

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

**Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (04/07/2019);
correction approved by Officer Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee
(08/11/2019)**

Master of Philosophy in Medical Anthropology

Brief note about nature of change:

Correction of previous notice (25/07/2019) regarding minor amendments to move MPhil final examination coursework and thesis submission deadlines from Tuesday to the Thursday of the same week.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2019*, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2019-20/mopinmedianth/administratorview/> and the *Gazette* of 25/07/2019

Effective date

For students who started the MPhil in MT 2018

For first final examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

Amend text as follows:

^{1.14}2. *Final Examination*

^{1.15}Candidates must follow a course of instruction in Medical Anthropology for at least three terms, and will, when entering for the final examination, be required to produce a certificate from their supervisor to this effect. The final examination shall be taken in the Trinity Term of the academic year following that in which the candidate's name is first entered on the Register of M.Phil. Students or, with the approval of the Divisional Board, in a subsequent year.

1.16 Each candidate shall be required:

- 1.17 (1) to submit evidence of practical work and a research proposal in accordance with I below;
- 1.18 (2) to submit a thesis in accordance with II below;
- 1.19 (3) to present himself or herself for oral examination if required by the examiners. The oral examination may be on the candidate's written assignments, or dissertation, or both.

1.20 I. *Methods of fieldwork and social research*

- 1.21 The satisfactory completion of a course of practical work in (i) ethnographic fieldwork methods, including participant observation, archival research, in-depth interviewing, questionnaire design, coding and qualitative data analysis; (ii) basic principles in descriptive statistics and statistical inference for the analysis of quantitative social science data; (iii) language-focused methods of data collection and their interpretation.
- 1.22 Candidates are required to choose any two of the three courses listed above and shall submit to the Examination Schools by noon on **[For students starting from MT 2019-18: Thursday]****[For students starting before MT 2019-18: Tuesday]** of fifth week of the third term of the second year of the course the portfolio of the two courses of practical work completed, together with a research proposal, accompanied by a statement that they are the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated.

1.23 The research proposal should not exceed 2,500 words. It need not be on the theme of the thesis, but should reflect the candidate's competence in conceiving and structuring an independent research project.

1.24 II. *Thesis*

1.25 Each candidate shall be required to submit a thesis of not more than 30,000 words (excluding references and appendices) on a subject approved by the supervisor. He or she shall send to the Teaching Committee of the School of Anthropology, with the written approval of his or her supervisor, and on the form provided for that purpose, a preliminary title of the thesis, together with a paragraph describing its scope, by noon on the **[For students starting from MT 2019: Thursday]****[For students starting before MT 2019: Tuesday]** of the fifth week of the Trinity term of the first year of the course. A further form, identical in its provision, and confirming or amending the earlier submission as necessary, shall be submitted to the above Committee by noon on the Monday of second week of Michaelmas Term in the academic year following that in which his or her name was entered on the Register of M.Phil. Students. The

thesis must be submitted via WebLearn not later than noon on **[For students starting before MT 201918: Tuesday] [For students starting from MT 201918: Thursday]** of the fifth week of Trinity Full Term of the second year of the M.Phil. The thesis must be anonymous, accompanied by confirmation that it is the candidate's own work, and submitted in **[For students starting before MT 201918: Word] [For students starting from MT 201918: electronic file]**format. The thesis shall be provided with an abstract of up to 250 words, to be placed immediately after the title page. The word count shall be stated on the title page of the thesis.

Explanatory Notes

This notice corrects the *Gazette* of 25/07/2019 which introduced changes to MPhil final examination coursework and thesis submission deadlines with effect from students who started the MPhil from MT 2019, rather than students who started the MPhil in MT 2018 who take the final examination in 2019-20.

In the past few years, these submission dates have often fallen immediately after public holidays and it is advantageous to uniformly move submission dates from Tuesday to Thursday of the same week to ensure administrative support is available just before submission, and to ensure no students, for example those with child-caring responsibilities, are disadvantaged prior to multiple submissions.

There are no notable vested interests to the change; all submission deadlines that fall on a Tuesday are to be extended for two days, and this change does not lead to a clustering of deadlines. The initiative originated with the student body, and the School consulted with MPhil students and they supported the change. To ensure all MPhil final year students are clear on the submission requirements, the School will reiterate that the changes apply to their cohort.