General Syllabus for Third Cycle Studies in Opera leading to a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts

1. Programme details
Programme and specialisation: Third cycle studies in Opera
Code: KOOPER0
Credits: 240
Cycle: Third
Degree title in English: Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Opera
Degree title in Swedish: Konstnärlig doktorsexamen i opera
Syllabus approved by the Board of the Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts 3 June 2015.

2. Subject description
The research subject of Opera has a wide span from practice to reflection and a clear aim to contribute to regeneration and re-examination of the art of opera. Research in the field has a multimedial and interdisciplinary orientation and focuses on both innovation and critique, and the relationship of the art form to the present. It interrogates the tradition of the Gesamtkunstwerk but also its significance to present and future society. It reflects on individual and collective creative processes, the organisation of artistic space, the encounter with the audience, and the potential of opera as a critical voice.

The outcomes of research can be manifested as advanced formal experiments, norm-critical perspectives, detailed explorations of the methods and practices of opera artists, musical and spatial composition, and critical investigations of the musical and narrative dramaturgy of opera. Research may also consist of the development of vocal practices and use of new techniques and material for stage performance, and methods for exploration of multimedial performance. It poses questions about power and identity both in the performance of musical drama and in the artistic process. The research examines the use of new techniques and material for musical, theatrical and spatial representation, the relationship between text and music, and reexamines the methods and dramaturgy of composition.

Informed by musical, dramaturgic, spatial and bodily experience, and the critical review of individual and collective processes, the research in Opera contributes to the articulation of knowledge, development of artistic methods, and re-examination of the art form from ideological, aesthetical and ethical perspectives.

3. Objectives and outcomes of the programme
The focus of the third cycle programme is on an artistic project to be developed through reflection, documentation and specialisation in both the individual student’s field of enquiry and other relevant fields. The choice of techniques, theories and methods is to be based on their relevance to the project and is to be made by the student and supervisor in consultation. The aim of the programme is to train students to be able to independently and reflectively plan, execute and document an enquiry in which a clearly defined research issue and relevant methods are used to provide a significant contribution to the field of opera.
The activities are to be conducted in forms that enable each and every student to develop in accordance with their personal circumstances and unaffected by irrelevant considerations of gender, ethnic or social background, religion or other belief, sexual orientation or disability. The Faculty of Fine and Performing Arts has a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of discrimination.

Third cycle studies in opera lead to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts or, as an intermediate exit point, a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts (see section 8).

For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts in Opera the third-cycle student shall

**Knowledge and understanding**
- demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge and creative ability in opera, and
- demonstrate familiarity with artistic research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.

**Competence and skills**
- demonstrate creative capacity in the field of opera
- demonstrate the capacity for artistic analysis and synthesis as well as the ability to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate artistic issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified artistic tasks within predetermined time frames and to review and evaluate such work
- demonstrate through a documented artistic research project 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 with artistic authority and well-supported arguments in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community 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**
- demonstrate intellectual autonomy, artistic integrity and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and
- demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of art, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

**4. Programme design**
Third-cycle studies comprise 240 credits or four years of full-time study. The programme can also be pursued as part-time studies (at least 50 per cent) or a maximum of eight years of study.

**4. 1 Programme structure**
The programme comprises 240 credits divided into courses and other components of 60 credits and a documented research project of 180 credits.

Each doctoral student is to present work in progress when 25, 50 and 75 per cent of the project has been completed. A final seminar is to be arranged when a preliminary version of the entire project is available. An external reviewer is to attend all of these presentations. The reviewer is to be appointed by the supervisor and subject representative in consultation.

For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the students must have passed all assessed components of the programme and the artistic project.
4. 2 Supervision
At least two supervisors shall be appointed for each doctoral student, both of whom are to be responsible for the programme of study and artistic project in accordance with an allocation of duties decided by the Faculty Board. The principal supervisor should have theoretical, methodological and/or artistic expertise of relevance to the student’s research area. The student is entitled to have an assistant supervisor appointed whose expertise complements that of the principal supervisor. The doctoral student is entitled to supervision within the programme. The maximum allocation of hours for four years of supervision is 340 for principal supervisors (5 per cent of total working hours for four years) and 204 for assistant supervisors (3 per cent). The hours allocated cover all activities associated with supervision, including for example correspondence and reading. The supervision can take place individually or in groups and is provided to assist the student in defining a field of study and to support the progress of the artistic work. The doctoral student is entitled to change supervisor if a sufficiently qualified candidate is available at the department. A change of supervisor has to be approved by the Faculty Board.

A doctoral student or supervisor who finds that the other party has failed to undertake the obligations specified in the time plan may address the matter to the Faculty Board.

4. 3 Individual study plan
The doctoral student shall draw up an individual study plan in consultation with the principal supervisor. It is to be designed in accordance with a template approved by the Faculty Board and be approved by the Faculty Board. The individual study plan is to include a time plan for the entire period of study, including both the course component and the artistic research project, a plan for the documentation of the artistic research project and a plan for the funding of both the artistic research project and the documentation. The individual study plan is also to state the degree of activity of the student and to be revised annually or when specific changes call for revisions.

The individual study plan is also to specify the duties and responsibilities of the different supervisors.

The research student must register for study at the start of each semester and indicate his or her planned degree of activity during the semester in consultation with the principal supervisor. It is the responsibility of the student to apply for leave prior to academic years in which the programme is not pursued full-time.

4. 4 Courses/other assessed components, 60 credits
The research student is to attend and contribute to the course and seminar component of the programme during their studies in opera. The component amounts to a maximum of 60 credits. It includes courses that support the specialisation of the student’s artistic research project, apply relevant and critical perspectives to the project, or support the student’s ability to reflect on and communicate the artistic process. The teaching consists of seminars, courses and individual or group supervision. It addresses the methods and documentation of artistic research. Elective seminars are also included to meet the needs of the individual student. The student is entitled to seminar teaching and supervised individual components. The department is entitled to expect research students to participate actively in the teaching provided.

The courses and other assessed components of 60 credits are to be divided in the following fashion:

- 15 credits of compulsory research seminars
- 15 credits of compulsory courses
- 30 credits of elective courses and other assessed components

The courses are to be selected in consultation with the supervisor. Courses at the home institution are assessed in accordance with the requirements stated in the relevant syllabus. The assessment of other components is to be based on the form (performance), other types of presentation, oral discussion, written reflections etc. agreed with the supervisor/examiner appointed by the department. Certain components of the programme can be studied at an arts institution abroad, provided that an agreement has been established between the institutions guaranteeing the appropriate level of studies and that the components can be integrated in the
student’s programme of study. Courses at institutions abroad are to be assessed in the same way as courses at the home institution, but transfer of credits for courses and other components assessed at other institutions must be approved by an examiner appointed by the Faculty Board.

The compulsory work in progress seminars described under the heading ‘Programme structure’ are a key component of the supervisor’s and examiner’s continuous assessment of the student’s process of wholly or partially attaining the learning outcomes of the programme.

4. 5 Documented artistic research project of 180 credits
The documented artistic research project is to provide an independent contribution to artistic research and knowledge through a study of a specific field and is the main basis for assessing the student’s attainment of the learning outcomes. The documentation is to be conceptually unified and may include several components. The artistic project is to be presented in dialogue with reflecting, critical and contextualising aspects to be discussed with the supervisor throughout the project and in seminars or similar activities. The documented artistic research project is to be presented in a form suitable to the genre and made available in a library/archive.

4. 6 Departmental duties
The doctoral student may engage in departmental duties amounting to a maximum of 20 per cent of the total time for studies. The programme of study will be extended by the number of hours devoted to departmental duties by the individual student.

5. Admission requirements

5.1 General admission requirements
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, or
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 higher education institution may permit an exemption from the general entry requirements for an individual applicant, if there are special grounds.

5.2 Specific admission requirements
A person meets the specific requirements for admission to third cycle studies in Fine Arts specialising in Opera if he or she:

• has been awarded a degree of at least 240 credits in a field of relevance to opera, or has equivalent experience of artistic work

• has submitted a plan for an artistic project (including a funding plan) that has been assessed and approved by the admissions board

• has demonstrated ongoing artistic activity and produced artistic work of an independent nature sufficient for assessment of the candidate’s suitability for the programme

5.2 Credit transfer
As an elective option and subject to an agreement with the principal supervisor, the student may complete courses, primarily in the third cycle, outside the home department and transfer credits for these. Credits may also be transferred for second-cycle and, in exceptional cases, first-cycle courses, if the supervisor judges them to be relevant to the student’s research project or attainment of the learning outcomes. The credits available
for transfer for courses completed at other institutions are determined by the examiner. The courses the student has passed or plans to take are to be listed in the individual study plan.

One- or two-year Master’s programmes and certain other top-up programmes completed in addition to the degree of 240 credits shall be available for credit transfer wholly or in part. However, it is important that the documented artistic research project is and can be assessed as an identifiable whole.

A doctoral student who has successfully completed parts of a third-cycle programme in opera or the equivalent at another higher education institution in Sweden is entitled to transfer the credits awarded to the third-cycle programme at Lund University. Studies at a higher education institution abroad may also qualify for credit transfer. The extent to which credits for previous education may be transferred is determined by the examiner. Credit transfer is assessed individually and subject to an application from the student.

6. Admission and selection

Students are admitted to four years of full-time study leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts. The admission of doctoral students is conducted in accordance with the Lund University regulations for admission to third-cycle studies.


The Faculty aims to admit research students once a year, following a call for applications at a date determined by the Faculty Board. A student admitted to a programme for a degree of Licentiate must submit a new application to pursue the programme for a degree of Doctor.

6.1 Admission

An admissions board is to be appointed by the Faculty Board. All decisions on admission to third-cycle studies in opera are taken by the Faculty Board. Only applicants simultaneously appointed to a doctoral studentship or awarded a doctoral grant may be admitted to a third-cycle programme leading to a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts. However, provided that the applicant meets the other admission requirements, the Faculty Board may admit an applicant who has alternative funding for his or her studies if it considers that the funding can be guaranteed during the entire period of study and that the applicant can devote enough time to his or her studies to enable their completion within four years in the case of full-time studies.

The assessment of forms of funding other than a doctoral studentship/grant is made by the Faculty Board in consultation with the departmental management concerned. A doctoral student with a doctoral grant/studentship is entitled to a workspace and equipment at the department.

6.2 Selection

The applicant is to attach a research project plan to the application. The plan is to include a description of the project and a rough outline of its execution.

The basic criterion for selection among applicants is their qualifications at the time of application. A shortlisted number of applicants will be called to interviews. When necessary, the admissions board may request additional documentation.

The selection criteria are

- the applicant’s suitability for artistic research and ability to profit from research studies
- the artistic quality of the project and its feasibility in relation to the timeframe (i.e. a period of four years of full-time study)
- the quality of the project plan in terms of scope, relevance, originality, research issues, links and relevance to the general area of knowledge and proposed methods, and
- the department’s desired specialisation and access to supervisors
The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience does not give the applicant priority over other applicants.

7. Public defence
The documented artistic research project, including all its performed and documented components, is to be reviewed and defended publicly. The public defence is to be led by a chair and to include an external reviewer who is not to be active at the home institution, unless there are valid reasons. The chair and external reviewer are to be appointed by the Faculty Board for each defence. The documented components of the project are to be publicly available at least four weeks prior to the defence. The defence shall include a public discussion reporting and highlighting the artistic and reflective components of the project. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, the student must have passed all the other components prior to the final presentation.

The defence is to take place within the academic year and at a place and time determined by the Faculty Board in consultation with the programme management and supervisor. The documented components of the artistic research project, in the form it will be filed in libraries/archives, are to be made available to the public four weeks in advance of the public defence. If possible, the components performed at the defence and unavailable in any other form are to be documented and made available after the defence.

A documented artistic project produced jointly by two or more persons can be accepted as long as the individual contribution of the doctoral student can be distinguished.

The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Board for each defence and is to have 3 or 5 members with suitable expertise. They should not be active at Lund University. A supervisor of the doctoral student may not be a member of the examining committee. The external reviewer has the right to be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussion but not in the decision. This also applies to the supervisors.

8. Degree of Licentiate – a stage of research studies
Students admitted to the third-cycle programme in choreography may include a midway stage after four semesters of study for full-time students. Students who pass the stage will be awarded a degree of Licentiate in Fine Arts, on application.

8.1 Aim
The aim of the stage is to provide students with training in research that will enable them to assume professional roles in which research in the arts is of value. The aim is achieved by providing the student with subject knowledge, methodological skills and the ability to independently conduct a research project.

The stage of Licentiate is not compulsory and students are not required to state already on admission that they want to obtain a degree of Licentiate. Students who have no explicit interest in obtaining a Licentiate are advised to structure their studies for a degree of Doctor only, as this will not disallow a change later on.

8.2 Structure and contents
The stage includes courses, seminars and a documented artistic research project. The teaching is in the form of seminars and courses, and individual and group supervision. The contents are the same as those for the two first years of the programme leading to the degree of Doctor.

As part of the stage, the student is to complete a documented artistic research project. The focus of the project should be determined early and planned so that it can be completed within the two first years of full-time
study. When the Licentiate is a stage in the programme leading to a degree of Doctor, the project should be planned in such a way that major parts can be integrated in the doctoral project.

8.3 Assessment
The documented artistic research project, the licentiate project, is to be reviewed and defended at a public seminar. The seminar is to be led by a chair and to include an external reviewer who is not to be active at the home institution, unless there are valid reasons. The chair and external reviewer are to be appointed by the Faculty Board for each defence seminar. The documented components of the project are to be publicly available at least four weeks prior to the seminar.

The defence seminar shall normally include a public discussion reporting and highlighting the artistic and reflective components of the project. Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, the student must have passed all the other components prior to the seminar.

The seminar is to take place within the academic year and at a place and time determined by the Faculty Board in consultation with the programme management and supervisor. The documented components of the artistic research project, in the form it will be filed in libraries/archives, are to be made available to the public four weeks in advance of the public defence. If possible, the components performed at the defence and unavailable in any other form are to be documented and made available after the seminar.

A documented artistic project produced jointly by two or more persons can be accepted as long as the individual contribution of the doctoral student can be distinguished.

The grades awarded for the artistic research project are Pass or Fail. For a degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in Fine Arts, the student must have passed all the assessed components of the programme and the documented artistic research project.

The grade for the artistic research project is determined by an examining committee, which is appointed by the Faculty Board for each defence and is to have 3 or 5 members with suitable expertise. They should not be active at Lund University. A supervisor of the doctoral student may not be a member of the examining committee. The external reviewer has the right to be present at the meeting of the examining committee and participate in the discussion but not in the decision. This also applies to the supervisors.

9. Further information
Information on admission and application deadlines is available from the Faculty Office.