Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's Action on 10/07/17

Title of Programme

MPhil International Relations

Brief note about nature of change: amendment to assessment for Research Methods

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016* http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/mopininterela/studentview/

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2017

For first examination (Qualifying Examination) from 2017-18

Detail of change

1. Amend citation reference 1.10 as follows:

'2. ~~A single, three-hour examination paper covering material from the methods programme as taught in the first year, namely:~~ A designated course of research methods training, including written tests in statistics and in Research Design and Methods in International Relations, covering material from the programme as taught in Michaelmas Term and in Hilary Term of the first year. The details of these requirements, including the dates of the tests, are set out in the *Student Handbook*.'

2. Delete citation reference 1.11 as follows:

'~~*Research Design and Approaches to Research in International Relations*: An introduction to the various methods used in, and approaches to, research in International Relations, and to the major debates and controversies in the field. Students should acquire knowledge of the skills, techniques and questions involved in undertaking research projects, including research design, theory building, derivation of hypotheses, and the choice of appropriate~~

~~qualitative and quantitative methods to develop critical arguments and to test hypotheses and theories. Topics to be examined may include: the relationship between debates in the history and philosophy of science and different understandings of research methods in International Relations; logic of enquiry and theory building; concepts and measurement; causality and casual inference; single case studies, case selection and selections bias; comparative case studies and QCA; process tracing and longitudinal analysis; the relationship between qualitative and quantitative methods; quantitative methods, including linear regression analysis; formal methods and rational choice; public goods, collective action and cooperation; issues in the study of institutions, including historical institutionalism and the study of practice; methods and approaches for the study of ideas, norms and ideology; discourse and language; methodological controversies in the history of ideas; historiographical disputes over method and approaches to history; methodological developments in the study of global history; critical theory as an approach to International Relations, including feminism and post-colonialism; inter-disciplinarity and the virtues and limits of pluralism. The examination paper will be sub-divided in order to test different elements of the first-year coursework (which will vary from year to year but will be fully specified in the Course Handbook), but will always include one section devoted to testing statistical literacy.~~'

Explanatory Notes

Change to assessment for Research Methods in first year.