

Syllabus for doctoral studies in the subject of business administration

at the School of Architecture and the Built Environment, KTH

This syllabus supplements the KTH general rules and guidelines for doctoral studies with specific instructions for the subject area.

The subject of Business Administration at doctoral level is part of the doctoral programme, “The Built environment and Society: Management, Economics and Law”

1 Description of subject area

The main content of the subject Business Administration at the doctoral level is the study of the company in a wide sense in society. The company is perceived as an organization of people and resources that work together to achieve added value and qualities in interaction with local communities, industry and individuals. The subject provides an insight into the issues and methods used in the analysis of problems and opportunities in companies and organizational systems. The theories developed in business administration also make use of knowledge from other disciplines; mainly from economics, philosophy, construction and real estate economics, urban planning, psychology and industrial economics.

2 Goals of the programme

The overall goals for doctoral studies in the subject of Business Administration correspond to the objectives for KTH doctoral studies. They are set out in the box below:

The purpose of KTH doctoral studies is to provide society with competent researchers who can contribute to its sustainable development.

The goal of KTH doctoral studies is for doctoral students to become independent and excellent researchers. After completing their studies, doctoral students will be able to:

- describe and explain theories and empirical results in the field in question
- formulate specific research issues in the field in question
- use scientific method and develop new knowledge through their own scientific studies
- critically analyze and evaluate the methods and results from own and others’ scientific studies
- present and discuss research findings in the scientific community
- present research in an educational way outside the scientific community and in educational contexts
- assess the ethical aspects of research within the field in question and act on these
- identify needs for new knowledge, and understand how to initiate and direct research projects

Education at doctoral level shall also strive to ensure that students after graduation are able to:

- participate in interdisciplinary collaboration within the field in question
- analyze the role of research in sustainable development.

In particular, those who have completed the doctoral programme must have a thorough knowledge of the subject of business administration, as well as training and knowledge of relevant theory, methods and application. Doctoral studies also aim at providing students with the theoretical and practical ability to independently plan, manage and implement research

projects, and to communicate and explain the application of results.

3 Structure of the programme

The principal structure of the course is that it includes studies corresponding to 240 ECTS. In addition to a scientific (doctoral) thesis of 150 ECTS, the doctoral programme includes coursework of 90 ECTS. Of the total coursework, at least 60% must be at doctoral level, of which 30 ECTS are obligatory.

Doctoral studies consists of coursework and a dissertation/thesis part. They are carried out under the guidance of a main supervisor, along with at least one assistant supervisor, in accordance with an individual study plan. Students' individual study plans will be adapted to their prior knowledge and dissertation/thesis work orientation. A doctoral student's progress will be assessed at least once a year in connection with a review of the individual study plan, and will be carried out by the student and main supervisor. The study plan is ratified by the doctoral officer.

A licentiate degree is obtained after completed studies in business administration at the doctoral level. Studies correspond to 120 ECTS. In addition to a scientific dissertation of 75 ECTS, a licentiate degree includes courses of 45 ECTS.

Courses at the doctoral level can be taken both at KTH and externally. Obligatory courses are quantitative and qualitative methods, scientific theory and a common introductory course of 7.5 ECTS for the doctoral programme. In general, advanced courses in methodology and theory of 15 ECTS are recommended.

It is recommended that doctoral students work in parallel with the dissertation/thesis and doctoral courses during the programme, and that courses are studied to a greater extent during the first half of the programme.

4 Courses

Courses shall be studied in accordance with the agreement made between students and main supervisors in the individual study plan.

Courses in business administration can be taken at KTH and other Swedish or foreign institutions. The following course list indicates the obligatory and non-obligatory courses taught at KTH. Taking courses outside KTH is an important part of the programme since different universities have different areas of specialization.

List of obligatory courses.

	ECTS	Obligatory
Scientific theory	7.5	Yes
Qualitative methods	7.5	Yes
Quantitative methods	7.5	Yes
Introductory course for doctoral programme	7.5	Yes

For a licentiate degree, the course in scientific theory and at least one of the other courses are obligatory.

List of other recommended courses

	ECTS	Obligatory
Business administration methods	7.5	No
Study course, advanced specialization	7.5	No
Getting published in business administration	7.5	No
Quantitative methods with structural equation modelling	7.5	No
Econometrics	7.5	No
Finance enterprising in theory and practice	7.5	No

Graduate students who teach in programmes at first or second level must have completed initial university teacher training.

4.1 Literature in the dissertation/thesis area

Literature is established by the main supervisor in consultation with the student. Students may include courses from other scientific disciplines which contribute to the student's orientation in relevant non-business administration areas of the thesis.

5 Seminars and conferences

It is assumed that the student actively participates in research seminars, which includes regularly submitting original texts. This takes place in consultation with supervisors. The student must also participate in national and international conferences and research networks in the relevant subject area.

6. Dissertation/thesis

Dissertation/thesis work is an obligatory part of doctoral studies. This part of the programme aims at the student developing the ability to make independent contributions to research and the capacity for scientific cooperation, within and outside their own subject area. The dissertation/thesis shall contain new research results that the student has developed, alone or in cooperation with others. The main scientific results should meet the quality requirements for publication in internationally recognized journals with peer review. A doctoral student's contribution to a dissertation/thesis text that has multiple authors must be distinguishable.

Licentiate dissertations and theses must be written in English. They shall normally be in the form of a collection of scientific articles, together with a special written summary.

A thesis may be based on a licentiate dissertation.

7 Eligibility requirements and recommended prior knowledge

The KTH general eligibility requirements for admission to doctoral level studies apply.

Doctoral students are expected to read and write scientific English and speak English fluently. Applicants are strongly recommended to have at least 60 ECTS in business administration, or the equivalent, as prior knowledge. It is assumed that doctoral students with engineering

science and natural science as prior knowledge will work with a dissertation/thesis subject in which this knowledge will be beneficial.

8 Selection of applicants

Admission to studies at the doctoral level is decided by the school director after preparation by the programme council and the proposed main supervisor.

In addition to applicants being examined for eligibility, their degree of maturity and capacity for independent judgement and critical analysis is assessed, as well as written scientific presentation, which forms the basis of admissions decisions and the selection of applicants. Of great significance in this assessment are previous study results in advanced courses at undergraduate level, independently conducted scientific studies, and the ability to apply research.

9 Examination

Doctoral courses include examinations, which may be written or oral. Examinations shall be designed so that examiners can be satisfied that the student has assimilated the full course content.