



## Qualification rules for education at first, second and third cycle at the Swedish Defence University

### Governing Document

#### Qualification rules for education at first, second and third cycle at the Swedish Defence University

Classification	Rules
Reference number	Ö 107/2025
Decision maker	Vice-Chancellor
Party responsible for the document	C FUS
Most recent decision date	2025-01-01
Valid until	2027-06-30
Document being replaced	Ö 750/2023
Brief summary	Qualification rules for qualifications at first, second and third cycle at the Swedish Defence University.



## Table of Contents

Qualification rules for education at first, second and third cycle at the Swedish Defence University.....	1
1. National provisions on qualifications.....	3
1.1 The Swedish Higher Education Act.....	3
1.2 The Higher Education Ordinance.....	3
1.3 Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University.....	3
2. Local provisions at the Swedish Defence University.....	5
2.1 First and second-cycle.....	5
2.2 Third cycle-level.....	5
2.3 Degree certificate.....	5
3. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at first-cycle at the Swedish Defence University.....	7
3.1 General qualifications.....	7
3.1.1 Higher Education Diploma.....	7
3.1.2 Degree of Bachelor.....	7
3.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at first-cycle.....	7
3.2 Professional qualification.....	8
3.2.1 Specified requirements for professional qualification.....	8
4. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at second-cycle at the Swedish Defence University.....	9
4.1 General qualifications.....	9
4.1.1 Degree of Master (60 credits).....	9
4.1.2 Degree of Master (120 credits).....	9
4.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at second-cycle.....	9
5. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at third-cycle at the Swedish Defence University.....	11
5.1 General qualifications.....	11
5.1.1 Degree of Licentiate.....	11
5.1.2 Degree of Doctor.....	11
5.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at third cycle level.....	11



## 1. National provisions on qualifications

The national provisions on qualifications are included in the Swedish Higher Education Act (1992:1434 with amendments) and the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100 with amendments). The qualifications that the Swedish Defence University has the right to issue can be found in the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164).

The above statutes can be read on the Swedish Parliament's website.

### 1.1 The Swedish Higher Education Act

The Swedish Higher Education Act states that:

- Qualifications shall be awarded in the first, second or third cycle. The Government issues regulations on the qualifications that may be awarded and the cycle in which they shall be awarded.

### 1.2 The Higher Education Ordinance

The Higher Education Ordinance states that:

- For the purposes of this ordinance, a student is one who is admitted to and follows higher education and a doctoral student is one who is admitted to and follows third-cycle education, unless otherwise specified.
- A student who fulfils the requirements for the award of a qualification shall, upon request, be provided with a certificate.
- In the certificate the higher education institution shall indicate the title of the qualification, the cycle in which it was awarded, if the qualification forms part of a joint degree as laid down in Section 17 of Chapter 1 of the Higher Education Act, the first and second-cycle courses taken for award of the qualification, and at which higher education institution the courses or corresponding third-cycle courses and programmes have been completed. A translation of the title of the qualification to one or several languages may be included in the certificate.
- A certificate shall be accompanied by a diploma supplement that describes the study programme and its place in the educational system. The Swedish Council for Higher Education may issue more detailed specifications of the contents of a diploma supplement as laid down in item 1 above.
- If a certificate is awarded for a study programme undertaken at more than one higher education institution, it shall be awarded by the institution at which it was completed by the student. This does not apply, however, if the higher education institutions involved have reached some other agreement.
- The qualification descriptors for doctorates lay down that an approved doctoral thesis is required for the award of these degrees. The doctoral thesis shall be presented and defended orally in public. A faculty examiner (opponent) shall be appointed for this presentation.
- Students who have been refused their request to obtain degree certificates have the right to appeal this decision to the Higher Education Appeals Board.

### 1.3 Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University

Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University states that:

- The only qualifications that may be awarded for first, second and third cycle courses and study programmes at the Swedish Defence University are those listed in the annex to this ordinance. This annex also lays down in which cycle and in which field a specific qualification shall be awarded and the requirements to be fulfilled for a specific qualification (qualification descriptor). The annex also contains provisions on the title of the qualifications and their translations.



- The Swedish Defence University may take part in educational cooperation as laid down in the second paragraph of Section 17 of Chapter 1 of the Higher Education Act only if this cooperation is based on a written agreement. Agreements of this kind may be reached by the Swedish Defence University with
  1. a university or higher education institution subject to the Higher Education Act,
  2. an independent course provider entitled to award a qualification pursuant to the Act Concerning Authority to Award Certain Qualifications, or
  3. a higher education institution outside Sweden that is not a physical individual.
- In addition to the provisions laid down in Section 11b of Chapter 6 of the Higher Education Ordinance the Swedish Defence University may reach an agreement pursuant to Section 2a only if the courses and programmes cannot lead to the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Military Studies as defined in the annex to this ordinance.



## 2. Local provisions at the Swedish Defence University

In addition to national provisions, each institution can decide on local rules and regulations, within the framework of the national provisions.

Qualification rules at the Swedish Defence University comprise both national and local provisions for education at first, second and third cycle.

### 2.1 First and second-cycle

- For all the qualifications issued at the Swedish Defence University, at least one course shall have been examined with approved results at the Swedish Defence University.
- Only courses at higher education level with completed course requirements and finishing with a final grade can be included in the qualifications.
- In the event that courses with common content are to be included in the same degree, credits will be deducted for the common content.
- The degree certificate lists courses passed, credits, grades, grading scale, dates and any credit transfer. Courses conducted at a university other than the Swedish Defence University are marked in the degree certificate.
- The entry requirements for education do not guarantee that the course requirements for qualifications at the Swedish Defence University are fulfilled and that a qualification can be issued.
- Two or more qualifications can only be issued if all qualification requirements in each main field of study are met and separate independent projects (degree projects) are carried out.
- The current list of main fields of study in a Degree of Bachelor, Degree of Master (60 credits) or Degree of Master (120 credits) is available at [fhs.se](https://fhs.se)

### 2.2 Third cycle-level

- Doctoral students shall complete their education at third-cycle with the course requirements and specialisation specified in the general syllabus for third-cycle programme to which the doctoral student has been admitted.
- The current list of third-cycle subject areas in a Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy or Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is available at [fhs.se](https://fhs.se)

### 2.3 Degree certificate

- A student or doctoral student who fulfils the requirements for the award of a qualification shall, upon request, be provided with a certificate.
- The application for degree certificates is made individually and the assessment of qualifications is assessed against the requirements set. The student or doctoral student is responsible for ensuring that a complete application is submitted.
- At the first and second-cycle, the decision on degree certificates is taken by the person to which the right has been delegated.
- At the third-cycle, the decision on degree certificates is taken by the person to which the right has been delegated.
- The date for issuing a certificate is the date of decision.



- All degree certificates at the Swedish Defence University are issued in both Swedish and English and are accompanied by a diploma supplement in English. The diploma supplement describes the education and its place in the Swedish education system.
- The degree certificate at first and second-cycle shows the title of qualification and the cycle at which the degree has been completed, as well as the date of issue and date of completed studies.
- The degree certificate at third-cycle shows the title of qualification, the subject area and the cycle at which the degree has been completed, as well as the date of issue and date of defence of doctoral thesis. The degree certificate at third-cycle also shows the title of the doctoral thesis.



### 3. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at first-cycle at the Swedish Defence University

#### 3.1 General qualifications

The Swedish Defence University applies Swedish designations to the qualifications and their English translations in accordance with recommendations of the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF).

##### 3.1.1 Higher Education Diploma

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Higher Education Diploma is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including the main field of study. The main field of study must be established at the lowest bachelor's level.

Högskoleexamen med inriktning mot...  
*Higher Education Diploma with specialisation in ...*

##### 3.1.2 Degree of Bachelor

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Degree of Bachelor is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including philosophy and the main field of study.

Filosofie kandidatexamen i...  
*Degree of Bachelor of Arts/Science in...*

##### 3.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at first-cycle

Specified requirements for general qualifications at first-cycle at the Swedish Defence University in addition to the national qualification descriptions found in the annex to the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164).

##### **Specified requirements for Higher Education Diploma, 120 credits**

- For a higher education diploma, studies of 60 credits are required in one of the Swedish Defence University's specified main field of study.
- An independent project (degree project) of at least 7.5 credits in the main field of study shall be included in the qualification.

##### **Specified requirements for Degree of Bachelor, 180 credits**

- For a Degree of Bachelor, at least 90 credits are required in the main field of study with progressive specialisation. Of the progressive specialisation in the main field of study, at least 30 credits shall be at level G2 (according to SUHF's designations for courses' places in the progressive specialisation in the main area).
- An independent project (degree project) of at least 15 credits in the main field of study shall be included in the qualification.



### 3.2 Professional qualification

The Swedish Defence University applies the degree names specified in the annex to the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164) and its English translation.

Officersexamen

*Degree of Bachelor of Science in Military Studies*

#### 3.2.1 Specified requirements for professional qualification

Specified requirements for professional qualification at first-cycle at the Swedish Defence University in addition to the national qualification descriptions found in the annex to the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164).

#### **Specified requirements for Degree of Bachelor of Science in Military studies, 180 credits**

- The requirements for each specialisation are shown in the programme syllabus.



## 4. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at second-cycle at the Swedish Defence University

### 4.1 General qualifications

The Swedish Defence University applies Swedish designations to the qualifications and their English translations in accordance with recommendations of the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF).

#### 4.1.1 Degree of Master (60 credits)

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Degree of Master (60 credits) is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including philosophy and the main field of study.

Filosofie magisterexamen i...

*Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) in...*

What is said in the first paragraph does not apply to degrees in law:

Magisterexamen i juridik med inriktning mot internationell operativ juridik (60 hp)

*Degree of Master of Laws (LL.M.), (60 credits) in International Operational Law*

What is said in the first paragraph does not apply to a Degree of Master (60 credits) within the framework of the Master of Science in Military Studies - Joint Advanced Command and Staff Programme from autumn semester 2024, then it applies instead:

Filosofie magisterexamen i militära studier med huvudområdet...

*Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) in Military Studies with a major in...*

#### 4.1.2 Degree of Master (120 credits)

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Degree of Master (120 credits) is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including philosophy and the main field of study.

Filosofie masterexamen i...

*Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) in...*

What is said in the first paragraph does not apply to a Degree of Master (120 credits) within the framework of the Master of Science in Military Studies - Joint Advanced Command and Staff Programme from autumn semester 2024, then it applies instead:

Filosofie masterexamen i militära studier med huvudområdet...

*Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) in Military Studies with a major in...*

#### 4.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at second-cycle

Specified requirements for general qualifications at second-cycle at the Swedish Defence University in addition to the national qualification descriptions found in the annex to the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164).

##### Specified requirements for Degree of Master, 60 credits

- For Degree of Master (60 credits), at least 30 credits are required with specialisation in the main field of study.
- An independent project (degree project) of at least 15 credits in the main field of study shall be included in the qualification.
- In addition, a maximum of 15 credits can be included in courses at first-cycle.



**Specified requirements for Degree of Master, 120 credits**

- For Degree of Master (120 credits), at least 60 credits are required with specialisation in the main field of study.
- An independent project (degree project) of at least 30 credits in the main field of study shall be included in the qualification. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, however no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle for at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a programme of study outside Sweden.
- In addition, a maximum of 15 credits can be included in courses at first-cycle.



## 5. Qualifications, titles of qualifications and specified requirements at third-cycle at the Swedish Defence University

### 5.1 General qualifications

The Swedish Defence University applies the following Swedish designations and their English translations.

#### 5.1.1 Degree of Licentiate

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Degree of Licentiate is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including philosophy and the subject area.

Filosofie licentiatexamen i...

*Degree of Licentiate of Philosophy in...*

#### 5.1.2 Degree of Doctor

At the Swedish Defence University, the main specialisation of the Degree of Doctor is indicated by the title of qualification in Swedish including philosophy and the subject area.

Filosofie doktorsexamen i...

*Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in...*

#### 5.1.3 Specified requirements for general qualifications at third cycle level

Specified requirements for general qualifications at third cycle level at the Swedish Defence University in addition to the national qualification descriptions found in the annex to the Ordinance for the Swedish Defence University (2007:1164).

##### **Specified requirements for Degree of Licentiate, 120 credits**

- Knowledge requirements for the degree of licentiate shall be fulfilled according to the general syllabus for third-cycle programme to which the doctoral student has been admitted.

##### **Specified requirements for Degree of Doctor, 240 credits**

- Knowledge requirements for the Degree of Doctor shall be fulfilled according to the general syllabus for third-cycle programme to which the doctoral student has been admitted.