

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Teaching Audit Committee by Chair's Action on 02/03/18

Title of Programme

MPhil Development Studies

Brief note about nature of change: changes to clarify requirements for qualifying test and final exam

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2017* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/mopindevstud/studentview/> as amended by *Gazette* of 12/09/17

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2018

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

Remove citation reference 1.1 – 1.35 and replace with the following:

1. The course shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of International Development.
2. Candidates must follow for six terms courses of instruction as laid down for the M.Phil. in Development Studies by the Graduate Studies Committee.
3. *Core Course in Development Studies* Candidates must pursue a core course in development studies which is taught in the first year of the degree. The core course covers the following aspects: (i) ideas about development: social, political and development theory, and (ii) key themes in development such as agrarian change, urbanisation, social policy, sustainable development, states and governance, and technology and innovation.

4. Candidates will be admitted to take the examination as defined below in a specific year. In exceptional circumstances candidates may be allowed to take an examination later than the one to which they were admitted. Permission for this must be sought from the Proctors through the candidate's college.

5. The registration of candidates shall lapse from the Register of M.Phil. Students on the last day of Trinity Term of their second academic year.

6. *First year examinations*

6.1 Every candidate must pass a qualifying test consisting of the following components to be permitted to progress to the second year of the course. The test comprises the following:

(a) two foundation papers to be taken at the start of the Trinity Term of the first year of study. Details of the foundations papers are set out below in section 6.2;

(b) one written paper in Research Methods, to be taken at the end of the Trinity Term of the first year of study. Questions will be set on qualitative and quantitative methods in the social sciences;

(c) One research design essay of 3,000-5,000 words. Candidates are required to submit the essay in Trinity Term of the first year of study. Candidates should upload the essay to the MPhil Development Studies WebLearn site by the time and date specified in the Course Handbook. The essay must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work.

(d) two core course essays. Candidates are required to submit these essays in the first year of the course at the times and date specified in the Course Handbook. Each essay should cover the topics of two components (one per essay) of the core course in Development Studies as described in section 3 above.

6.2. Candidates will select two foundation papers from the list set out below except that candidates with a non-economics background are required to include *Economics* as one of the two papers and candidates are not permitted, except with the permission of the Graduate Studies Committee, to offer a paper in the subject of their bachelor's degree.

(a) *History and Politics* Topics may include the themes of state formation and development; encounters between different civilisations; colonialism, collaboration, and resistance; nationalism, decolonisation; class formation, gender relations, and the formation of political identities; politics and policy. Students will be expected to show knowledge of developments in countries from more than one of the following regions: Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

(b) *Economics* The course focuses on the way economists think about development. Topics may include key concepts in economics (e.g. opportunity costs, the role of incentives) and applications to developing countries. The goal is to provide students with an understanding of economics as a discipline that speaks to other social sciences and that can help explain

some of the recurring patterns that we see in developing countries

(c) *Social Anthropology* Topics may include the perspectives of anthropology upon social change, modernity, progress and commonwealth; personhood and well-being; social and personal agency; authority and responsibility in the field of productive activity; marriage, kinship, family and gender in theory and practice; technological innovations; development planning and identity struggles.

6.3. A candidate who fails to pass any of the components of the qualifying test will be permitted to retake/resubmit the failed assessment item(s) before the beginning of the first week of the next academic year.

6.4 The qualifying test marks awarded for the written paper in Research Methods, the research design essay, and the two core course essays will also contribute toward the final outcome of the degree.

7. Final year examinations

7.1. Every candidate must satisfy the examiners in following components:

(a) A thesis of not more than 30,000 words (excluding bibliography but including footnotes and appendices) on a topic approved by the MPhil Teaching Committee, to which the Graduate Studies Committee delegates this function. The thesis must be on a topic in the general field of development studies. The topic of the thesis must be chosen in consultation with and with the approval of the candidate's supervisor. If a separate thesis supervisor is required, he or she must have agreed to undertake the supervision prior to the approval of the topic as specified above. The thesis must be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford not later than the Friday of the first week of the Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken.

(b) Two written papers selected from a range of options papers. Details of the options papers available will be notified during the first year of the course. Candidates may include subjects offered in other relevant masters degrees in the University, subject to permission from the relevant Graduate Studies Committee and from the MPhil Teaching Committee. Applications to do this must normally be made by the first Friday of Trinity Term in the student's first year.

7.2. Failure in one or more components of the final year examination results in failure of the degree. Candidates may re-take the examination of the failed options paper(s) and/or resubmit the thesis in Trinity Term of the following academic year.'

Explanatory Notes

Changes to:

- i. Clarify the requirements for the qualifying test and final year exams, to reflect existing practice and ensure consistency between regulations, conventions,

handbook and prospectus

- ii. Remove admissions information
- iii. Add a course governance clause
- iv. Remove information more appropriately included in conventions
- v. Remove superfluous information not required in regulations
- vi. Group information regarding re-sits
- vii. Remove information regarding Distinctions, as this is covered by General Regulations
- viii. Re-order material to improve logical flow of regulations