

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 08/07/16

Title of Programme

MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

Brief note about nature of change: updates to text, change to require online submission and change to research methods

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2016

For first examination from 2016-17

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2015

Detail of change

1. Candidates must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.
2. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:
 - (i) A compulsory core paper, in either Evidence-Based Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation, examined by a three-hour unseen written examination;
 - (ii) A compulsory Research-Evaluation Methods paper, for which students will be examined on the basis of a methods work book (consisting of two Quantitative-research methods essays and one Statistics assignments each of up to 3,000 words; and a Qualitative-assignment of up to 2,000 words two critical appraisals, one qualitative (up to 2,000 words) and one quantitative (up to 2,500 words)); and a critical methods essay of

up to 2,500 words. These are to be submitted throughout the year anonymously and in word format via WebLearn, accompanied by confirmation that it is the candidate's own work.

(iii) One Option paper examined by a three-hour unseen written examination;

(iv) A One research thesis ~~of not more than 10,000 words,~~ on a topic related to, and attentive to ~~the~~ evidence-based intervention, policy evaluation or evaluation methods. The subject of the thesis must be ~~and decided jointly with,~~ and approved by, the supervisor on behalf of the Department and should not exceed 10,000 words in length.

~~3. Candidates shall submit the methods work book to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention by noon on Friday of the sixth week of the third term of the course, accompanied by a statement that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated. Two printed or word-processed copies of the Research Methods essay must be delivered to the M.Sc. Examiners (Evidence-Based Social Intervention), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, no later than 12 noon on Friday of sixth week of the Trinity Term in which the examination has been taken. One electronic copy of the Research Methods essay must be submitted along with the physical copy to the Examination Schools. The electronic copy must be anonymous, submitted in word format, and identical in content and length to the physical copy of the essay.~~

~~4. Two printed or word-processed copies of t~~The thesis must be submitted via WebLearn delivered to the M.Sc. examiners (Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, ~~no later than noon~~ on 15 August or the weekday nearest to 15 August of the year in which the examination has been taken. ~~One electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted along with the physical copies to the Examination Schools.~~ The electronic copy thesis must be anonymous, and submitted in Wword format, ~~and identical in content and length to the physical copies of the thesis.~~ Successful candidates may be required to deposit a hard copy of their thesis in the Social Science Library.

35. A candidate who fails the examination may enter for one subsequent examination only, provided this is within six terms of his or her initial registration. A candidate who has attained a satisfactory mark in any one of the four components of the examination in 2 above will not be required to retake the component(s) ~~concerned~~ that received a pass mark.

46. Each candidate must attend a viva voce when required to do so by the examiners.

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

SCHEDULE

(i) *Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation* (core course): Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major theories underlying evidence-based social interventions or policy evaluation research. The course will use exemplary intervention and evaluation research studies to illustrate important theoretical, ethical, methodological, and practice issues.

(ii) ~~Research~~ Evaluation *Methods* (core course): Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major quantitative and qualitative techniques, and research designs for understanding social problems and evaluating social interventions and policies. In the event of failure of an element of the methods workbook, candidates are able to resubmit that element once. The maximum mark awarded for re-submitted elements is 50 except in exceptional circumstances.

(iii) *Option course*: This will enable students to link evidence-based solutions to a range of social problems. ~~Not every option will be offered in any one year, and applicants for admission will be advised of this. Areas from which options may be offered include: promoting the welfare of children and families; multicultural mental health interventions; substance misuse and offending; interventions in relation to HIV and AIDS; community work; refugees and asylum seekers.~~ The list of options will be published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. In exceptional circumstances and with the special permission of the Course Director, the optional paper may be from subjects outside this list.

Explanatory Notes

Updates to text, change to require online submission and change to research methods.

The Department is contacting offer-holders to inform them of the changes.