HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Change in special regulations governing the Doctor of Philosophy in Oriental Studies:
communication from the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies

Approved on behalf of the Humanities Divisional Board on 14 March 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Doctor of Philosophy in Oriental Studies

Brief note on the nature of the change:
Change in deadline for submission of Transfer of Status for PRS students. Clarification of
the requirements for Confirmation of Status.

With effect from 1 October 2012

1  In Examination Regulations, 2011, p. 870, delete ll. 38-49 and p. 871, delete ll. 1-19

2  Ibid., p. 871, l. 20, before ‘DPhil in Oriental Studies’ insert ‘MLitt and’

3  Ibid., l. 21, delete ‘year’ and substitute ‘four terms’

4  Ibid., l. 23, delete ‘(For Chinese, see below)’

5  Ibid., l. 23, delete ‘Application for transfer…. end of the third term’ and substitute ‘Application for transfer to M.Litt. or D.Phil. status should normally be made by the
end of fourth week of the fourth term of study’

6  Ibid., l. 28, delete ‘a satisfactory outline…subject of the thesis’ and substitute ‘thesis
proposal of not more than five pages (single-spaced) in length, clearly stating the
scope and topic of the proposed thesis and the methods and sources to be used’

7  Ibid., l. 32, after ‘They must do so’ insert ‘in case of first submissions and in any case’

8  Ibid., l. 37, after ‘proposed research’ insert ‘if applicable.’

9  Ibid, p. 871, delete ll. 41-50 and p. 872, delete ll. 1-11 and insert new numbered
section:

‘2. Confirmation of D.Phil. Status
An applicant who has successfully transferred to D.Phil. status will be required to
confirm D.Phil. status by the end of the ninth term of study. All students will normally
be expected to submit:
(a) a piece of formal written work of between 10,000 and 15,000 words in
length, which is intended to form a part of the completed thesis, e.g. one or
two chapters;
(b) a detailed outline of the thesis of not more than ten pages in length,
including an abstract of each chapter of the thesis and an indication of how
close each chapter is to completion.'
The written work shall be assessed by two assessors (neither of whom may be the supervisor or have previously supervised the student), appointed by the board, and they shall normally be expected also to discuss the submission with the student in person. They must do so in case of first submissions and in any case if they are not able to make a positive recommendation. When assessors make a positive recommendation to the board, they shall be required explicitly to state in their report that they have satisfied themselves that the student is producing work of a standard fit for submission as part of a D.Phil. thesis at Oxford.

An assessor who has acted for confirmation of D.Phil. status may not then normally serve as an examiner of the thesis at the final D.Phil. examination. Permission for such an assessor to act as a final examiner will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Students and supervisors who believe that such circumstances apply in their case are advised to contact the Graduate Studies Assistant for advice prior to confirmation of D.Phil. status assessors being appointed.

10  *Ibid.*, p. 872, after l. 17 insert: ‘Students wishing to apply for leave to extend the limit should write to the Director of Graduate Studies, c/o the Graduate Studies Assistant, stating the reasons that extra length is required.’

**Explanatory Note**

These changes change the deadline for submission of materials for Transfer of Status for PRS students, in accordance with the University and Divisional regulations. The requirements for Confirmation of Status are also clarified. Out-dated references to cases where Transfer of Status is waived are also removed.