Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division

Approved at the meeting of:

Faculty of Materials TT2018 week 5 (21 May 2018) and MPLS Division July 2018

Title of Programme

Preliminary Examination in Materials Science

Brief note about nature of change: Revisions to coursework requirements

Location of change

In Examination Regulations 2017, http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2017-18/peinmatescie

Effective date

For students starting from MT2018

For first examination from 2018-19

Detail of change

Amend citation reference 1.11-1.14 as follows

- '2. In the assessment of the Materials coursework, the Moderators shall take into consideration the requirement for a candidate to complete the coursework to a satisfactory level as defined from time to time by the Faculty of Materials and published in the Course Handbook. Materials Science Coursework shall comprise practical work and work carried out in crystallography classes, work carried out in crystallography classes and project work for Computing in Materials Science (CMS), as described in the Course Handbook, and it shall be assessed under the following provisions:
 - (a) Candidates will be required to submit the Materials Practical Class reports to the Chair of the Moderators in the Preliminary Examination in Materials Science, c/o the Deputy Administrator (Academic) in the Department of Materials, not later than 10 a.m. on Friday of the sixth week of Trinity Full Term.
 - (b) The Chair of Faculty, or deputy, shall make available to the Moderators, not later than the end of the first week of Trinity Full Term, evidence showing the extent to which each candidate has completed the Crystallography coursework normally pursued during the first two terms preceding the examination.
 - (c) Candidates will be required to upload the CMS project to the Prelims Assignments section of the Department of Materials Undergraduate WebLearn site not later than 12 noon on Tuesday of the fifth week of Hilary Full Term. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work,
 - (d) Failure of the coursework normally will constitute failure of the Preliminary Examination. Materials Coursework normally cannot be retaken. Exceptionally a candidate who has failed the coursework may be permitted jointly by the Moderators and the candidate's college to retake the entire academic year.'

Explanatory Notes

To further support the ongoing increase in provision of computing (coding) tuition within the programme, an additional module has been developed and approved by the Faculty of Materials, for introduction to the FPE in 2018-19. The Faculty has reviewed the current contact time and assessment in Crystallography and determined that this may be halved, thus creating capacity for a CMS module which will comprise formative MatLabbased classes and summative project work in computer programming. The MatLab classes will include some crystallography exercises.

At the TT18 meeting of JCCU (2 May 2018), this proposed change received strong student support.