Title of programme
DPhil(s) in Comparative Social Policy and Evidence-Based Social Intervention

Brief note about nature of change:
The change provides an alternative pathway to the DPhils in Comparative Social Policy (CSP) and in Evidence-Based Social Intervention (EBSI) with separate publishable papers replacing the ‘central’ chapters of the conventional thesis.

Effective date
With immediate effect

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2012

Detail of change
1. After P.919, l.2. insert:
‘Additional regulations for the Department of Social Policy and Intervention

Social Policy DPhil Pathway:
A D.Phil. thesis may be accepted for examination if it consists of a minimum of four academic papers of publishable quality, framed by an introduction and a conclusion. Only one of the four academic papers may be a co-authored piece of work, with the candidate having contributed at least 70 percent of the work [to be confirmed by the co-author(s)]. Such a body of work shall be deemed acceptable provided it represents a coherent and
focused body of research, addressing one overarching research question. Current overall word limits and conditions are detailed in the D.Phil. Notes for Guidance. Candidates wishing to proceed in this manner must be approved at the time of confirmation of D.Phil. status.

Social Intervention DPhil Pathway:

A D.Phil. thesis may be accepted for examination if it consists of a minimum of three academic papers of publishable quality. Such a body of work shall be deemed acceptable provided it represents a coherent and focused body of research. It should include an Introduction, a Survey of Literature, and a Conclusion. Current word limits and conditions are detailed in the D.Phil. Notes for Guidance. A D.Phil. Thesis submitted under this rubric may include joint publications. Where joint publications are included, all co-authors must certify in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies that the majority of that work represents the work of the candidate. Candidates wishing to proceed in this manner must obtain permission from their supervisor, from the Director of Graduate Studies, and must be approved at the time of confirmation for D.Phil. status. Evidence must be submitted at the time permission is sought that at least one of the three academic papers has been submitted to an identified journal, if not yet accepted or published. If, after a petition is accepted, a candidate wishes to revert to a standard D.Phil. thesis format, the candidate must lodge a petition with his or her supervisor to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies, showing good cause for the change.'

Explanatory Notes

The Department of Social Policy and Intervention wishes to introduce alternative pathways to the DPhils in Comparative Social Policy (CSP) and in Evidence-Based Social Intervention (EBSI). The basic aims are to speed up the process whereby high-level graduate research is presented to the academic public and to accelerate the student’s career, enabling him or her to enter the job market earlier. This alternative pathway is further intended to disseminate the results of research earlier and thus speed up the advance of knowledge, and to familiarise students with writing academic papers, which are the major route to publishing in our subject. Thereby the standing of the department, in REF and other terms, is enhanced. This proposal has been discussed and agreed at the Executive Committee and Graduate Studies Committees of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention, The Social Sciences Teaching Audit Committee and Education Committee. The pathways for CSP and EBSI differ in a number of details as stated in the draft regulations; in particular that the CSP pathway requires four publishable papers and the EBSI pathway requires three.