

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by Teaching Audit Committee on 08/07/15 (Chair's Action)

Title of Programme

MPhil Comparative Social Policy

Brief note about nature of change: change to require electronic submission of thesis

Effective date

With immediate effect (i.e. for students starting the second year in MT 2015, as there are no vested interests)

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2014*

Detail of change

1. P463, I10 – P464, I40:

(See also the general notice at the commencement of these regulations.)

The regulations made by the Divisional Board of Social Sciences are as follows:

Qualifying Test

Every candidate must pass a qualifying test at the end of the third term from the beginning of the course in the *two* compulsory papers, *Methods of Social Research*, and *Comparative Social Policy/Welfare States* and *one* *Optional Paper* from the list of optional papers, specified by the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. This will be from a list published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Candidates

may, after special permission of the Course Director, offer subjects outside this list. This may also include papers offered in any other relevant master's degree in the University subject to the permission of the relevant Course Director as appropriate. The examiners may examine candidates viva voce. Candidates who fail the qualifying test may, in exceptional circumstances, be allowed to retake the test before the beginning of the first week of the next academic year. The examiners can decide that the retake shall consist of the whole test or parts thereof.

Final Examination

Every candidate must offer:

1. One further optional paper. This will be from a list published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Candidates may, after special permission of the Course Director, offer subjects outside this list. This may also include papers offered in any other relevant master's degree in the University subject to the permission of the relevant Graduate Studies Committee as appropriate.

2. A thesis{ [HYPERLINK "http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mopicompsocipoli/administratorview/"](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mopicompsocipoli/administratorview/) \l "d.en.175168" \o "Root » UAS Home » Examination Regulations » 2014-15 » Master of Philosophy in Comparative Social Policy » Administrator View : 5" ² of not more than 30,000 words ~~that employs comparative method in the study of a social policy topic.to be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by noon on Friday of the sixth week of Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken. The thesis should employ comparative method in the study of a social policy topic.~~ This word count applies to the text, but does not include graphs, tables and charts in the main text, or bibliography. An additional word limit of 6,000 words in total applies to the abstract, footnotes, endnotes and technical appendices (including graphs, tables and charts). Two type written copies of the thesis should be delivered to the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, by noon on Friday of the sixth week of Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken. One electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted along with the physical copy to the Examination Schools. The electronic copy must be anonymous, submitted in word format, and identical in content and length to the physical copy of the thesis. Successful candidates **[For students starting before MT 2014: will] [For students starting from MT 2014: may]** be required to deposit a copy of their thesis in the Social Science Library.

The examiners may examine any candidate viva voce.

The examiners may award a Distinction for excellence in the whole examination on the basis of the material submitted to them in both the qualifying and the final examination.

Compulsory Papers

Methods of Social Research

(a) A course of practical work in (i) basic principles of statistical inference, and statistical models for the analysis of quantitative social science data, (ii) the rationale and techniques of qualitative research appropriate to social policy and related social enquiry, and (iii) methods of data collection including research and questionnaire design, interviewing and coding. Such practical course work in social research methods shall be assessed by a series of assignments set during the first two terms of the course. These shall be listed in the Course Handbook and submission dates set for each assignment.

[For students starting from MT 2014: Each of the two quantitative assignments will be of a maximum length of 2,500 words. The qualitative assignment will be of a maximum length of 3,000 words.] shall be marked during the course. In the event of any candidate not reaching the pass mark set, one further attempt shall be permitted, though in the event of a successful resubmission only the bare pass mark shall be awarded. The combined set of completed assignments forms the practical research methods workbook. Candidates shall submit this workbook to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention by noon on Friday of the sixth week of the third term of the course, accompanied by a statement that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated. The practical workbooks shall be available for inspection by the examiners.

(b) Candidates are required to produce two essays of up to 2,500 words evaluating the research design, methods of data collection and analysis, and any ethical or philosophical issues that arise in a specified research paper. The Director of Graduate Studies shall publish two lists of research papers not later than noon on Monday of the first week of the second term; candidates will be required to select one from both of these lists of papers as the subject for each essay. Candidates shall submit their essays to the Examination Schools by 12 noon on Monday of the first week of the third term of the course, accompanied by a statement that ~~it is~~they are the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated. An electronic copy of each of the essays must be submitted along with the physical copies to the Examination Schools. The electronic copies must be anonymous, submitted in word format, and identical in content and length to the physical copies of the essays.

Comparative Social Policy/Welfare States

Concepts and typologies of social policies and welfare states. Approaches to the study of social policy. Theories of the origin and growth of the welfare state. Goals and means in social policy. Effectiveness and efficiency in social policy: unintended side effects. Methodological issues in comparative social research.

Optional Papers

These will be from a list published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Candidates may, after special permission of the Course Director, offer subjects outside this list. This may also include papers offered in any other relevant master's degree in the University subject to the permission of the relevant Course Director as appropriate.

Explanatory Notes

1. Minor text corrections
2. Change to require electronic submission of thesis as well as hard copies.