

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

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved at the meeting of TAC on 17/11/17**

**Title of Programme**

Research Degrees in Economics, Social Policy and Intervention, Sociology, and International Development

**Brief note about nature of change:** changes to requirements for integrated theses

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2017* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/rdie-spaisandintedeve/>

**Effective date**

**For students starting from MT 2017**

**Detail of change**

1. Amend citation reference 1.35-1.38 as follows:

~~'Social Policy D.Phil. 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 D.Phil. 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. A DPhil thesis may be accepted for examination if it consists of either a minimum of four academic papers of publishable quality for the DPhil in Social Policy, or a minimum of three academic papers of publishable quality for the DPhil in Social Intervention. In either case the thesis should be framed by an introduction, a literature review, and a conclusion. Such a body of work shall be deemed acceptable provided it represents a coherent and focused body of research, addressing one overarching research question. A thesis submitted under this rubric may include joint publications, but for the DPhil in Social Policy only, at least one paper must be single-authored. Where joint publications are included, all co-authors must certify in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies that at least 70% of that work represents that of the candidate. Current overall word limits and conditions are detailed in the DPhil Notes for Guidance. Candidates wishing to proceed in this manner should with the support of their supervisor obtain approval from the Director of Graduate Studies before applying for Confirmation of DPhil status. If a candidate wishes to revert to a standard DPhil thesis format, with the support of their supervisor, they should obtain approval from the Director of Graduate Studies, showing good cause for the change.'

### **Explanatory Notes**

Changes are to more closely align the requirements between the two routes, whilst retaining key discipline-specific differences. The effective date is to take into account possible vested interests for on-course students – the changes are early enough in the academic year not to impact on students who commenced at the start of MT 2017.