

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved at the meeting of Teaching Audit Committee on 25/04/16 and by Education Committee on 23/05/16

Title of Programme

MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

Brief note about nature of change: Change to programme structure and amendment to assessment

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2016

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

Detail of change

1. Candidates will be expected to attend such lectures and seminars as their supervisor/course director shall recommend.
2. Candidates will, when they enter for their examination, be required to produce a certificate from their society that they are following a course of study in the field which they have pursued in Oxford for at least three terms.
3. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination if requested by the examiners.
4. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in ~~two~~three papers and two essay papers as follows:

Paper I: [*International Legal and Ethical frameworks*](#)~~*International Legal and Normative Framework*~~

International legal and [normative-ethical](#) framework in relation to refugees and displaced persons. International and domestic application of individual and group rights to displaced persons and refugees. Refugee law and its application. 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.

Paper II: [Political and Anthropological frameworks](#)~~Causes and Consequences of Forced Migration~~

Theories of the causes of forced migration and humanitarian crises. Historical dimensions, political and social dynamics of forced migration. Social, political and cultural constructions of place and space. Impact of forced migration on gender relations and age structures. Coercion and conflict. Implications of forced migrants for conceptualising the modern state and the international order. Security and stability of states. [States responses to refugee movements and immigration- Comparing political forms and their response to refugees. Cooperation and the refugee regime. The lived experiences of refugees and forced migrants through displacement, encampment, resettlement and asylum. The formation of refugee identity, notions of home and belonging. Interactions between forced migrants and aid agencies, governments and the UNHCR. The process of flight and displacement. The experience of encampment and its effects on social systems, memory and identity. Anthropology of humanitarian citizenship, integration and exile. 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.](#)

[Paper III: Contemporary issues in the study of Forced Migration](#)

[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.](#)

Multidisciplinary Thesis

Each student will be required to write a thesis of not less than 10,000 and not more than 15,000 words on a topic relevant to forced migration. The purpose of this thesis is to ensure that the students have engaged in a multidisciplinary analysis of a single issue in forced migration to gain an awareness of the complex interrelations in the field.

The topic of the thesis will require approval by the chair of examiners. This thesis must be the work of the candidate alone and aid from others must be limited to prior discussion as to the subject and advice on presentation. The thesis (three copies) must be typewritten and delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than noon on Thursday of Week Eight of Trinity Term. An electronic copy must also be submitted to the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies Coordinator, again by the date and time specified above. The thesis must be presented in proper scholarly form, in double-spacing and on one side only of quarto or A4 paper, each copy bound or held firmly in a stiff cover. The examiners shall retain a copy of ~~the thesis of each candidate who passes the examination for deposit in the Social Sciences Library.~~ all candidates' theses that achieve a distinction for deposit in the Social Sciences Library.—

Research Methods Group Essay

Each student must display an understanding of research methods relevant to forced migration. This will be in the form of a group essay of approximately, but no more than 5,000 words, based on directed field research conducted during a four-week period in Hilary Term. The essay will present findings and engage with topics which 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.

The essay must be presented in a proper scholarly form and delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, no later than Friday noon in Week Seven of Hilary Term.

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. A candidate who has reached a satisfactory standard on any of the three components of the examination: (i) the thesis; (ii) the ~~two-three~~ written papers; (iii) the research methods group essay, will not be required to retake that part of the examination. Candidates may also be required to attend an oral examination, which may be on one or more of the candidate's written examinations, thesis or group essay. Any candidate who fails a group assignment may be considered for a pass on the basis of an oral examination.

5. Candidates may be provided with selected international legal materials for use during some examinations, as published annually in the Course Handbook.

Explanatory Notes

The changes are:

- adjustments to the core and optional courses
- introduction of additional written examination, resulting in a rebalancing of the

overall assessment regime.

Education Committee agreed that the changes could be implemented for 2016-17 and the Department is writing to offer holders to inform them of the changes.