

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of Quality Assurance Committee (16/11/2018) and by Education Committee (18/03/2019)

Master of Science by Coursework in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendments to Paper I and Paper III to facilitate the introduction of a new core course in *Borders and Forced Migration*.
2. Amendment to the method of assessment of the *Research Design Essay*.
3. Minor structural changes.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018*, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbciraforcmigrstud/studentview/>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.2 as follows:

~~'2. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in three papers and two essay papers as follows:~~

2. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in three written papers, an individual research design essay, and a thesis as follows:

2. Amend citation 1.3 as follows:

'Paper I: International Legal and ~~Ethical~~ Sociological frameworks'

3. Amend citation 1.4 as follows:

'International legal and ~~ethical~~ sociological frameworks in relation to refugees and displaced persons. International and domestic application of individual and group rights to displaced persons and refugees. Activities and involvement of the relevant international organs, governments, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations relevant to forced migration. Concepts of migration and intervention and their justifications. ~~Ethical issues raised by migration.~~ Border enforcement, deportation, detention, and security. Post-colonial perspectives and criminological perspectives on forced migration.'

4. Amend citation 1.8 as follows:

'Environmental and development-induced displacement. Poverty and vulnerability. Impact of forced migrants on host populations and governments. Agency, coping mechanisms and survival strategies of affected populations. Nationalism, ethnicity and group identity. Consequences of resettlement programmes for livelihood and economic autonomy. Repatriation and local-level social reconstruction. Institutional responses to forced migrants. Refugees and regional politics. The history and politics of humanitarian aid. Ethical issues raised by migration. Gender and forced migration.'

5. Move citations 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11 after citation 1.14 so that the sections on the *Individual Research Design Essay* (citations 1.12, 1.13, and 1.14) appear before sections on the multidisciplinary thesis.

6. Amend citation 1.12 as follows:

~~'Research Methods Group Essay~~ *Individual Research Design Essay*

7. Amend citation 1.13 as follows:

'Each student must display an understanding of research methods relevant to forced migration. This will be in the form of ~~a group~~ an individual research design essay of approximately, but no more than 53,000 words. The essay will engage with topics which may include: epistemology of social science; social science paradigms; ethics and values; quantitative, qualitative, and participatory methods of data collection; the presentation of statistical information; research design; sampling theory; hypothesis testing; questionnaire design; participant observation; participatory learning and action; and evaluative research.'

8. Delete citation 1.15

9. Insert the following text after citation 1.16:

4. Candidates may be required to attend an oral examination, which may be on one or more of the candidate's written examinations, research design essay, or thesis.

5. A candidate who fails the examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt.

Explanatory Notes

1. *Paper I: Legal and Sociological Frameworks* currently covers two courses in *International Human Rights and Refugee Law* and *Movement and Morality*. A new core course in

Borders and Forced Migration will replace *Movement and Morality* for students starting from MT 2019, necessitating a change to the name and content of Paper I. *Movement and Morality* will be moved to the options pool examined through *Paper III: Contemporary issues in the study of Forced Migration*.

2. The *Research Methods* course is currently assessed by a 5,000 word research design group essay. This course will be assessed by a 3,000 word individual research design essay for students starting from MT 2019, having taken into account feedback from both faculty and students.

3. The opportunity has been taken to make a number of logical structural changes to the regulations to move the *Research Methods* course sections above the *Multidisciplinary Thesis*, and separate information about oral examinations and retakes into separate clauses.