

## General Syllabus for Doctoral Studies in Sociological Demography, 240 Higher Education Credits

This syllabus for doctoral studies/third cycle studies in sociological demography was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University on May 31, 2007 and latest revised on November 17, 2015.

General regulations concerning this education can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapters 6 and 7.

Doctoral education in sociological demography is offered by the Department of Sociology to the extent of available resources.

### 1. Objectives

#### 1.1. For a licentiate's degree, doctoral students shall:

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the field of sociological demography, including up-to-date specialist knowledge within a delimited area, along with advanced knowledge of scientific methods in general and the methods of the chosen research area in particular.

##### *Proficiency and aptitude*

- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific rigour identify and formulate research questions; to plan and with adequate methods carry out a defined research project and other advanced work within given time frames and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge; and to evaluate such work,



- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to orally and in writing lucidly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the research community and the society at large,
- demonstrate the requisite skills to independently participate in work of research and development or in other advanced work.

*Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate the ability to make ethical assessments in one's own research,
- show insight concerning the potential and limitations of social science, its role in society and human responsibility for how it is applied,
- demonstrate the ability to identify one's own need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for its development.

**1.2. For a Ph.D. degree, doctoral students shall:**

*Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate a broad knowledge of sociological demography and a systematic understanding of the research field along with advanced and up-to-date specialist knowledge within a delimited research area,
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of scientific method in general and of quantitative and demographic methods in particular.

*Proficiency and aptitude*

- demonstrate the ability to undertake scientific analysis and synthesis as well as independent critical assessment and evaluation of new and complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, creatively and with scientific rigour identify and formulate research questions; to plan and with adequate methods carry out research and other advanced work within given time frames, and to examine and evaluate such work,
- through one's own research and by writing a dissertation substantially contribute to the development of demographic knowledge,
- demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to orally and in writing lucidly present and discuss research and research results in dialogue with the research community and the society at large,



- demonstrate the ability to identify one's need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for its development,
- demonstrate the qualifications in research and education, as well as in other professional contexts, to contribute to the development of society and to support others' learning.

### *Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate intellectual independence, scientific conscientiousness and the ability to make judgements about the ethical conduct of research,
- demonstrate a deep insight into the potential and limitations of social science, its role in the society and human responsibility for how it is used.

## **2. Prerequisites and special admission requirements**

### **2.1. Basic admission requirements (as stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance)**

To be qualified for admission to doctoral studies, a student must have either

1. completed an advanced level academic degree (magister/master)
2. completed course requirements for at least 240 higher education credits, including at least 60 at the advanced level, or
3. in any other way within this country or abroad achieved comparable competence.

The faculty board may under special circumstances exempt applicants from the basic admission requirements.

### **2.2. Special admission requirements**

In addition to the basic admission requirements, a student must have

1. done independent research work in demography or a related discipline, as proven by a thesis or other written work, and
2. enough English language competence to profit by the teaching and course literature. All of the required reading is in English and most courses within the doctoral programme are given entirely in English.



### 3. Admission

Opportunity to apply for doctoral studies in sociological demography is given each spring (final date 1/3) and autumn (final date 1/10) to the extent of available resources. Positions are announced at least one month before an application deadline. Applicants should append to their forms a research plan detailing the research area and aim of the project along with their credentials, publications list and any other documents the applicant would like to be considered.

Financial support shall be organized and settled for the entire study period (corresponding to four years of full-time studies) upon admission, and this shall be documented in a financial plan to be approved by the head of department together with the candidate and supervisor.

Application dates are advertised on the websites of the Department of Sociology and of the Demography Unit. The selection of applicants is carried out by an admissions panel appointed by the head of department after consultation with the doctoral teaching staff. The director of doctoral studies is the convener of this group. Interviews may be held with the leading candidates before the departmental board makes decisions on admission.

### 4. Selection

- The applicant or applicants who are judged to have the best conditions for achieving the goals for doctoral study will be offered the position(s). The criteria used to judge the conditions are: Quality of the candidates earlier writing and other merits
- Originality, feasibility and potential contribution to the sociological demography of the planned research.
- Possibilities for the department to offer adequate supervision with respect to the planned research
- Documented competence for demographic research

### 5. Content and structure of the programme

#### 5.1. Programme structure

The doctoral education in sociological demography is composed partly of the licentiate degree and partly of the doctoral degree.

The licentiate degree consists of 120 higher education credits, of which 45 are for coursework and 75 for a research project. It is not necessary to obtain the licentiate degree before obtaining the doctorate. However, a licentiate degree can be extended to a doctoral degree by adding courses and developing the licentiate thesis into a doctoral dissertation.



Doctoral studies comprise four years of full-time study and 240 Higher education credits, of which 75 are for coursework and 165 for the doctoral dissertation itself.

Work on the doctoral dissertation is the most important part of the doctoral education and shall be based on independent scientific research within the field of sociological demography.

Doctoral study also includes active participation in the advanced seminars and the demography colloquia offered at the department. The doctoral student shall present chapters of the work in progress and comment on others' work. Within the first year of study, the doctoral student should present a dissertation research plan at a demography colloquium. During the fifth semester of the doctoral studies at the latest, the doctoral student shall present a chapter from the dissertation and an overall plan for the dissertation at a halftime seminar in the Department of Sociology. A final seminar shall be held at the latest six months before the defence of the dissertation is to take place. The doctoral student shall furthermore participate in at least half of the proposal, halftime and final seminars held at the department during the doctoral study period. At the time for the final seminar all courses shall have been completed, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## **5.2. Supervision, study guidance and vocational guidance**

Doctoral students have the right to supervision during the entire time required to complete the education for 240 credits. For each doctoral student admitted, at least two supervisors shall be appointed, of whom at least one shall have completed supervisory training or have been judged by the faculty board to have suitable competence. All supervisors must hold a PhD or equivalent. At least one supervisor should be docent or the equivalent. One supervisor is appointed as main supervisor. The main supervisor shall be employed at the department, or, if the department decides so, at another department or institute at the faculty of social sciences. At least one supervisor must be employed at the department. Appointment of supervisors may be changed at the request of the supervisor or the doctoral student or for other reasons.

The doctoral student shall receive guidance in studies and professional development during the period of his/her education. Supervisors are responsible for guiding the doctoral student towards work opportunities after the degree is awarded.



### 5.3 Individual study plan

Before admission to doctoral studies an individual study plan is to be set up. The individual study plan, agreed upon by the prospective student and the prospective supervisor, shall include a time schedule for doctoral education, a description of the commitments expected of both the candidate and the department during the study period, and whatever else is needed so that studies can be carried out in an efficient way. A financial plan shall be attached to the individual study plan, detailing year by year how doctoral studies are to be financed until the public defence of the dissertation.

The individual study plan is reviewed by the supervisor at least once per year. At least once each term the supervisor and doctoral student will meet to ascertain how well ongoing studies adhere to the plan. It is the supervisor's responsibility to see that these meetings take place. Both the supervisor and the doctoral student have the right to suggest changes in the study plan. The chairman of the department board/equivalent makes the decision about suggested changes.

Each semester, the supervisor assesses how well the plan is being followed. The candidate shall be informed of this assessment. In the event of great divergence from the plan the head of department shall be informed.

In the event of a doctoral student substantially not fulfilling his/her commitments according to the plan, the department may decide that the doctoral student shall no longer have the right to supervision or other departmental resources for doctoral studies. Before such a decision is made, however, both the doctoral student and the supervisor shall have the opportunity to comment on the matter.

More detailed instructions concerning individual study plans are given in the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, and in the guidelines issued by Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University.

## 6. Courses and credits

The courses to be taken amount to 45 credits for the licentiate degree and 75 credits for a Ph.D. 45 of these credits consist of required courses:

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| a) Classic or modern sociological theory        | 7.5 credits |
| b) Quantitative social science research methods | 7.5 credits |
| c) Population development and social change     | 7.5 credits |



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| d) Population processes           | 7.5 credits |
| e) Basic demographic methods      | 7.5 credits |
| f) Advanced demographic methods I | 7.5 credits |

These courses shall be taken during the first five terms of doctoral studies. If one or more required courses have been taken at the time of admission to the doctoral programme, the student may, in consultation with his/her supervisor, choose between replacing them with non-required courses of similar length or count the required courses towards the doctoral course credits. Elective course credits should be distributed between specialized courses and individual reading courses. For both the licentiate and the Ph.D. degree, reading courses may make up a maximum of 15 credits. A course in university teaching of at most 7.5 credits may be included in the doctoral programme, with the result that the number of credits remaining for individual reading courses are reduced correspondingly.

The choice of specialized courses and reading courses is made in consultation with the supervisor. The content of reading courses is set by the supervisor or the subject specialist (professor/ acting professor). Reading courses shall have a general section and, if the doctoral student so desires, literature specifically related to the subject of the dissertation. Courses and reading courses shall be chosen so as to achieve a generally balanced combination of courses.

Individual written or oral examinations are arranged for each course. Grades are awarded by the course instructor if she/he is qualified to do so for doctoral education according to faculty board directive, otherwise by the subject specialist. Course grades are either "pass" or "fail". Coursework for the doctoral degree should be completed before the dissertation defence takes place.

Higher Education Credits from advanced level courses in sociology/demography up to a maximum of 60 credits may be counted in towards the doctoral course credits. For the licentiate's degree the maximum that may be counted in is 30 credits. Courses taken at other departments or universities may be counted after approval by the supervisor or subject specialist. A course which is an entry requirement to the doctoral programme may not be credited as a doctoral course. When advanced level courses are credited as doctoral courses, students are financed one month less per every five credits



## **7. The dissertation and the defence**

### **7.1 Dissertation**

A doctoral dissertation shall in its entirety consist of work corresponding to 165 higher education credits. Writing the dissertation is the most important element of doctoral study and must consist of independent research in sociological demography. The work is planned in consultation with the supervisor and should begin during the first half of the study period but be concentrated in and completed during the latter part.

A doctoral dissertation in sociological demography can either be a monograph or a compilation of separate papers. Requirements for quality and scope are the same for the two forms. The dissertation shall correspond to 165 doctoral credits. A compiled dissertation shall contain an introductory chapter (“kappa”) and a number of papers, each with a quality and scope corresponding to an article that might be accepted for publication in an international refereed scientific journal. In cases where other authors have contributed to one or several papers the doctoral student’s own contribution must nevertheless amount to 165 credits.

The licentiate thesis, corresponding to 75 credits at the doctoral level, may in a similar way be composed of one or several papers with the same requirements for quality as above.

### **7.2. Licentiate seminar**

The licentiate thesis shall be assessed by an opponent with at least a doctoral degree who has good knowledge of the thesis field and methods at a seminar to take place during term time. The thesis shall be available from the institution and in the university library at least three weeks before the seminar takes place.

The composition of the grading panel and other matters related to the licentiate seminar will conform to the guidelines for licentiate seminars at Stockholm University. The opponent and the grader/grading panel are selected by the department board/department chair based on suggestions offered by the subject specialist most closely concerned. Thesis grades are either “pass” or “fail”.

### **7.3. Dissertation defence**

A dissertation shall be defended at a public event as prescribed in Chapter 6 of the Higher Education Ordinance. The dissertation is graded as pass or fail. In setting grades, both the content of the thesis and its defence are taken into account. The opponent and the grading panel





are elected by the faculty board based on suggestions offered by the subject specialists most closely involved.

The composition of the grading panel and other matters related to the public defence of the dissertation will conform to the guidelines for public defence seminars at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

## 8. Degree

The licentiate degree is achieved after completing a doctoral education for 120 higher education credits. A doctoral degree is achieved after completing a doctoral education for 240 higher education credits.

## 9. Higher Education Credit plan

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Licentiate's</i>	<i>Ph.D.</i>
Thesis/Dissertation	75 credits	165 credits
<i>Courses:</i>		
Required courses	45 credits	45 credits
Specialized courses and reading courses (of which reading courses maximum 15 credits)	0 credits	30 credits
<b>Total, courses</b>	<b>45 credits</b>	<b>75 credits</b>
<i>Seminars</i>	participation according to 5.1	
<b>Total, degree</b>	<b>120 credits</b>	<b>240 credits</b>

## 10. Other

Further reference is made to current legislation, guidelines at the Faculty of Social Sciences, and local regulations.