Changes to *Examination Regulations 2012*

**Medical Sciences Board**

**Approved:** 23rd April 2013

**Title of Programme/s:** D.Phil. programmes in the Medical Sciences Division and the Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre

**Brief note about nature of change:** To introduce new requirements for Confirmation of Status for students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

**N.B.** All students on a D.Phil. programme in the Medical Sciences Division and the Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre, who confirm status from Michaelmas Term 2013 onwards, will be subject to this change in regulations.

**Effective date:** With effect from 1 October 2013

**Location of change:** *Examination Regulations 2012*

**Details of change:**

1. In *Examination Regulations*, 2012, p. 898, delete ll. 33-38 and substitute:

‘Candidates shall normally apply for confirmation of status in the eighth term from their admission as a research student, and no later than the ninth term from their admission as a research student. The Board strongly advises candidates to apply for confirmation of status a minimum of one term before they intend to submit their thesis.

Candidates should submit the statement from the supervisor and the statement from the candidate’s society as specified by the regulations governing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Candidates must include a statement detailing the skills training that they have undertaken. This paperwork should be accompanied by a full contents list for the thesis, and include the milestones of any remaining work to be undertaken, and dates for the submission of draft chapters to the supervisor(s) for comment.

Candidates shall be required to deliver a formal, oral presentation of their work. The presentation will be attended by two assessors who are deemed to have the appropriate expertise to comment on the content of the project. The assessors will be appointed by the candidate’s department; at least one assessor will have had no direct supervisory involvement with the student.

The assessors will report to the Board on the candidate’s suitability for confirmation of D.Phil. status. This report will be based on the information provided in the statement from the supervisor and the statement from the candidate’s society as specified by the regulations governing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and in the supplementary statement from the candidate in conjunction with their presentation. In cases where
confirmation of status is not recommended the assessors will attach a short written report detailing where the work submitted falls below the standard required.'

2. Ibid., p. 910, at the end of l. 30 insert: ‘In all other respects the procedure for confirmation of status of such students will follow the procedures for confirmation of status of students within the Medical Sciences Division.’

Explanatory Notes

Revised arrangements for Confirmation of Status have been agreed following consultation by the Graduate Studies Committee with departments and with students (June-November 2012), and subsequently approved by the Educational Policy and Standards Committee and the Medical Sciences Board in Michaelmas Term 2012. The new procedures will enhance the rigour of the Confirmation of Status process.