Admission Regulations for Doctoral Education

Decision-maker	University Board
Responsible unit	Educational Affairs
Decision date	9 September 2026
Period of validity	Valid from 1 October 2026. To be reviewed by 2029 at the latest.
Summary	These admissions regulations set out the rules applied by the University of Gothenburg regarding the announcement of doctoral studies, applications, entry requirements, selection and admission to doctoral studies.

Introduction

This is a translated version of the Swedish original. In case of differences between the Swedish version and the English translation, the Swedish original shall prevail.

Admission regulations can be found in the Higher Education Act (HEA 1992:1434) and the Higher Education Ordincance (HEO 1993:100). Decision-making authority stated in this document corresponds with the University's rules of procedure and delegation of authority policy. Decision-making authority may be further delegated, provided that further delegation has not been explicitly prohibited. To make it easier to understand the basis of the different rules, each heading is followed by a reference in parentheses to relevant chapters and sections of HEA and HEO. A heading without a reference indicates that the rules are local.

1. General and specific entry requirements for doctoral studies (Chapter 6, Section 26 and Chapter 7, Sections 39–40 HEO)

1.1 A person meets the general entry requirements for doctoral studies if they have

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

1.2 The Dean may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant if there are special grounds.

1.3 In addition to general entry requirements for admission to doctoral studies other requirements may be imposed in the form of specific entry requirements. Decisions on specific entry requirements are made by the Faculty Board.

1.4 The specific entry requirements are to be stated in the general syllabus of the doctoral studies.

1.5 The stated specific entry requirements must be essential for a student to be able to benefit from the doctoral studies. Requirements may relate to knowledge from higher education courses and study programmes or corresponding courses and study programmes, specific professional or vocational experience, and requisite language skills or other conditions required for the doctoral studies.

2. Announcement of doctoral studies (Chapter 7, Section 37 and 41 HEO)

2.1 Announcement for doctoral studies must be published in Swedish and English.

2.2 Announcement must be made in the University's recruitment tool and other suitable channels to reach international applicants.

2.3 The period between the announcement and the closing date for applications must be at least three weeks.

2.4 The announcement must include information about:

a) the doctoral subject,
b) general and, where applicable, specific entry requirements for the doctoral subject area,
c) financing of the doctoral studies (doctoral studentship),
d) the assessment criteria use4d to assess applicants' ability to benefit from the studies, and,
e) the degree that the doctoral studies will lead to upon completion of the studies, and
f) the fact that an admission decision may be revoked if the admitted individual is unable to provide proof of a valid residence permit by the start date of the programme.

2.5 The announcement may not include any entry requirements that are not stated in the HEA, the HEO or the applicable general syllabus.

2.6 The rules on announcement for doctoral studies may be disregarded in the following cases:

a) admission of a doctoral student financed within a framework in which the University of Gothenburg does not serve as employer (external position, so called 'samverkansdoktorand'),
b) admission of a doctoral student financed via scholarships according to Rules for Doctoral Education – Doktorandreglerna, and
c) when a doctoral student changes higher education institution or doctoral subject.

3. Selection (Chapter 7, Section 41 HEO)

3.1 The ability of the applicant to benefit from the doctoral studies is to be considered when selecting applicants for doctoral studies who meet the general and, when applicable, specific entry requirements.

3.2 The assessment criteria to be applied in the selection process for doctoral studies must be specified in the general syllabus.

3.3 The fact that an applicant is considered eligible to transfer credits for prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not give the applicant priority over other applicants.

4. Admission (Chapter 7, Sections 34 and 37–38 and Chapter 12, Sections 2 and 4 HEO)

4.1 According to Chapter 7, Section 34 HEO, only doctoral students who can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study and whose studies are funded in accordance to Chapter 7, Section 36 may be admitted to doctoral studies.

4.2 To be eligible for doctoral studies, the applicant must meet both the general and, if applicable, specific entry requirements as stated in the admission regulations for doctoral studies and the general syllabus for the subject area in question.

4.3 Admission decisions for doctoral studies are made by the Head of Department and must be documented promptly in Ladok.

4.4 A decision on admission must be in writing and must include:

a) The student's name and personal identity number/equivalent,
b) An account of basic and specific entry requirements,
c) A funding plan for the entire period of study,
d) Information on what type of degree the studies result in, and
e) In cases when a student is admitted to doctoral studies that leads to a licentiate degree; information stating that continued studies towards a doctoral degree require a new admission, and
f) In the case of admission of an international applicant; information that the admission decision may be revoked if the admitted individual is unable to provide proof of a valid residence permit by the start date of the programme.

4.5 All applicants must be notified of decisions on admission within three weeks. Admission decisions for doctoral studies cannot be appealed.

4.6 A doctoral student may be admitted to doctoral studies that lead to either a licentiate degree or a doctoral degree.

4.7 A person who has been admitted to doctoral studies leading to a licentiate degree may, upon application and in competition with other applicants, be admitted to doctoral studies leading to a doctoral degree.

4.8 In cases when a student is admitted to doctoral studies that lead to a licentiate degree, the Head of Department shall inform the student, in writing, that in order to pursue a doctoral degree, a new admission will be required. This information should be included in the admission decision.

4.9 If the admitted individual requires a residence permit in order to reside in Sweden and pursue their studies, the admission decision shall state that the University reserves the right to revoke the admission decision if the admitted applicant is unable to provide proof of a valid residence permit by the start date of the programme. Any such decision must be preceded by a documented individual assessment and consultation with the Dean. If a valid residence permit cannot be presented by the start date of the programme and the University determines that the admitted applicant may commence their studies at a later date, the University may permit the residence permit to be presented no later than that date.

4.10 An admission decision may only be revoked where a postponed start of studies is deemed not to be possible in view of the funding of the doctoral position or circumstances relating to the implementation of the doctoral project that require the studies to commence at a specific time.