
- demonstrate the skills required to participate autonomously in research and development work and to work autonomously in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach
For a Licentiate the third-cykle student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, 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 ongoing learning.

3. Requirements for third-cycle studies

In order to be admitted to third-cycle studies, the applicant must meet the **general and specific entry requirements** of the subject in question. Moreover, the applicant must be deemed capable of assimilating the education.

General entry requirements (according to HEO Ch. 7.39)
A person meets the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes if he or she:

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

The faculty board may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds. Ordinance (2010:1064).

The **specific entry requirements** for the programme stipulate that the applicant has acquired the knowledge and skills equivalent to a second-cycle degree in Interaction Design or in another subject relevant to the program, or has the equivalent knowledge acquired within or outside the country. In view of the multidisciplinary character of the field of Interaction Design subjects within the social sciences and humanities as well as within the technology and the arts may be relevant to meet the specific requirements.

Credits from previous studies, for example second-cycle studies or courses in a subject that is relevant to the third-cycle studies, may only be transferred after admission to the education. The assessment is performed by the examiner and can only be initiated by the doctoral student.

4. Admission

When one or more doctoral student positions in Interaction design are available at Malmö University, this will be announced by advertising on the University's website at least two weeks before the application deadline. The applicants are assessed by the faculty according to the stated selection criteria (see Section 5 below) as well as on the basis of any specific requirements for the announced position or positions. The main candidates are ranked in order of precedence and the positions will be offered in accordance with that order. Admission normally takes place twice a year.

Every doctoral student must be assigned at least two supervisors, one of which is appointed principal supervisor. Every doctoral student is assigned an examiner. Decisions on supervisors and examiner is taken after admission.

5. Selection

Selection among applicants who meet the general and specific entry requirements shall be made with regard to their capacity to assimilate the education (HEO Ch. 7.41)

The following general selection criteria will be used. Specific criteria are found in the announcement depending on the focus of the position in question:

- *independent analysis and approach in previous work*
- *problem formulation and precision in previous work and research plans*
- *methodological and scholarly maturity'*
- *communication and cooperation skills*

The sole fact that an applicant is deemed entitled to transfer credits from previous education or professional practice will not give the applicant priority over other applicants (HEO Ch. 7.41). The under-represented gender shall be given preferential treatment in a situation where several applicants are equally well-equipped to benefit from the education.

6. Education structure

Admission to third-cycle studies is equivalent to four years of full-time study, or 240 higher education credits, leading to a doctoral degree.

A doctoral degree requires:

- At least 60 credits of courses passed;
- 180 credits in the form of an approved doctoral dissertation.

Under special circumstances an applicant may be admitted for only two years of full-time study of 120 credits, leading to a licentiate degree. Third-cycle studies with the aim of a licentiate degree shall mainly be offered to persons who are professionally active in a field and wishing to develop their skills through third-cycle studies. A student admitted to four years of full-time study is also entitled, but not required, to pass a licentiate degree as a step towards the doctoral degree.

A licentiate degree requires:

- At least 30 credits of courses passed;
- 90 credits in the form of an approved licentiate dissertation.

The education is composed of courses and scholarly work. Examinations that are included in third-cycle studies are graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Course grades are determined by a specially appointed examiner. A doctoral and a licentiate dissertation is graded by a specially appointed examining committee.

The student is expected to take active part in research seminars and to get his or her work collegial reviewed at at least 3 progression seminars during the study period. The student is recommended to participate in and contribute to national and international conferences.

The detailed structure of each student's third-cycle programme is determined by an individual study plan (see Section 6.3 below).

6.1 Courses

Normal requirements for a doctoral degree comprise 30 credits of specialized courses in interaction design and relevant subjects, where the credits are distributed between subject-related and methodological topics. Moreover, 20 credits of general courses are normally required to provide breadth of knowledge. The final 10 credits are normally used to address the student's individual needs in relation to the learning goals.

Normal requirements for a licentiate degree comprise 15 credits of specialized courses in interaction design and relevant subjects, where the credits are distributed between subject-related and methodological topics. Moreover, 10 credits of general courses are normally required to provide breadth of knowledge. The final 5 credits are normally used to address the student's individual needs in relation to the learning goals.

Courses can be taken at Malmö University, other institutions of higher education and national or international PhD schools.

6.2 Scholarly work

Scholarly work in the form of a dissertation in media and communication studies is to be designed *either* as a unified, coherent scholarly work (a monograph), or as a summary of scientific single- or multi-authored publications (a compilation dissertation). Most of the articles that are part of a compilation

thesis must be written by the research student alone. Expressive works can also form part of the scholarly work.

The doctoral dissertation is defended orally at a public doctoral dissertation defence.
The licentiate dissertation is defended orally at a public licentiate seminar.

The scholarly work, including active participation in the processes of the academic community such as seminars, conferences and international exchange, is organised in such a way that it enables the student to approach all the learning goals (see Section 2).

6.3 Individual study plan

The purpose of the individual study plan is to guide the student's progression and to regulate the collaboration between student, supervisor and faculty/department.
The individual study plan is drawn up jointly by student, supervisor and examiner no later than three months after admission and is formally approved in accordance with the faculty´s delegation order. The individual study plan shall be followed up and revised annually at times established in the plan. The follow-up is prepared in the Board of Supervisors for the research education in Interaction Design.

7. Titles of qualification

The following titles of qualification are used for Interaction Design at the Faculty of Culture and Society:

- Filosofie licentiat – Licentiate of Philosophy
- Filosofie doktor – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Doctoral students with the relevant first-cycle education may also be issued the following degrees by special request from and assessment by the dean:

- Teknologie licentiat – Licentiate of Philosophy
- Teknologie doktor – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)