General syllabus for third-cycle courses and study programmes in

SPORT SCIENCE

*Idrottsvetenskap*

This syllabus was approved on 3 February 2012 (reg. no. CF 62-69/2012)\(^1\), \(^2\). It was last amended on 30 January 2014 (reg. no. ORU 5.1-5036/2013).

By virtue of the Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 26 (1993:100), Örebro University prescribes the following.

1  **Subject description**

As a subject, sport science is interdisciplinary in character and is defined as the study of physical activity undertaken with the objective to promote physical and mental health, recreation, competition performance and aesthetic experience.

The doctoral study subject area of sport science at Örebro University focuses on sports-physiological research on the body’s adaptation to inactivity as well as to different types of acute and prolonged physical activity and exercise in both health and disease. The subject also focuses on social and educational science aspects of sports, including didactic, psychological and historical issues and methods within sport science. Study objects for research within the subject area include the school subject physical education and health, club-organised sports, sport as physical exercise and recreation, play, outdoor activities, physical performance, as well as physical training as an important measure in terms of prevention, treatment and the rehabilitation of different pathological conditions.

Within the subject, courses and study programmes are also offered with a specialisation in didactics, linked to the research school Educational Sciences with Emphasis on Didactics (UVD), and the didactics of physical education and health, linked to the Graduate School for the Didactics of Physical Education.

2  **Outcomes**

The intended learning outcomes for the award of the degree, the qualitative targets, are evident from annex 1 to this syllabus. The different components of the third-cycle study programme shall together equip the doctoral student to meet all

\(^1\) Faculty Board of Medicine and Health

\(^2\) The English translation of this general syllabus was last amended on 3 May 2018.
intended learning outcomes. The intended learning outcomes are referred to in more detail in the degree requirements in sections 5 and 6.

3 Admission to the programme – entry requirements and selection etc.

Provisions on entry requirements and selection can be found in annex 2 to this syllabus. For information on admission in other respects, see the admissions regulations for Örebro University.

4 Programme organisation – general information

There are two types of third-cycle, or doctoral, study programmes – one concluding with the doctoral degree (240 credits, corresponding to four years of full-time study) and one concluding with the licentiate degree (120 credits, corresponding to two years of full-time study).

The programmes mainly consist of courses and the writing of a doctoral or licentiate thesis. The programme components are assessed by means of course examination and the public defence of the thesis respectively. The doctoral student is expected to take an active part in seminars and other auxiliary components during their period of study. The student is further recommended to take advantage of the opportunities offered to attend guest lectures etc. at the university, and to attend and contribute at national and international conferences.

For each doctoral student, a minimum of two supervisors will be appointed, supporting the student during their studies. One of them will be nominated principal supervisor. The detailed organisation of the programme shall be determined in an individual study plan.

Credit overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview of programme organisation and degree requirements</th>
<th>Courses/examinations, credits</th>
<th>Thesis, no. of credits</th>
<th>Total no. of credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral degree Students with a physiology specialisation</td>
<td>15 22.5</td>
<td>202.5</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with a social and educational sciences specialisation</td>
<td>15 45</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with a specialisation in didactics</td>
<td>45 15</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Under the new higher education system in Sweden, and in accordance with the terminology recommended by the Swedish Council for Higher Education, courses and study programmes on the doctoral level are referred to as third-cycle courses and study programmes. In this document, the terms doctoral and third-cycle are used interchangeably as prefixes to terms related to studies at the doctoral level and they should therefore be considered synonymous [translator’s comment].

4 Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Sections 4, 5, 28 and 29 and local guidelines on the organisation of third-cycle courses and study programmes.

5 The Higher Education Ordinance stipulation that at least two supervisors be appointed for each doctoral student does not apply to doctoral students who commenced their studies before 1 July 2007. Instead, the older provision of at least one supervisor applies (point 18, transitional provisions of SFS 2006:1053).
5 Degree requirements for the Degree of Doctor, 240 credits

For the Degree of Doctor, the doctoral student must
- have received a passing grade in the examinations\(^6\) of the 37.5 and 60 credits respectively, depending on specialisation, generated by the courses listed below,
- have received a passing grade on a scholarly dissertation (doctoral thesis) corresponding to 180 and 202.5 credits respectively, depending on specialisation. The thesis is to be defended orally at a public defence event\(^7\).

5.1 Physiology specialisation – doctoral degree

For students on the programme with a physiology specialisation, the following degree requirements apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licentiate Degree</th>
<th>Students with a physiology specialisation</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>7.5</th>
<th>97.5</th>
<th>120</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students with a social and educational sciences specialisation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students with a specialisation in didactics</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students with a specialisation in the didactics of physical education and health</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 32
7 Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Sections 5 and 33

Sport Science
Elective courses, total of 22.5 credits
Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology and research ethics, 7.5 credits
The courses and examinations included in this block shall refer to outcomes D1, D2, the part of outcome D9 that bears upon disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and the part of outcome D10 that bears upon the role of research in society, annex 1.

Block II: Courses of relevance to the doctoral student’s thesis project, 15 credits
The courses and examinations included in this block shall refer to outcomes D1, D2 and D4, annex 1.

Doctoral thesis and public defence, 202.5 credits
At the public defence event, the assessment of the doctoral thesis and the public defence thereof shall refer to all intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the doctoral degree.

5.2 Social and educational sciences specialisation – doctoral degree
For students on the programme with a social and educational sciences specialisation, the following degree requirements apply:

For courses and blocks below, see outcomes and descriptions in section 5.1 unless otherwise specified below.

Compulsory courses, total of 15 credits
Research areas and traditions in Sport Science, 7.5 credits

Sport Science specialisation course, 7.5 credits

Elective courses, total of 45 credits
Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology and research ethics, 15 credits

Block II: Courses of relevance to the doctoral student’s thesis project, 30 credits
Doctoral thesis and public defence, 180 credits
At the public defence event, the assessment of the doctoral thesis and the public defence thereof shall refer to all intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the doctoral degree.

5.3 Didactics specialisation – doctoral degree
For students on the programme with a didactics specialisation, the following degree requirements apply:

For courses and blocks below, see outcomes and descriptions in section 5.1 unless otherwise specified below.

Compulsory courses, total of 45 credits
Research areas and traditions in Sport Science, 7.5 credits

Sport Science specialisation course, 7.5 credits

Didaktik (Didactics), 10 credits (within the research school UVD)
The course and examination shall refer to outcomes D1, D4 and D7, annex 1.

Didactic methods, 10 credits (within the research school UVD)
The course and examination shall refer to outcomes D2, D3 and D9, annex 1.

Didactic seminars, 10 credits (within the research school UVD)
The course and examination shall refer to outcomes D6, annex 1.

Elective courses, total of 15 credits
Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology and research ethics, 15 credits

Doctoral thesis and public defence, 180 credits
At the public defence event, the assessment of the doctoral thesis and the public defence thereof shall refer to all intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the doctoral degree.

6 Degree requirements for the Degree of Licentiate, 120 credits

The licentiate degree is the degree awarded to those who have been admitted to and successfully completed a licentiate programme. Students who have been admitted to the programme concluding with the doctoral degree have the right to apply for the award of a licentiate degree, as a half-way degree. The degree requirements in this section apply to the licentiate degree both as a final and as a half-way degree.

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8 Örebro University’s local regulations on qualifications
For the licentiate degree, the doctoral student must
- have received a passing grade in the examinations\(^9\) of the 22.5, 30 and 45
  credits respectively, depending on specialisation, generated by the courses listed
  below,
- have received a passing grade on a scholarly paper (licentiate thesis)
  corresponding to 75, 90 and 97.5 credits respectively, depending on
  specialisation\(^{10}\).

For courses and course blocks that are identical for the licentiate and doctoral
degrees, please see outcomes and descriptions in section 5.1\(^{11}\). For any other
courses and course blocks, see below.

**6.1 Physiology specialisation – licentiate degree**

For students on the programme with a physiology specialisation, the following
degree requirements apply:

**Compulsory courses, total of 15 credits**

Research areas and traditions in Sport Science, 7.5 credits

Sport Science specialisation course, 7.5 credits

**Elective courses, total of 7.5 credits**

Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an
assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning
outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which
courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the
individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology and research ethics, 7.5
credits

**Licentiate thesis, 97.5 credits**

On the examination of the licentiate thesis, the assessment shall refer to all
intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the licentiate degree.

**6.2 Social and educational sciences specialisation – licentiate degree**

**6.3 Didactics specialisation – licentiate degree**

For students on the programmes with either a social and educational sciences
specialisation or a didactics specialisation, the following degree requirements apply:

**Compulsory courses, total of 15 credits**

Research areas and traditions in Sport Science, 7.5 credits

Sport Science specialisation course, 7.5 credits

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\(^9\) Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 32
\(^{10}\) Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 6, Section 5
\(^{11}\) Since the licentiate degree may constitute a half-way degree on the road to a doctoral degree, the
courses intended for a licentiate degree should, in conformity with the courses intended for a doctoral
degree, be linked to the outcomes for the doctoral degree, see further in the guidelines for general
syllabuses for third-cycle courses and study programmes.
**Elective courses, total of 15 credits**
Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology or research ethics, 7.5 credits

Block II: Courses of relevance to the doctoral student’s thesis project, 7.5 credits

**Licentiate thesis, 90 credits**
On the examination of the licentiate thesis, the assessment shall refer to all intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the licentiate degree.

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**6.4 Specialisation in the didactics of physical education and health – licentiate degree**
For students on the programme with a specialisation in the didactics of physical education and health, the following degree requirements apply:

**Compulsory courses, total of 30 credits**
- Research areas and traditions in Sport Science, 7.5 credits
- Sport Science specialisation course, 7.5 credits

*Idrott och hälsa* (Physical education), 7.5 credits (within the Graduate School for the Didactics of Physical Education)
The course and examination shall refer to outcomes L1/D1 and D2, L4/D4 and L11/D4 and D7, annex 1.

*Idrott och hälsa didaktik* (Physical education didactics), 7.5 credits (within the Graduate School for the Didactics of Physical Education)
The course and examination shall refer to outcomes L1/D1 and D2, L4/D4 and L11/D4 and D7, annex 1.

**Elective courses, total of 15 credits**
Which course/courses a doctoral student shall take is determined based on an assessment of what courses will enable them to meet the intended learning outcomes. The doctoral student plans, in consultation with the supervisor, which courses should be part of their programme. The selection is then laid down in the individual study plan.

Block I: Philosophy of science, research methodology and research ethics, 7.5 credits

Block II: Courses of relevance to the doctoral student’s thesis project, 7.5 credits

**Licentiate thesis, 75 credits**
On the examination of the licentiate thesis, the assessment shall refer to all intended learning outcomes specified for the award of the licentiate degree.
Further information

Further information about provisions for doctoral study programmes can be found on the University website. Documents there include the admissions regulations for Örebro University and other information on national and local regulations.

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Entry-into-force and transitional provisions

This general syllabus shall be in effect from 1 April 2012.

Doctoral students who were admitted to a doctoral study programme in sport science, regardless of specialisation, before 1 January 2012, shall as a main rule complete their studies in accordance with the degree requirements in force for the doctoral student on 31 March 2012 pursuant to the subject’s previous general syllabus and transitional provisions. If requested by the doctoral student and it is deemed appropriate, the head of school may, however, decide that the doctoral student shall continue their studies pursuant to the new general syllabus for sport science.

Doctoral students who have commenced their studies before 1 July 2007 are hereby reminded also of their right to complete, as an alternative, their studies and obtain their qualification pursuant to the earlier provisions for doctoral education in force before the so-called Bologna reform. This right exists until, but no later than, the end of June 2015 (point 5, transitional provisions of SFS 2006:1053). See further the transitional provisions for previous general syllabuses for the subjects in question.

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Amendments to the general syllabus approved on 12 June 2012 shall take effect immediately. These amendments refer to the selection criteria in annex 2, section 3 B, first paragraph, first sentence and imply that selection among other things is based on a brief outline of research interests.

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Amendments to the general syllabus approved on 30 January 2014 shall take effect on 1 March 2014. These amendments refer to an adaptation of the general syllabus to the new template, through which, among other things, the different components of the programme are more clearly linked to the different intended learning outcomes (primarily sections 5 and 6).

Doctoral students admitted before 12 June 2012 shall complete their studies in accordance with the previous degree requirements. If requested by a doctoral student and it is deemed appropriate, provisions may be made in the individual study plan for the student to complete their studies in accordance with the new degree requirements.
### Outcomes for the DEGREE OF DOCTOR

For the Degree of Doctor, the third-cycle student shall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and understanding</th>
<th>Competence and skills</th>
<th>Judgement and approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D1 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, and</td>
<td>D3 demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically,</td>
<td>D9 demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2 demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.</td>
<td>D4 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,</td>
<td>D10 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1 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.</td>
<td>L3 (no direct equivalent to D3)</td>
<td>L9 demonstrate the ability to make assessments of ethical aspects of his or her own research,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2 (for the equivalent to D2, see L1, second part)</td>
<td></td>
<td>L10 demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L5 (no direct equivalent to D5, refer however to L4, second part)</td>
<td>L6 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,</td>
<td>L11 demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning (comp. D7).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L7 (comp. L11)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcomes for the DEGREE OF LICENTIATE

For a Degree of Licentiate, the third-cycle student shall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and understanding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L1 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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 Extract from the Qualifications ordinance, annex 2, Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100)
Admission to research studies – entry requirements

1 Admission requirements – Higher Education Ordinance

The Higher Education Ordinance stipulates that the number of doctoral students that may be admitted by the university may not exceed the number that can be offered supervision and otherwise acceptable conditions for study and whose studies are funded pursuant to the provisions in the Higher Education Ordinance\textsuperscript{13}.

The requirements for admission to third-cycle courses and study programmes are that the applicant
1. meets the general and specific entry requirements that the university may have laid down, and
2. is considered in other respects to have the ability required to benefit from the course or study programme\textsuperscript{14}.

2 Entry requirements

2.1 General entry 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,
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\textsuperscript{15}.

Transitional provisions
a) A person with credits or qualifications from undergraduate programmes under the previous higher education system corresponding to the entry requirements above will also be eligible\textsuperscript{16}. Exemptions from the entry requirements may be made also in these cases, if there are special grounds.

b) A person who meets the general entry requirements for research study programmes (120 credits from undergraduate programmes or corresponding knowledge\textsuperscript{17}), before 1 July 2007 will also be considered to meet the general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes after that, however, until no later than the end of June 2015\textsuperscript{18}. Exemptions from this provision are not permitted.

\textsuperscript{13} Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 34
\textsuperscript{14} Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 35
\textsuperscript{15} Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 39
\textsuperscript{16} Point 10, transitional provisions for SFS 2006:1053
\textsuperscript{17} A person who has completed an undergraduate programme of at least 120 credits, or in some other way, in Sweden or abroad, has acquired substantially corresponding knowledge
\textsuperscript{18} Point 11, transitional provisions for SFS 2006:1053
2.2 Specific entry requirements

A person meets the specific entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes in the subject if he or she has received a passing grade in courses of at least 90 credits, including an independent project on the advanced course level\(^{19}\) in sport science or other subject of high relevance to the scientific field in question. A person who has acquired substantially corresponding knowledge, in Sweden or abroad, also meets the specific entry requirements.

*Transitional provisions*

A person with credits or qualifications from undergraduate programmes under the previous higher education system corresponding to the entry requirements in the previous paragraph will also be eligible\(^{20}\).

This primarily refers to a passing grade in courses of at least 60 credits, including an independent project on the advanced/60 credit course level in sport science or other subject of high relevance to the scientific field in question.

2.3 Ability in other respects to benefit from the course or study programme

The assessment whether the applicant has such ability in other respects to benefit from the programme shall be made based on prior courses and programmes taken by the applicant, on other previous activities, as well as on the essays and other independent projects of a scholarly nature that have been submitted by the applicant (compare assessment criteria in accordance with the university’s regulations on the selection of doctoral students below).

3 Selection from among the applicants

In selecting between applicants, their ability to benefit from the programme shall be taken into account. The higher education institution determines which assessment criteria shall be used in determining the ability to benefit from the programme. However, the fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants\(^{21}\).

*Assessment criteria for selection*\(^{22}\)

The criteria A - B aim at facilitating an examination of the applicant’s ability to benefit from the programme. They should therefore be relevant to the applicant’s

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\(^{19}\) The “advanced course level” refers to the same level of progression as under the previous higher education system. With the new credit system, the advanced course level thus refers to 61-90 credits within the main field of study.

\(^{20}\) Point 10, transitional provisions for SFS 2006:1053

\(^{21}\) Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 41

\(^{22}\) Local regulations on the selection of doctoral students to third-cycle courses and study programmes etc.

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ability to later achieve the learning outcomes of the programme. The outcomes are described in annex 1 to this general syllabus.

A Courses, study programmes and other previous activities – formal qualifications
The assessment is based on submitted certificates and transcripts as well as on degree certificates and/or course certificates.

Completed courses and study programmes and experience contributing to the applicant’s ability to successfully benefit from the programme applied for are considered an additional qualification.

- Courses and study programmes
  Special emphasis is given to the scope, depth and grades of the applicant’s prior courses and study programmes within the subject area applied for, particularly the grades on written independent projects.
  Emphasis is also given to the scope, depth and grades of prior courses and study programmes within other fields of great relevance to the subject area applied for.

- Other previous activities
  Special emphasis is given to long and independent professional and/or vocational experience of great relevance to the subject area applied for.

B Capability – demonstrated knowledge, competence and skills
The assessment is based on a consideration of the applicant’s submitted essays and other written independent projects of a scholarly nature, as well as a brief outline of research interests. For those applicants who at this stage are considered to be most qualified, and if it is deemed necessary, references will be taken and interviews will be carried out.

It is considered an additional qualification if the applicant demonstrates such knowledge, competence and skills that contribute to them being successfully able to benefit from the programme applied for. These are for example
- sound theoretical, analytic and methodological knowledge;
- sound ability to discuss, in writing and in speech, issues and conclusions;
- intellectual independence; and
- sound ability to carry out advanced tasks within given time frames.

Special emphasis is given to the applicant’s ability to
- identify and formulate realistic and productive research problems;
- integrate knowledge and experience and apply these in ways and in contexts where they have not previously been used; and
- conduct a dialogue characterised by independence as well as by an ability to cooperate.

C Weighing up qualifications
The fact that an applicant is considered able to transfer credits from prior courses and study programmes or for professional or vocational experience may not alone give the applicant priority over other applicants (Higher Education Ordinance, Chapter 7, Section 41).
When weighing up the assessment criteria A and B, the greatest emphasis is placed on criteria B, Capability.

D Gender equality

If, followed from the above, applicants are found to have equal qualifications, preference will be given to applicants of the sex that is underrepresented among the doctoral students within the subject area\textsuperscript{23}. The underrepresented sex here refers to if and when the share of either female or male students enrolled on the subject area’s third-cycle study programme amounts to less than 40 per cent.

\textsuperscript{23} Higher Education Act (SFS 1992:1434), Chapter 1, Section 5, second paragraph and other provisions