Regulations governing the new MSt in English Language: communication from the Board of the Faculty of English Language and Literature

The following change in regulations was approved by the Humanities Division on 11 April 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Master of Studies in English Language

Brief note about the nature of the changes: Introduction of new MSt.

With effect from 1 October 2012 (first examination in 2013)

1. In Examination Regulations 2011, p. 591, after l. 34 insert:
   ‘English Language English Language and Literature’

2. Ibid, p. 611, after l. 45 insert:
   ‘English Language

Every candidate must follow for at least three terms a course of study in English Language.

Syllabus

The following subjects are prescribed:

1. A. Topics in English Language: History, Structure and Use
2. B. Research Methods for English Language
3. C. Special Options

The Faculty Board shall prescribe from year to year the particular courses which will be offered for each of these subjects. Courses under A and B will be taught over Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. There will be two lists of Special Options, one for Michaelmas Term and one for Hilary Term. Students will also be able to choose any one option selected from those offered as B courses for the M.St./M.Phil. in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology, subject to the approval of the student’s own Course Convenor and the tutor for the option. The teaching and assessment of the Linguistics B courses will follow the provisions and requirements as set by the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.

Candidates must take courses A, B and two C Option courses (one in each term). They must also offer a dissertation.

Candidates will be required to attend the lectures and classes prescribed by the Faculty Board for the courses they have chosen, and undertake such written work, exercises or presentations for those courses as the course tutors shall prescribe.
**Assessed written work**

In Michaelmas Term candidates will be required to submit a piece of written work of 5,000-7,000 words on a topic related to one of the special options taken under C in that term; two copies must be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than noon on Thursday of the tenth week of Michaelmas Term.

In Hilary Term, candidates will be required to submit the following:

1. A piece of written work of 5,000-7,000 words on a topic related to one of the special options taken under C in that term, to be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than noon on Monday of the tenth week of Hilary Term.
2. A piece of written work of 5,000-7,000 words on a topic related to the B course, to be submitted to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than noon on Thursday of the tenth week of Hilary Term.

‘Written work’ may consist of either an essay or a project which includes an analysis of linguistic data and/or an evaluation of a particular method of analysis. The three pieces of work submitted by candidates must include one piece of each type. Candidates must gain approval of the topic of their written work by writing to the Chair of the M.St. Examiners, care of the English Faculty Office, by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Term (for the first essay) and of Hilary Term (for the second and third essays).

Candidates (as part of the B course) will be required to pass a test in English Language Analysis (assessing their competence in the phonetic transcription and grammatical analysis of English) by the end of Michaelmas Term. Those who do not achieve a satisfactory mark in this test will be required to retake it at the start of Hilary Term. Any candidate not achieving a satisfactory mark at that stage will be deemed to have failed the whole examination. The test will not contribute to the final marks awarded by the examiners.

Not later than noon on Monday on the eighth week of Trinity Term, candidates must deliver to the Examination Schools two copies of a dissertation (about 10,000-11,000 words) on a subject related to their course of study. The dissertation must be presented in proper scholarly form. Candidates must gain approval of the topic of their dissertation by writing to the Chairman of the M.St. Examiners, care of the English Faculty Office, by Friday of the sixth week of Hilary Term, providing an outline of the topic of not more than 200 words.

Candidates who fail any part of the examination other than the English language analysis test may resubmit that part by noon on the last Monday of the following Long Vacation.

The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.’.