

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

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved at the meeting of Teaching Audit Committee on 02/06/17**

**Title of Programme**

MSc Learning and Teaching

**Brief note about nature of change:** Changes to require online submission, change to assessment for Part I, introducing flexibility for timing of resubmissions, and housekeeping changes

**Location of change**

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

**Effective date**

**For students starting from MT 2017**

**For first examination from 2017-18**

**Detail of change**

1. Amend citation reference 1.4 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

‘Part 1 will be examined by ~~two~~one coursework assignments as described in clause 4 below.’

2. Amend citation reference 1.5 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

‘Part II will be examined by one coursework assignment as described in clause ~~5~~4 below.’

3. Amend citation reference 1.8-1.9 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

‘4. Parts I and ~~of the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching~~ shall be examined by means of two

~~assignments relating to the content of the Part I elements of the topics of the programme of study taken by the candidate. Each assignment must be between 4,000 and 5,000 words in length, or their equivalent. Two printed copies of each assignment and one electronic copy (in a software format available in the department) must be delivered to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching, c/o Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY. The deadline for submission of assignments 1 and 2 will take place before Week 5 of Trinity Term of the candidate's first year of study, and will be no later than noon on a date specified by the examiners and published in the course handbook.~~

~~5. Part II of the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching shall each be examined by means of one coursework assignment relating to the content of the Part II elements of the topics of the programme of study taken by the candidate. (Candidates may choose, in consultation with their supervisors, whether the assignment should be presented as a single piece of work, focused on the same issue, explored from the two different perspectives required, drawing explicitly on the learning from the two options, or as two smaller scale pieces, each focused on a different topic within the programme of study each carried out within different options but linked by a reflective introduction that brings the two studies together within the candidate's own practice of professional learning.) The assignment must be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length, or their equivalent. ~~Two printed copies of the assignment and~~ One electronic copy (in a software format available in the department) must be submitted via the online Examinations portal, delivered to the Chair of Examiners, Postgraduate Diploma/M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching, c/o Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY. The deadline for submission of assignments will take place before Week 5 of Trinity Term of the candidate's second year of study (or the first year if the candidate is exempted from part I), and will be no later than noon on a date specified by the examiners and published in the course handbook.'~~

4. Amend citation reference 1.10 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

~~'65. Part III of the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching shall be examined through a research and development project report, which presents a systematic account of a substantial practitioner research enquiry, focused on the design and implementation of a specific innovation in teaching and learning with a strong emphasis on the choice of appropriate criteria, and relevant evidence for evaluating its impact. The research and development work must involve a significant degree of collaboration with other adults, either engaging others in research; or enabling others to learn from research findings within the candidate's own school or educational setting. The research and development project report must be between 15,000 and 20,000 words in length, or their equivalent. ~~Three printed copies of the project report and~~ One electronic copy (in a software format available in the department) must be submitted via the online Examinations portal delivered to the Chair of Examiners, M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching, c/o Department of Education, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford OX2 6PY, no later than noon on the third Friday in September of the candidate's third year on the course. ~~One of the printed copies of the report must be hard bound and bear the name of the candidate. The hard bound copy of the research and development project report of each candidate who passes the examination will be retained by the Department of Education for deposit in the departmental library.'~~~~

5. Amend citation reference 1.11 as follows (next text underlined, deleted text struck through):

~~'76.~~ Those candidates who meet any of the following criteria will be exempt from Part I of the examination and will only be required to undertake Parts II and III. ~~In such cases the assignment for Part II should relate to the content of Part II elements of the topics of the programme of study.'~~

6. Amend citation reference 1.15 as follows (next text underlined, deleted text struck through):

~~'87.~~ Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in an assignment or in the research and development project may be permitted to resubmit the assignment or project report on one occasion only. ~~In each case~~ For both an assignment and a research development project the deadline for resubmission is normally the standard submission deadline for the following year. For Part I and Part II assignments, the candidate can choose to resubmit within the deadline set for the next Part III research and development project within the same academic year (as described in clause 6 above).'

7. Amend citation reference 1.16-1.19 as follows (next text underlined, deleted text struck through):

~~'98.~~ Candidates who fail outright an assignment within either Part I or Part II of the examination will not normally be permitted to embark on the next year's programme of study within the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching until they have successfully resubmitted their assignment. Candidates who are awarded a marginal fail will normally be permitted to embark on the next year's programme of study within the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching, but will be required to resubmit the assignment.

~~109.~~ The award of Distinction within the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching is normally reserved for those candidates who receive distinction marks for both the assignment submitted for Part II of the examination, and for the final research and development project report. The examiners may also award a distinction on occasion to a candidate who has achieved a high pass for Part II of the examination, and an appropriately high distinction in Part III of the examination.

~~101.~~ Candidates may also be examined orally on their final research and development project.

~~112.~~ Candidates who successfully complete Parts I and II of the M.Sc. in Learning and Teaching (or who are exempt from Part I and successfully complete Part II) and who choose not to continue with their programme of study may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching.'

### **Explanatory Notes**

- i. Change to require students to submit one 10,000 word assignment for Part I instead of two 5,000 word assignments. The change would not need to be communicated to applicants under CMA guidelines as the online prospectus does not specify the number of assignments for Part I. The regulations allow for students to submit two

assignments if they wish to do so.

- ii. Removal of references to 'options' in Part I and II. Updating to reflect the fact that the programme no longer includes distinct options.
- iii. Change to require online submission of assignments.
- iv. Removal of requirement for Part II to relate to content of Part II elements in some cases. Updating – this was a legacy from when Parts I and II were taught together and no longer applies.
- v. Change to resubmission arrangements to provide flexibility for students. This was successfully trialled with the permission of the Proctors in 2015-16.