

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

MSt 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 Studies 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 first two subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable.
4. The registration of candidates will lapse at the end of Trinity Term in the academic year of their admission, unless it shall have been extended by the committee.
5. 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 10,000 words, ~~or two pre-set essays of approximately 5,000 words each~~. The subject and length of each essay must be approved by the examiners before the end of Michaelmas Full Term. Two copies of each 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, candidates may, with the permission of the School of Archaeology Committee for Graduate Studies, take one of the options from the M.St in Archaeology or M.St in Classical Archaeology (Schedule B only), to be examined by two 5,000 word pre-set essays. 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 out in b) above.
6. Each candidate will be required to submit a report of approximately 5,000 words, on a practical project selected in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the Committee for the School of Archaeology ~~Chair of Examiners for Archaeological Science~~.
7. Three ~~typewritten printed~~ copies of the report on the practical project must be sent, ~~not to the M.St. Examiners (Archaeological Science), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, no~~ later than noon on the Friday of ninth week of the Trinity Term in the year in which the examination is taken, ~~to the M.St. Examiners (Archaeological Science), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford~~.
8. The examiners may require to see the records of practical work carried out during the first two terms of the course.
9. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination as if required by the examiners. This may be on the candidate's written papers, or practical work, or both.
10. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.
11. In the case of failure in just one part of the examination, 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.

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 to 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