Title of Programme
Research Degrees in Law

Brief note about nature of change: change to the readmission regulations

Effective date
For students starting from MT 2016

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2015

Detail of change

1. The First Research Year

(i) All those admitted to a research degree in the Faculty of Law must in the first year follow a course of instruction in Legal Research Method approved by the Law Board (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, a course of instruction in Criminal Research Methods), and must satisfy the examiners that they have completed to the required standard such tests or exercises as may be prescribed by the Law Board as part of such a course of instruction. Where the Law Board judges that it has sufficient evidence of a candidate's proficiency in research methods, it may in exceptional circumstances dispense a candidate from this requirement.

(ii) Candidates admitted in the first instance as Probationer Research Students may, with the consent of the Faculty Board, transfer to the status of a student for the M.St. in Legal Research.

2. Special provisions for part-time D.Phil. Criminology students

(i) Candidates are required to meet the following attendance requirements for their period of part-time...
study: attendance for a minimum of 30 days of university-based work each year, normally coinciding
with the full terms of the academic 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 Graduate Studies Committee on the Board of the Faculty of Law. During a candidate's probationary
period the attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events
scheduled by the Centre for Criminology.

3. Transfer to the D.Phil. or M.Litt. Readmission to DPhil status
   (i) Candidates wishing to transfer to the status of student for the degree of D.Phil. or M.Litt. must,
   subject to sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) below, undertake both parts of the Qualifying Test (paragraph 3
   below).

   (ii) It is not possible to transfer to M.Litt. status, having successfully completed the M.Phil. or M.St. in
   Legal Research, unless the candidate proposes to write an entirely new thesis. A candidate transferring
to D.Phil. status is entitled to incorporate the thesis presented for the M.Phil. or M.St. in Legal Research
within the D.Phil. thesis.

   (iii) Candidates who submit an application for readmission to the D.Phil. in Law while holding the status
   of students for the M.Phil. in Law or the M.St. in Legal Research and who receive a conditional offer,
   must also submit a completed Appointment of Examiners form by noon on Friday of Eighth Week of
   Trinity Term, and must submit the M.Phil. or M.St. dissertation by noon of the weekday on or nearest
to 1 August of the year in question, together with the documentation required under Part A of the
Qualifying Test as defined under 4. (ii) below. Failure to submit any of these items by the stipulated
deadlines will result in withdrawal of the conditional offer for admission to the D.Phil. The dissertation
will serve as Part B of the Qualifying Test as defined under 4. (iii) below, except that the word limit
stipulated therein will not apply. Candidates who at the time of the transfer will have successfully
completed the M.Phil. in Law or the M.Phil. in Criminology and Criminal Justice or the M.St. in Legal
Research shall submit for Part B of the Qualifying Test their successful M.Phil. or M.St. thesis. In such a
case the word limits for Part B in sub-paragraph (ii) of paragraph 3 below do not apply.

   (iv) The dissertation and documentation required under Part A will be assessed by two assessors who
   will normally be the examiners of the dissertation.

      (a) Candidates who are granted leave to supplicate for the M.Phil. or M.St. and pass the
      requirements of Part A of the Qualifying Test will be admitted directly to D.Phil. status;

      (b) Candidates whose dissertation is referred back for further revision will not be admitted to
      the D.Phil. but may reapply at a later date;

      (c) Candidates who are granted leave to supplicate for the M.Phil. or M.St. but whose
      submission for Part A is referred back for revision, will be admitted to Probationer Research
      Student status, and will have one further attempt to transfer to D.Phil. status under
      regulations 4. and 5. below. Students who have previously been registered for the M.St. in
      Legal Research or for the M.Phil. in Law or M.Phil. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and
have been granted leave to supplicate for either of these degrees, but have been referred on their application to transfer to D.Phil. status, may conditionally hold the status of Probationer Research Student, provided that the Faculty Board is satisfied that the student fulfils the conditions set out in the appropriate regulation. Probationer Research Student status in this instance may not be held for more than six terms beyond the date at which they first held the status of a student for the M.St. in Legal Research or for the M.Phil. in Law or M.Phil. in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

(iii) A candidate admitted to D.Phil. status is entitled to incorporate the thesis presented for the M.Phil. or M.St. in Legal Research within the D.Phil. thesis.

4. The Qualifying Test

(i) Candidates wishing to transfer to the status of student for the degree of D.Phil. or M.Litt. must, subject to sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) below, undertake both parts of the Qualifying Test. (paragraph 3 below).

(ii) Part A of the Qualifying Test requires that the candidate shall submit to the Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator within the Centre for Criminology) two typescript or printed copies of a statement of the subject of the proposed thesis and details of the manner in which the candidate proposes to treat it. This statement shall not exceed 2,000 words.

(iii) Subject to sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph 23 above, Part B of the Qualifying Test requires that the candidate shall submit to the Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator within the Centre for Criminology) two typescript or printed copies of a substantial piece of written work which may or may not be intended to form part of the proposed thesis but must be relevant to its subject. For transfer to the D.Phil., this Part B submission must not exceed 10,000 words, for the M.Litt., 6,000 words. In each case the candidate must state the number of words used. The required format for this submission is the common format prescribed for all law theses which is printed in the Faculty of Law's Graduate Students' Handbook.

(iv) Supervisors of candidates offering Part B are required to discuss with the candidate the names of possible assessors, and to provide the Board (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, the Director of Graduate Studies (Research)) with the names of three suitable persons who have indicated their willingness to act as assessors if called upon to do so. This notification may be made before the submission of the material, but must be made, at the latest, on the day the material is submitted. (For students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, two assessors will be appointed by the Director of Graduate Studies (Research) in consultation with the supervisor).

(iv) Subject to sub-paragraph (vi) below, candidates admitted as Probationer Research Students to the
doctoral or M.Litt. programmes, must submit all materials for the Qualifying Test by the end of the fourth week of Full Term in the third term after the candidate's admission. Candidates enrolled on the part-time DPhil in Criminology shall submit their materials by the end of the fourth week of Full Term in the sixth term after the candidate’s admission.

(vi) Subject to the general time-limit in sub-paragraph (vii) below, the Graduate Studies Committee, having consulted with the supervisor, may, for good cause, allow the Qualifying Test to be deferred. Applications for deferral must be made through the Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator within the Centre for Criminology) in time to allow the Graduate Studies Committee to consider the matter in the second week of the candidate’s third term. For candidates enrolled on the part-time D.Phil. in Criminology, applications for deferral must be made in time to allow the Graduate Studies Committee to consider the matter in the second week of the candidate’s sixth term.

(vii) In no case may the materials for the Qualifying Test be submitted or resubmitted after the end of the fourth term from the admission of the student to the doctoral or M.Litt. programmes. A student will in any case cease to hold PRS status if he or she does not gain admission to another status within four terms of admission as a full-time student. In the case of candidates enrolled on the part-time D.Phil. in Criminology, materials for the Qualifying Test may not be submitted or resubmitted after the end of the eighth term from the admission of the student to the doctoral programme.

5. Assessing the Qualifying Test

(i) The Director of Graduate Studies shall appoint two assessors and shall report their appointments to the Board.

(ii) The assessors shall interview the candidate.

(iii) The assessors shall report in writing as to (a) the suitability of the candidate's subject for the kind of thesis in question and (b) the competence of the candidate to handle it at the required level; and, in accordance with their report, the assessors shall make a recommendation.

(iv) On the original submission for the Qualifying Test, the assessors may recommend (a) that the candidate be granted the transfer which has been applied for, or (b) that the candidate be permitted to resubmit Part A or, in the case in which the candidate is a Probationary Research Student, Part B or both Part A and Part B; in the case in which the candidate offers a successful M.Phil. or M.St. thesis dissertation for Part B within sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph 23 above, there can be no reference back except in relation to Part A. Hence in a case in which, despite having earned the degree for which it was submitted, the thesis fails to satisfy the assessors of Part B of the Qualifying Test, the permission to transfer must be refused.

(v) Unless, for good cause shown, the Director of Graduate Studies, after consultation with the supervisor, agrees to an extension of time, the assessors must lodge their report and recommendation with the Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator, the Centre for Criminology) within one calendar
month of the date on which the materials are sent out to them.

(vi) The Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator, the Centre for Criminology) shall pass the report and recommendation to the Director of Graduate Studies (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, the Director of Graduate Studies (Research)), who has the authority of the Board to inform the candidate without further delay of the nature of the recommendation and to inform the supervisor of the contents of the report.

(vii) Where the assessors have recommended resubmission, the candidate should normally resubmit at any time before the end of the subsequent term following the original submission. On resubmission the assessors may recommend (a) that the candidate be granted the transfer requested or (b) that the candidate be refused permission to transfer. In the case of a Probationary Research Student the effect of the latter recommendation is to entitle the candidate to apply for transfer to the M.St. in Legal Research under the appropriate regulation, with effect retroactive to the original registration as a Probationary Research Student. Such applications will be considered by the Graduate Studies Committee. For candidates enrolled on the part-time D.Phil. in Criminology, the candidate should normally resubmit at any time before the end of the second term following the original submission.

(viii) The Director of Graduate Studies shall place the report of the assessors before the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee next following its receipt by The Faculty of Law Graduate Studies Office (or, for students registered for the D.Phil. in Criminology, to the Graduate Studies Administrator at the Centre for Criminology).

Explanatory Notes

Change to the readmission regulations from MPhil Law or MSt Legal Research.