Changes in the regulations governing the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

The following changes in regulations have been made:

Humanities Divisional Board

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology

Brief note about nature of the changes: Amendment to the General Regulations, introduction of essay option.

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first examination in 2014)

1. In Examination Regulations, 2012, p. 993, l. 11, after ‘Theology and Religion’ delete: ‘and has kept statutory residence for at least three terms’.

2. Ibid., p. 993, l. 12, after ‘terms’ insert: ‘normally’

3. Ibid., l.13-14, delete ‘:’ and ‘(a)’

4. Ibid., l.21, delete ‘or’

5. Ibid., l.22-26, delete ‘(b) he or she is...of this clause.’

6. Ibid., p. 994, l.3, after ‘(and not more than five)’ insert: ‘from those specified below in the Schedule of Papers,’

Regulations concerning essays

In the Michaelmas Term of each year, the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion will publish a list of topics, from which candidates may choose to write either two short essays or one long essay in place of one of their chosen papers. The topics offered may vary from year to year and will be related to the research interests of the teachers concerned.

The candidate is advised to have an initial discussion with his or her supervisor regarding the proposed field of study, the sources available, and the method of presentation. He or she should have further discussions with his or her supervisor during the preparation of the essay. His or her supervisor may read and comment on drafts of the essay.
Every candidate shall sign a letter declaring the essay to be his or her own work. This letter, which can be found in the Handbook for Graduate Studies or collected from the Theology Faculty Office, 34 St Giles’, Oxford OX1 3LD, shall be presented together with the essay, in a separate sealed envelope.

The candidate must submit two typed copies of the essay (bound or held firmly in a stiff cover), addressed to the Chairman of the Examiners, Postgraduate Diploma in Theology, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford not later than noon on the Friday of the eighth week of Hilary Term. Candidates must not put their names on the examination paper or on any pre-submitted work.

7. Ibid., l.5, before ‘(1) The Four Gospels’, insert: ‘Schedule of Papers’

8. Ibid., p. 995, l.15-21, delete ‘*From candidates who wish to be admitted to the examination under cl. 3 (b) of the Decree, the Board of the Faculty of Theology will require evidence that they have followed, or have arranged to follow, for three terms a course of instruction in Theology in Oxford to the satisfaction of the board. Application for the board’s approval of the course of instruction should be sent to the Registrar, through the Head or a tutor of the candidate’s society or prospective society, at the same time as the application for permission to be admitted to the examination.’

9. Ibid., l. 22, delete: ‘Before admission to the...for this purpose.’

10. Ibid., delete footnote ‘* Candidates are advised to obtain the approval of the board for their course of instruction not later than the Michaelmas Term preceding the examination.’

Explanatory note
(i) The General Regulations have been updated.

(ii) The syllabus has been updated to include the option to write either two short essays or one long essay in place of a written examination.

(iii) There are no vested interests. Students starting the course in October 2013 will be informed of all changes by the Faculty. The new essay option is not compulsory and the papers offered remain the same.

(iv) There are no resource implications.