



**LTH**  
FACULTY OF  
ENGINEERING

## General syllabus for third-cycle studies in Automatic Control TEFRTF00

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Engineering/LTH 24 September 2007 and most recently amended 8 September 2020 (reg. no U 2020/679).

### 1. Subject description

Automatic Control, which deals with feedback systems, is a basic subject within the field of systems engineering. The aim is to use measurements to make systems operate as desired in spite of external interference. The subject is based on theories of dynamic systems and makes use of a thoroughly developed apparatus of mathematical concepts. There are applications in all fields of engineering and feedback can also be applied to areas of economics and biology. Automatic Control provides a theoretical foundation of automation that is central to many types of engineering.

### 2. Objective of third-cycle studies at LTH

The Board of LTH established the following objective for third-cycle studies on 15 February 2007.

The overall objective of third-cycle studies at LTH is to contribute to social development and prosperity by meeting the needs of business and industry, academia and wider society for staff with third-cycle qualifications. LTH shall primarily provide education leading to a PhD or licentiate in the fields of LTH's professional degrees. The programmes are first and foremost intended for the further training of engineers and architects. The programmes are designed to encourage personal development and the individual's unique qualities.

Third-cycle graduates from LTH shall demonstrate:

- proficiency in research theories and methods and in a critical, scientific approach
- both breadth and depth of knowledge within the subject of his or her third-cycle studies

The programmes aim to develop:

- creativity and independence with the ability to formulate advanced research issues, solve problems and plan, carry out and evaluate projects within a set time frame
- openness to change
- personal networks, both national and international
- social skills and communication skills
- teaching ability
- innovation skills, leadership and entrepreneurship

In order to enable students to achieve these skills and abilities, LTH provides:

- high-quality supervision and good conditions for study in a creative environment
- a good balance between basic and applied research, with openness to wider society
- a range of advanced third-cycle courses at both departmental and faculty level
- a good balance between courses and thesis work
- opportunities to present research findings at national and international conferences and in internationally recognised journals, or by another equivalent method which leads to wide exposure and circulation
- opportunities to spend time in international research environments for short or extended periods

### 3. Learning outcomes for third-cycle studies

The learning outcomes for third-cycle studies are given in the Higher Education Ordinance.

#### 3.1 Licentiate

##### Knowledge and understanding

For a Licentiate the third-cycle 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-cycle 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 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
- 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-cycle 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
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning

#### 3.2 Doctor of Philosophy

##### Knowledge and understanding

For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy 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
- 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 of Philosophy the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically
- 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 thesis 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
- 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 of Philosophy the third-cycle student shall:

- demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics
- 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

### **Midway Review**

A midway review, with the aim of reviewing the doctoral student's education in relation to the learning outcomes for the degree in the Higher Education Ordinance, is to be implemented at least once during the doctoral student's programme for all doctoral students whose education is to conclude with a doctoral degree.

## **4. General and specific admission requirements**

A person meets the general admission 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. Ordinance (2010:1064).

A person meets the specific admission requirements if he or she has

1. knowledge corresponding to course FRT010 Automatic Control, Basic Course and a second cycle specialisation of relevance to the subject, or
2. an MSc in Engineering or corresponding qualification.

Finally, the student must be judged to have the potential to complete the programme. Exemptions from the admission requirements may be granted by the Board of LTH.

## **5. Selection**

Selection for third-cycle studies is based on the student's potential to profit from such studies.

The assessment of potential in accordance with the first paragraph is made primarily on the basis of academic results from the first and second cycle. Special attention is paid to the following:

1. Knowledge and skills relevant to the thesis project and the subject of study. These may be demonstrated through documents appended to the application and at a possible interview.
2. An assessment of ability to work independently and to formulate and tackle research problems. The assessment could be made on the basis of the student's degree project and a discussion of this at a possible interview.
3. Written and oral communication skills
4. Other experience relevant to the third-cycle studies, e.g. professional experience

## 6. Degree requirements

Third-cycle studies lead to a PhD or, if the student wishes or if it has been specified in the decision on admission, to a licentiate. The student also has the right to complete a licentiate as a stage in his or her third-cycle studies, but is not obliged to do so.

The requirements for a licentiate are:

- passed courses of at least 45 credits, and
- a passed thesis of a scope corresponding to studies of at least 75 credits

The thesis and courses shall comprise at least 120 credits in total.

The requirements for a PhD are

- passed courses of at least 90 credits, and
- a passed thesis of a scope corresponding to studies of at least 150 credits

The thesis and courses shall comprise at least 240 credits in total.

### 6.1 Degrees awarded

The programme can lead to the following degrees:

*Teknologie licentiatexamen*/Licentiate in Engineering

*Teknologie doktorsexamen*/Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering

or:

*Filosofie licentiatexamen*/Licentiate of Philosophy

*Filosofie doktorsexamen*/Doctor of Philosophy

## 7. Course component

The programme is to include courses. For each course, an examiner shall be appointed at the department that delivers the course. The examiner shall draw up a written syllabus which states the course title in Swedish and English, the learning outcomes of the course, the course content and the number of credits.

The individual study plan is to include details of which courses the individual student shall or may include in his or her studies and how many credits for each course may be included in the degree. Courses taken at other faculties or higher education institutions may also be included in the study plan.

It is compulsory to participate in and pass the course Introductory Workshop for Newly Admitted Doctoral Students at LTH (*Introduktionskurs för nyantagna doktorander vid LTH*) GEM056F or the equivalent.

It is also compulsory to attend and earn a Pass grade on the course Research Ethics, GEM090F.

The course component includes courses of relevance to modelling, analysis, synthesis and realisation of control systems.

The course component for the doctoral degree is to include at least 30 credits of third cycle specialisation courses in automatic control (e.g. linear systems, control system synthesis, nonlinear control, optimal control, robust control and stochastic control).

The course component for the doctoral degree is to include at least 7.5 credits of general research studies courses (e.g. education science, research methodology, technical writing and innovation).

## 8. Thesis

The programme shall include a research project documented in a licentiate or doctoral thesis.

### 8.1 Licentiate thesis

The licentiate thesis is to be presented at a public seminar, when it is also to be available for scrutiny. The principal supervisor appoints an external reviewer for the seminar. The reviewer is to be thoroughly familiar with the thesis topic, shall review the thesis in detail and pass a judgement on it at the seminar. A general presentation of the thesis topic will be given at the seminar and the student is to orally discuss the points raised by the reviewer at the seminar. The head of department appoints an examiner who is to review the thesis and award a grade of Pass or Fail.

### 8.2 PhD thesis

The PhD thesis can be structured either as a compilation of research papers introduced by a general description of the research area (compilation thesis) or as a unified research study (monograph). The thesis may include contributions from several authors if their individual contributions can be discerned. The language used is normally English. The thesis is to include a short summary in English (abstract) and a popular science summary in Swedish suitable as a basis for a press release.

## 9. Other rules and regulations

Doctoral students normally participate in the teaching at the department, for example as exercise coordinators or laboratory supervisors. An industry-employed doctoral student may work outside the academic context. The duties involved may not exceed 20 percent of full-time working hours.

## 10. Transitional provisions

Doctoral students admitted prior to 1 January 2017 can choose to complete their studies according to the previous general syllabus (Reg. no U 2015/37), although no later than 31 December 2023. In this case, the decision is to be documented in the individual study plan.

For doctoral students with an admission date of 1 January 2019 or later, it is compulsory to participate in and pass the course Introductory Workshop for Newly Admitted Doctoral Students at LTH (*Introduktionskurs för nyantagna doktorander vid LTH*) GEM056F or the equivalent in order to fulfil the requirements for the degree.

For doctoral students admitted on or after 1 January 2021, it is compulsory to attend and earn a Pass grade on the course Research Ethics, GEM090F.

The midway review is compulsory for doctoral students admitted on or after 1 January 2019.