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

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair’s Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (07/06/2019)

Research Degrees in Economics

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendment to the terminology used to describe papers/subjects
2. Remove the statement detailing the specific requirements needed to pass the Qualifying Examination as included in the Course Handbook.

Location of change

In Examination Regulations 2018, http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/rdegrinecon/

Effective date

For students starting from MT2019

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.4 as follows:

‘The DPhil in Economics shall be offered on a full-time and part-time basis. Full-time students are required to meet the residence requirements set out in §6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Part-time students are required to meet the following attendance requirements for their period of part-time study: attendance for a minimum of 30 days of university-based work each year (or 60 days in the first year of registration where a first year M.Phil. Economics paper subject is required as part of the Qualifying Examination), normally coinciding with the full terms of the academic year, to be arranged with the agreement of their supervisor, for the period that their names remain on the Register of Graduate Students unless individually dispensed by the Graduate Studies Committee. During a student's probationary period the attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events scheduled by the department.’

2. Amend citation 1.6 as follows:

‘Probationer Research Students in Economics are required to take a Qualifying
Examination, unless exempted from all or part of the examination by the Graduate Studies Committee, on the grounds of an appropriate previous graduate degree or substantial professional experience since graduation. The examination shall consist of either one first year MPhil Economics paper subject and three second year papers subjects, or five second year papers subjects.

Probationer Research Students are required to achieve a mark of 64 on each of the papers they sit in order to pass the Qualifying Examination. In exceptional circumstances the Graduate Studies Committee may exempt a student from having to pass the examination if he/she receives marks of 50 or above on each paper. All requests for exemption will require the strong support of the supervisor.

3. Amend citation 1.8 as follows:

‘Full-time students will attend teaching for the Qualifying Examination during their first year of registration and will be assessed for each paper subject in Trinity Term of their first year. A student who does not achieve the required mark on a paper subject is automatically granted a two term deferral of Transfer of Status and is allowed to re-sit that paper subject once more when next offered, unless a special dispensation is obtained from the Graduate Studies Committee. If a student fails any paper subject on the second attempt they will be withdrawn from the Register of Graduate Students.’

4. Amend citation 1.10 as follows:

‘Part-time students will attend teaching for the Qualifying Examination during their first two to three years of registration, and will be assessed on each paper subject in the Trinity Term following completion of the teaching for that paper subject. A student who does not achieve the required mark is allowed to re-sit that paper subject once more when next offered, unless a special dispensation is obtained from the Graduate Studies Committee. Where a student fails a paper subject in Trinity Term of their third year, they will automatically be granted a three term deferral of Transfer of Status to permit time to take the re-sit. If a student fails any paper subject on the second attempt they will be withdrawn from the Register of Graduate Students.’

5. Amend citation 1.16 as follows:

‘To successfully achieve Transfer of Status, students must also have satisfactorily passed the Qualifying Examination. In cases where a student is required to re-sit a paper subject, a deferral of Transfer of Status will granted automatically as set out in section 2 above.’

Explanatory Notes

1. In order to include alternative methods of examination, the term ‘paper’ is to be changed to ‘subject’. This amendment has already been made in the examination regulations for the MPhil in Economics, of which this regulation is derivative.

2. The paragraph in question is a replication of the Course Handbook for the Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, which is the most appropriate place for this information.