

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of TAC on 24/02/17 and by Chair's Action on 31/05/17

Title of Programme

Research Degrees in the Blavatnik School of Government

Brief note about nature of change: introduction of part-time route, introduction of article-based thesis route, and housekeeping changes

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/rdibschoofgove/>

Effective date

With immediate effect

Detail of change

Delete citation reference. 1.1 to 1.33 and replace with the following:

'1. Governance

The DPhil in Public Policy shall be under the supervision of the DPhil Committee of the Blavatnik School of Government.

2. Attendance requirements

The DPhil in Public Policy shall be offered on a full-time and part-time basis. Full-time students are required to meet the residence requirements set out in §6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Part-time research students are required to attend for a minimum of thirty days of university-based work each year, to be arranged with the agreement of their supervisor, for the period that their names remain on the Register of Graduate Students unless individually dispensed by the DPhil Committee.

3. Transfer of Status

Students will normally be admitted as Probationer Research Students. Applications for Transfer of Status should be submitted to the DPhil Committee not later than the end of Week 8 of their third term (or their sixth term in the case of part-time students). An extension of one term (two terms for part-time students) may be granted by the DPhil Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Applications will comprise the following:

- (a) a completed transfer of status form. If a student intends to submit an article-based thesis, the student's supervisor should indicate support for this on the application form;
- (b) confirmation from the student's supervisor that such courses as the student has been required to undertake have been satisfactorily completed;
- (c) two typewritten or word-processed copies of:
 - i. a brief, single paragraph summary of the project, including information on methodological and theoretical approach;
 - ii. a research proposal of no more than 4,000 – 6,000 words;
 - iii. *either* a draft chapter (for example the literature review) of between 5,000 and 7,000 words; *or*, if submitting an article-based thesis, a draft of the introduction, of between 5,000 and 7,000 words.

Full details of requirements can be found in the course handbook.

The DPhil Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The DPhil Committee will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt) is permitted to make one further application and will be granted an extension of one term (or two terms for part-time students) to Probationer Research Student status if necessary. If after a second attempt, the DPhil Committee can neither approve transfer to the DPhil or to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

4. Confirmation of Status

Applications for Confirmation of DPhil status should normally be submitted to the DPhil Committee no earlier than the sixth term and no later than the ninth term from admission as a Probationer Research Student (or no earlier than the twelfth term and no later than the eighteenth term in the case of part-time students).

Applications will comprise the following:

- (a) a completed confirmation of status application form. If a student intends to submit an article-based thesis, the student's supervisor should indicate support for this on the application form;
- (b) two typewritten or word-processed copies of:
 - i. an abstract of the thesis (one side of A4 paper);
 - ii. an outline structure of the thesis, consisting of chapter headings, and a

brief statement of the intended content;

iii. an outline timetable detailing what work has already been carried out and what activities are planned for the remaining stages;

iv. *either* two completed draft chapters (other than the literature review) intended to form part of the final thesis;

or, if submitting an article-based thesis, two of each of the following; a completed article, a second article in draft form, and the outline of a third article.

Full details of requirements can be found in the course handbook.

The DPhil Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The DPhil Committee will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

A student whose first application for Confirmation of Status is not approved is permitted to make one further application, normally within one term (two terms for part-time students) of the original application, and will be granted an extension of one term (two terms for part-time students) if necessary. If after the second attempt the DPhil Committee can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

5. Theses

DPhil theses must not exceed 100,000 words and MLitt theses must not exceed 50,000 words. The word limit must include the abstract, all notes and appendices but not the bibliography.

Article-based thesis route

To submit an article-based thesis, the student must submit a case supported by their supervisor, to the DPhil Committee. If approved, the student's supervisor should also indicate support on the Transfer of Status and Confirmation of Status application forms. Should a candidate subsequently wish to revert to the traditional-style thesis, they must submit a written application to the DPhil Committee, with the support of their supervisor, detailing the reasons for the change.

A DPhil thesis submitted under this rubric will consist of three articles of publishable quality, framed by an introduction, a literature review (which may be included as part of the introduction) and a conclusion. Such a body of work must address an overarching research question and represent a coherent and focused body of research. The article-based thesis may have only one co-authored article. In the case of a co-authored article, students must submit to the DPhil Committee a description of their contribution to the article and demonstrate that their work represents the majority contribution.

The article-based thesis must not exceed 100,000 words, the limit to include the abstract, all notes and appendices but not the bibliographies. Further guidance can be found in the course handbook.'

Explanatory Notes

No issues of vested interests