

## **PhD Programme in War Studies: Implementation Plan**

According to the General Study Plan (ASP) for the PhD Programme in War Studies (Ö 582/2022), the PhD Programme in War Studies comprises 240 credits and leads to a doctoral degree. The programme consists of four years of full-time studies and includes of a course component of 60 credits and a thesis component of 180 credits. The doctoral student is expected to participate regularly and actively in the department's higher seminar and in other relevant seminars organised by the department. Active participation means that the doctoral students participate in discussions and submits their own thesis drafts as well as fulfils assigned tasks. In addition, the doctoral students have to present their research at a subject-relevant national as well as international conference and to be the opponent on another doctoral student's thesis draft.

The Supervisory Committee (handledarkollegium) has the ultimate responsibility for the quality review of the theses before the defence. To this end, the doctoral student presents their thesis work on three occasions at the departmental seminars, to which all doctoral students and faculty are invited. It is of great importance that members of the Supervisory Committee and the doctoral students in particular attend the seminar. All participants are encouraged to actively participate in the seminar and to provide constructive criticism, although the members of the Supervisory Committee are expected to take particular responsibility. In addition, the doctoral students must present their thesis manuscript at a manuscript conference attended by 5-6 selected people. Finally, the thesis manuscript must be reviewed by a green-reading committee consisting of two senior reviewers before the thesis can be defended at the public defence.

### **Courses**

The mandatory courses amount to 45 credits. During the first year, the doctoral student should have completed all mandatory courses: an introductory course (15 credits) and a methods course (15 credits) during the first term, and an advanced course in War Studies (7,5 credits) and an ethics course (7,5 credits) during the second term.

The elective courses amount to 15 credits and must include at least 7,5 credits of thesis specific methods. Elective courses may be taken already during the second term and should be completed no later than the fourth term.

### **PM-seminar**

The mandatory PM-seminar takes place at the beginning of the second year of the PhD program. The purpose of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for the doctoral student to present the direction and overall structure of the thesis. The thesis plan must be submitted no later than one week before the seminar.

**Content:** To facilitate constructive criticism, the thesis plan needs to be clear and concrete in its design. The research problem and research questions must be specified, and the research problem positioned in relation to previous research. Important concepts (theoretical and empirical) as well as underlying assumptions should be identified, and the research design and relevant methods discussed. In addition, the thesis plan must contain an overview of the planned thesis (for a compilation thesis this includes an account of all or at least the majority of the planned articles) as well as a timetable for the remaining work. The length of the thesis plan should not exceed 30 pages, excluding references.

**Opponent:** A senior opponent (at least holding a PhD degree) is appointed by the research committee in War Studies, based on a proposal from the director of studies in consultation with the main supervisor.

**Seminar:** The seminar has 60 minutes at its disposal. About half of the time should be dedicated to a dialogue between the opponent and the doctoral student, and the remaining time should be reserved for questions from the rest of the seminar. The opponent should focus on strengths and weaknesses, possible contradictions and areas that need further development.

**Follow-up meeting:** After the seminar, the main supervisor organises a follow-up meeting with the doctoral student, co-supervisor(s) and the opponent, where the comments from the seminar are discussed. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and concretise what implications the comments should have for continued thesis work. The opponent is also given an opportunity to elaborate on previous comments. The main supervisor confirms in an email to the director of doctoral studies that the follow-up meeting has taken place and indicates whether there are any concerns that may affect the continued work on the thesis.

### War Studies Seminar

During years two to four, the doctoral student must present their ongoing research at the War Studies Seminar on at least two occasions. The purpose of these seminars is to give the doctoral student an opportunity to receive feedback from colleagues, thereby enhancing the quality of the thesis project, and to give the department an opportunity to evaluate the progress of the thesis work. The texts must be submitted no later than one week before the seminar.

**Content:** The doctoral student is expected to present a central part of the thesis, as well as to show the larger context in which the text is situated. The text should normally include some analytical work. If the thesis is a monograph, the seminar text should be a draft of one of the substantive chapters as well as an overview of the entire thesis, including a table of contents and a brief account of the dissertation's research problems, questions, research design, etc. If the thesis is a compilation thesis, the seminar text should be a draft of one of the articles of the thesis as well as an overview of the entire thesis, including a list of all articles and a brief account of the thesis' overall research problems, questions, research design, etc. The length of the text should not

exceed 30 pages, excluding references, plus an overview of the entire thesis of approximately 5 pages.

**Opponent:** A senior opponent (at least holding a PhD degree) is appointed to one of the seminars and a senior- and doctoral student opponent is appointed to the other seminar. The opponents are appointed by the research committee in War Studies, based on a proposal from the director of studies in consultation with the main supervisor.

**Seminar:** The seminar has two hours at its disposal. At the beginning of the seminar, the doctoral student introduces the content of the chapter/article and its relation to the thesis for about 10-15 minutes. This is followed by a dialogue between the opponent(s) and the doctoral student for about 45-60 minutes. The remaining time should be reserved for questions from the rest of the seminar. Before the seminar with two opponents, it is important that the opponents coordinate their comments.

**Follow-up meeting:** After the seminar, the main supervisor organises a follow-up meeting with the doctoral student, co-supervisor(s) and the senior opponent, where the comments from the seminar are discussed. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and concretise what implications the comments should have for continued thesis work. The opponent is also given the opportunity to elaborate on previous comments. The main supervisor confirms in an email to the director of doctoral studies that the follow-up meeting has taken place and indicates whether there are any concerns that may affect the continued work on the thesis.

### Manuscript Conference

In good time before the planned public defence (usually 6-7 months), the doctoral student must present a complete thesis manuscript at the manuscript conference. The purpose of the manuscript conference is to give the doctoral student an opportunity to receive feedback from internal and external colleagues, thereby enhancing the quality of the thesis project before the defence. The thesis manuscript must be submitted no later than three weeks before the manuscript conference.

**Content:** In the case of a monograph thesis, all chapters must be included and be sufficiently advanced to clearly indicate how the final version will look. In the case of a compilation thesis, all articles (even if not yet accepted for publication) and an introductory essay (kappa) must be included and sufficiently advanced to clearly indicate how the final version will look.

**Composition:** About 5-6 people are invited to the manuscript conference, including at least two reviewers from the department (both at least associate professors), at least two reviewers from War Studies (or equivalent subject) at another university, and one to two doctoral students from the department. If someone who has not been invited to the manuscript conference wishes to attend, they are welcome to do so with the approval of the supervisor and the doctoral student and provided that they have read the manuscript in advance. All of the doctoral student's supervisors must be present at the manuscript conference.

The reviewers are appointed by the research committee in War Studies, based on a proposal from the director of studies in consultation with the main supervisor. One of the internal reviewers is appointed as chair of the manuscript conference, and one of the external reviewers is appointed as the opening opponent. The main supervisor is responsible for organising the conference. The time for the manuscript conference is decided by the supervisor and doctoral student in consultation. The decision is communicated to the director of doctoral studies.

**Seminar:** The seminar has 6-7 hours at its disposal, including lunch. The invited participants are expected to have read the whole manuscript. The tone should be informal in order to give the doctoral student the best possible feedback. It is important that sufficient time is planned between the manuscript conference and the defence, so that necessary changes and improvements can be made before submission.

**Follow-up meeting:** After the manuscript conference, the chair of the manuscript conference organises a follow-up meeting with the internal and external reviewers, to provide an overall assessment of the scientific quality of the thesis and to identify any revisions that are required before the thesis is ready for the public defence. Revisions that are considered less important but could strengthen the thesis may also be mentioned. A list of all revisions must be documented. It is important to make a clear distinction between revisions that are absolutely necessary and those that are desirable for the thesis to achieve sufficient quality for the public defence. The estimated time required for the revisions must also be included in the document. Supervisors have the right to attend the meeting.

### **Green Reading Committee**

When the doctoral student and the main supervisor agree that the revisions have been made in accordance with the recommendations of the Manuscript Conference, the doctoral student sends the revised thesis manuscript to the chair of the Green Reading Committee, together with a detailed account of the changes made.

The Green Reading Committee consists of the two senior reviewers from the department (both at least Associate Professor) who attended the Manuscript Conference. The chair of the Manuscript Conference is also the chair of the Green Reading Committee. The Green Reading Committee should both make sure that the problems identified by the reviewers at the Manuscript Conference have been resolved and assess whether the manuscript demonstrates that the doctoral student is meeting the objectives of the doctoral degree.

The Green Reading Committee makes an overall assessment of the scientific quality of the thesis – normally within 4-6 weeks – with the aim of making a recommendation to the Head of Department as to whether the thesis manuscript is of sufficient scientific quality to be defended at a public defence, or whether further revisions are required. The Committee should refrain from making further suggestions on how to strengthen the manuscript. Both reviewers should agree on a recommendation.

On the basis of the final review, the Head of Department, in consultation with the Green Reading Committee, decides whether to recommend or advise against the defence. In cases where the final review does not recommend a public defence, the Green Reading Committee must provide a written statement of any additions and adjustments that need to be made before the defence.

The Research Committee in War Studies appoints the members of the Green Reading Committee on the proposal of the Director of Studies in consultation with the main supervisor in connection with the appointment of participants in the Manuscript Conference.

### **Additional compulsory elements**

In addition to courses and PhD student seminars, the doctoral students must present their research at a subject-relevant national as well as international conference, and to be the opponent on another doctoral student's thesis draft.

### **Departmental work**

If the doctoral student plans to teach as part of departmental duties during their research education, they are encouraged to take a course in higher education pedagogy as part of the departmental duties during semester 2 or 3.