

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee by Chair's Action on 9 January 2020

Title of Programme

Research Degrees in Education

Brief note about nature of change: Introduction of an articles-based thesis route for the DPhil Education

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2019*: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/rdegrineduc/>

Effective date

With immediate effect, for all students

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.28 as follows (new text underlined):

“Confirmation of Status shall normally take place not later than the seventh term after admission as a Probationer Research Student. It is intended to be a comprehensive monitoring of progress towards the final thesis. At this stage a student may apply to submit an integrated thesis.”

2. Amend citation 1.33 as follows:

“(iv) A draft Introduction to the thesis, setting out the overall argument and/or contribution of the thesis. The introduction should also describe the proposed contents of each chapter and each article manuscript, explaining how they link together and develop the thesis. These statements should normally be up to 500 words for each chapter and each article manuscript. An extended literature review (but not the full chapter) can be submitted as Appendix A (This is important if neither of your Confirmation of Status examiners were your Transfer of Status examiners).”

3. Amend citation 1.34 as follows:

“(v) One fully developed methods chapter that documents how the research questions were addressed in practice (divided between the three or more article manuscripts for an integrated thesis), and be of the standard to pass a doctoral examination, and reflects on how the initial research designs were refined or developed in the field.”

4. Amend citation 1.35 as follows:

~~“(vi) One draft Findings chapter. This chapter should show how the research questions are being addressed and describe the emergent findings.~~

(vi)

Either

For a conventional thesis, one draft Findings chapter. This should show how the research questions are being addressed and describe the emergent findings.

Or

For an integrated thesis, one article manuscript of such quality that it is suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, submitted for consideration, under review, being revised, accepted for publication, or published. This article manuscript should show how the research questions are being addressed and describe the emergent findings.”

5. After citation 1.43 insert:

“*Integrated thesis*

A DPhil thesis may be accepted for examination if it consists of a minimum of three article manuscripts 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 Literature Survey, and a Conclusion. The thesis should make it clear how the chapters and articles are integrated as a complete text.

A DPhil thesis submitted under this rubric may include co-authored manuscripts. Any co-authored articles must include a statement indicating the candidate’s contribution to the article, and all co-authors should certify in writing to the Director of Doctoral Research (DDR), what part of the work represents that of the candidate. Articles or article manuscripts written in collaboration should not be included unless the greater part of the work is directly attributed to the candidate themselves, and the supervisor so certifies.

Requests to submit an integrated thesis should be made with the support of the student’s supervisor(s) to the DDR prior to applying for Confirmation of Status (CoS). Applications to submit an integrated thesis will not be considered for students who have already passed their Confirmation of Status. Students who wish to change back to a monograph format are required to make this request in writing to the DDR prior to applying for their final thesis submission.

The standard word limit regulations apply for integrated theses.”

Explanatory Notes

Change to introduce an articles-based thesis route for the DPhil Education.

