



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

Memo

28 May 2020

STYR 2020/2001

Faculty offices

CC: Research Programmes Board

Research Programmes Board
Chair

Extension of doctoral studentship on the “special grounds” of Covid-19

Pursuant to Chapter 5 Section 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the total period of employment for doctoral students may exceed four years on a full-time basis if there are special grounds. Special grounds may comprise absence because of illness, leave of absence for service in the defence forces or an elected position in a trade union or student organisation, or parental leave.

In the assessment of the Swedish Agency for Government Employers (22 April 2020)¹, if a doctoral student has been unable to complete assigned tasks due to circumstances that can be ascribed to Covid-19, it should be possible to extend their total period of employment with reference to Covid-19 as “special grounds”. At Lund University, such cases are to take the following into account:

- The University is to assess any extension of a doctoral studentship² on a case-to-case basis.
- The extension of the doctoral studentship is to be documented in the individual study plan.
- The principal supervisor is responsible for discussing any applicable measures with the doctoral student.
- Primarily, the doctoral student’s undertakings, set out in the timetable included in the individual study plan (ISP), should be rescheduled.
- The head of department (equivalent) has employer responsibility pursuant to current regulations.

Furthermore, the following apply:

- *Regulations for doctoral education at Lund University* (STYR 2018/562)
- *Admission rules for doctoral education at Lund University* (STYR 2017/409).

¹ The Swedish Agency for Government Employers’ compilation of FAQs with labour law information for public sector employers regarding the Covid-19 pandemic (www.arbetsgivarverket.se).

² This is to be understood as including licentiate students as well.