

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

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Board**

**Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Teaching Audit Committee on 07/07/16**

**Title of Programme**

MSc Archaeological Science

**Brief note about nature of change:** minor updates to text

**Effective date**

**For students starting from MT 2016**

**For first examination from 2016-17**

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

**Detail of change**

**Master of Science by Coursework in Archaeological Science**

1. Within the Division of Social Sciences, the course shall be administered by the ~~Committee for the~~ School of Archaeology. The regulations made are as follows:
2. Candidates for admission must apply to the ~~Committee for the~~ School of Archaeology.
3. Candidates must follow a course of instruction in Archaeological Science for at least three terms and for a substantial part of the three subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable.
4. The written examination shall consist of:
  - o (a) three papers on the syllabus described in the Schedule, to be taken as written examinations in the second week of Trinity Term, and

- o (b) ~~either~~ one pre-set essay of ~~approximately no more than~~ 10,000 words, ~~or two pre-set essays of approximately 5,000 words each~~. The subject and length of ~~each the~~ essay must be approved by the examiners before the end of Michaelmas Full Term. Two copies of ~~each the~~ essay must be delivered to the Examination Schools by noon on the ~~Friday-Monday~~ of first week of Trinity Term. Essays must be typed or printed, must bear the candidate's examination number but not his or her name, and must include a statement of the number of words. Any illustrations must be included in both copies.
  - o (c) in lieu of one of the three papers described in the Schedule, ~~and the extended essay(s)~~, candidates may, with the permission of the School of Archaeology's ~~Committee for~~ Graduate Studies Committee, take one of the options from the M.St in Archaeology or M.St in Classical Archaeology (Schedule B only). Candidates taking such an option would ~~only~~ be examined on one pre-set essay of approximately 5,000 words on a topic in Archaeological Science in lieu of the requirements laid ~~on out~~ in b) above.
5. Each candidate will be required to submit a dissertation of ~~approximately no more than 15,000 to~~ 20,000 words, (excluding bibliography and/or catalogues), on a research area selected in consultation with the supervisor and approved by a person designated for this purpose by the ~~Committee for the School of Archaeology~~ Chair of Examiners for Archaeological Science.
6. Three typewritten copies of the dissertation must be sent, not later than noon on the Friday four weeks and two days before the start of the following Michaelmas Term, to the M.Sc. Examiners (Archaeological Science), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. The examiners will retain one copy of the dissertation of each candidate for the departmental library.
7. The examiners may require to see the records of practical work carried out during the course.
8. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination ~~as if~~ required by the examiners. This may be on one of the candidate's written papers, or dissertation, or both.
9. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.
10. In the case of failure in just one part of the examination (written papers, extended essay(s), dissertation), the candidate will be permitted to retake that part of the examination on one further occasion, not later than one year after the initial attempt. Written papers would be retaken the following year. Pass or failure in the written papers will be taken as an average of all written papers and in the case of failure all written papers must be retaken. If the candidate passes all parts of the examination except the dissertation, the dissertation may be considered as a practical report as defined in the

schedule for the M.St and, if of a sufficiently high standard, the candidate may be granted permission to supplicate for the degree of M.St.

#### SCHEDULE

(i) *Principles and practice of scientific dating*

The principles of scientific dating methods including radiocarbon, luminescence, uranium series and dendro-chronology. The practical aspects of these methods and the problems encountered in their application. The statistical analysis of chronological information in the study of archaeological sites and cultures.

(ii) *Bio-archaeology*

Scientific methods for the study of biological remains from archaeological sites; introduction to the analysis of plant and faunal remains including indicators of disease and artefactual analysis; theoretical and practical aspects of quantitative methods for diet reconstruction by isotopic analysis; introduction to ancient DNA studies; residue analysis.

(iii) *Materials analysis and the study of technological change*

Introduction to the history of technology; theoretical and practical aspects of materials analysis methods—SEM, microprobe, TIMS, ICP, ICP-MS, XRF, XRD, PIXE, FTIR, and NAA; application of analysis to different material types—stone, ceramics, vitreous materials and metals; provenance of raw materials; case studies of application to archaeological problems.

#### **Explanatory Notes**

Minor updates to text