#### **HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD**

### **Title of Programme**

Master of Studies in Medieval Studies

# Brief note about nature of change:

This change provides for online submission of coursework.

### **Effective date**

For students starting from MT 2016

For first examination from 2016-17

## **Location of change**

In Examination Regulations online

### **Detail of change**

- <sup>1.1</sup>The regulations of the Board of the Faculty of History are as follows:
  - <sup>1.2</sup>1. Candidates for the M.St. in Medieval Studies must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction and directed research and must, upon entering the examination, produce from their society a certificate to that effect.
  - <sup>13</sup>2. Candidates must attend such lectures, seminars, classes as his or her supervisor, in consultation with the convenor of the M.St. in Medieval Studies, shall determine. These will include one compulsory language class over three terms, and candidates must attend any language tests set by their language teachers. The choice of languages includes Latin, Old English, Old Norse, Old French, Old High German, Old Irish, Middle Welsh, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic. Language and class teachers will report to the Chair of Examiners a candidate's attendance and participation, and where appropriate, test results not later than Monday of ninth week of Trinity Term.
  - <sup>1.4</sup>3. In Michaelmas Term all candidates will follow, as directed by the programme convenor, a series of classes on research methods relevant to their particular combination of disciplines. In Hilary Term candidates will follow a compulsory interdisciplinary seminar, on a theme chosen by the convenor of the M.St. which will exemplify the different but complementary approaches to medieval sources offered by individual disciplines. Candidates must provide evidence of attendance to the examiners.
  - <sup>1.5</sup>4. In each Michaelmas and Hilary Term candidates will take one Option Paper of their choice, from the subject options made available by the participating faculties in any given year and term. A descriptive list of option papers will be published by the Faculty of History in September for the

academic year ahead (not all options may be available every year). The definitive list of option papers for any one year will be posted on the History Faculty's graduate notice board not later than Friday of third week of Michaelmas Full Term preceding the examination. For each of the two Option Papers candidates are to be assessed in the format prescribed by the procedures of the host programmes, provided the assessment does not exceed the equivalent of an essay of between 5,000 and 7,000 words. Candidates should consult the convenor of the Option Paper on the modes and timetables of the prescribed assessment. Essay submissions must be addressed to the Chair of Examiners for the M.St in Medieval Studies, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, and handed in Essays must be uploaded to the Assignments section of the Medieval Studies WebLearn site no later than 12 noon on Monday of first week of Trinity Term and accompanied by a declaration that the work is the candidate's own. Where the host programme specifies an earlier deadline that deadline will apply.  $^{1.6}$ 5. Candidates will choose a course of palaeography and/or codicology classes in one of the participating faculties. Unless otherwise instructed through the host programme, they must submit two copies of upload to the Assignments section of the Medieval Studies WebLearn site a copy of the assessment portfolio prescribed by the host programme no later than 12 noon on Monday of first week of Trinity Term to the Chair of Examiners, at the address above. The portfolio should be

1.76. Candidates must choose, after due consultation with their supervisor, a topic for a dissertation based on their individual research. Candidates are required to submit two typewritten or printed copies of upload the dissertation, which shall not normally exceed 12,000 words, to the Assignments section of the Medieval Studies WebLearn site the Chair of the Examiners, at the address above, at the latest by 12 noon on Monday of ninth week of Trinity Term. It should be accompanied by a declaration that the work is the candidate's own. Each dissertation must include a short abstract which concisely summarises its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. This is not included in the dissertation word limit.

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- <sup>1.8</sup>7. The examiners may award a distinction to candidates who have performed with special merit in the whole examination.
- <sup>1.9</sup>8. A candidate who fails the examination will be permitted to retake it on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the initial attempt.
- <sup>1.10</sup>Such a candidate whose dissertation has been of satisfactory standard may resubmit the same piece of work, while a candidate who has reached a satisfactory standard on the written work will not be required to retake that part of the examination.

# **Explanatory Notes**

Online submission was provisionally approved by the History Faculty Board at its meeting in Week 3 of Trinity Term 2016, pending discussion at History Graduate Studies Committee in Week 4 of Trinity Term, which approved the measure. Online submission has been consistently recommended by external

examiners, and is supported by students; our expectation is that it will be administratively more straightforward than paper-based submission, that it will allow speedier despatch of materials to externals and that it will permit additional benefits, such as automatic checking for word-length and plagiarism.