

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by the Teaching Audit Committee on 07/07/15

Title of Programme

Master of Public Policy

Brief note about nature of change: text revisions, change of module title and change to re-sit arrangements

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2015

For first examination from 2015-16

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014, as amended by *Gazette* of date 30/10/14

Detail of change

1. P741, I5 – P744, I18:

§1. Degree of Master of Public Policy

1. Any person who has been admitted to the status of student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy, who has satisfied the conditions prescribed by this section, and who has satisfied the examiners as required, may supplicate for the Degree of Master of Public Policy.

2. The Social Sciences Board with the concurrence of the Education Committee shall have power to make and vary such regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the duties laid upon it and upon the Registrar by this section.

3. A student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy who is not a graduate of the University may wear

the same gown as that worn by Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

§2. Admission of Candidates

1. A candidate seeking admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall apply to the [Blavatnik School of Government \(BSG\)](#) Graduate Studies Committee. Candidates for admission shall be required to provide such information as the committee may determine from time to time by regulation. Applicants shall in addition be required to undertake such other tests and meet such conditions as, subject to the approval of the Social Sciences Board, the committee may determine by regulation.

2. No person shall be admitted as a Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy under these provisions unless he or she is also a member of ~~some a~~ college, hall, or other approved society, and unless the application for admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy has the approval of that society. The Academic Director shall forward the application to the candidate's society or to the society to which the candidate wishes to apply for membership, as appropriate; and admission by the committee shall be conditional upon admission by an approved society.

3. A student registered for any other higher degree or diploma in the University may apply for transfer to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy. The committee shall have power to make such transfer, provided that it is satisfied that the student is well qualified and well fitted to undertake the course of study for which application is made, and that the application has the support of the candidate's society. A candidate who transfers status in this way shall be reckoned as having held the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy from the time of admission to his or her previous status, unless the committee shall determine otherwise.

§3. Supervision of Students

1. Every candidate on admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall be placed by the BSG Graduate Studies Committee under the supervision of a member of the University or other competent person selected by the committee, and the committee shall have power for sufficient reason to change the supervisor of any student or to arrange for joint supervision by more than one supervisor, if it deems necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of the supervisor of a student entered upon a course of study to direct and superintend the work of the student, to meet the student regularly, and to undertake such duties as shall be from time to time set out in the ~~Divisional Board's memorandum of guidance for students and supervisors-relevant~~ [Policy issued by the Education Committee.](#)

3. The supervisor shall submit a report on the progress of a student to the committee three times a year, and at any other time when the committee so requests or the supervisor deems expedient. The supervisor shall communicate the contents of the report to the student on each occasion that a report is made, so that the student is aware of the supervisor's assessment of his or her work during the

period in question. In addition, the supervisor shall inform the committee at once if he or she is of the opinion that the student is unlikely to reach the standard required for the Degree of Master of Public Policy.

4. It shall be the duty of every Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy to undertake such guided work and to attend such seminars and lectures as his or her supervisor requests; to attend such meetings with his or her supervisor as the supervisor reasonably arranges; and to fulfil any other requirements ~~of the Divisional Board~~ as set out in the relevant Policy issued by the Education Committee, its memorandum of guidance for students and supervisors.

§4. Residence and other Requirements

1. No full-time Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall be granted leave to supplicate unless, after admission, he or she has kept statutory residence and pursued his or her course of study at Oxford for at least thirty-two weeks.

2. No full-time Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall retain that status for more than six terms in all.

3. A Student for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall cease to hold that status if:

(a) he or she shall have been refused permission to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Public Policy;

(b) the BSG Graduate Studies Committee shall, in accordance with provisions set down by regulation by the Divisional Board, and after consultation with the student's society and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status;

(c) he or she shall have been transferred under the relevant provisions to another status; or

(d) he or she shall not have entered for the relevant examination within the time specified under this sub-section.

§5. Examination of Students

1. The examination for the Degree of Master of Public Policy shall be under the supervision of the BSG Graduate Studies Committee. The subjects of each examination shall be determined by regulation by the committee, which shall have power to arrange lectures and courses of instruction for the assessment. The assessment shall consist of:

(a) course assignments;

(b) written examinations;

(c) written reports on a summer project approved by the committee; and

(d) an oral examination; provided that the committee shall have power by regulation to authorise the examiners to dispense individual candidates from the oral examination. This provision notwithstanding,

the examiners may, if they deem expedient, set a candidate a further written examination after examining the candidate orally.

2. No candidate shall be permitted to take an examination under the preceding clause unless he or she has been admitted as a candidate for the examination in question by the committee and has satisfied any other conditions prescribed in the regulations for that course.

3. Unless otherwise provided in this sub-section, the number and distribution of examiners shall be as set out in the relevant regulation.

4. A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in the examination may enter again on one, but not more than one, subsequent occasion for that part of the examination which he or she failed.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

1. Candidates must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Public Policy. Candidates must complete:

(a) all courses from the Schedule, and satisfy the examiners in the assignment and/or examination associated with each course;

(b) two electives. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the assignment/examination/written report associated with each course, the list of electives to be published annually by the BSG Graduate Studies Committee before the first Monday of Hilary Term;

(c) a summer project. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the written report associated with the summer project;

(d) candidates may be required to attend an oral examination on any of the above.

2. Assignments and written reports on projects must be presented not later than the time and date stipulated for each exercise; these will be published by the BSG Graduate Studies Committee before the first Monday of each term in which the assignment or project must be undertaken. The required number of copies must be delivered to the Examination Schools, and addressed to the Chair of Examiners for the Masters ~~in~~of Public Policy, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford.

3. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination to candidates for the Degree.

4. In exceptional circumstances, a candidate wishing to take an examination later than the one to which he or she has been admitted may do so by application to the Chair of Examiners, via his or her College Senior Tutor or Tutor for Graduates.

5. ~~Candidates are permitted on only one occasion to resubmit or retake failed assessment items on any course on which they have failed to achieve the required standard. If a candidate receives a failing mark for any of the summative assessments, they may resubmit or retake the assessment on one further occasion as set out in the course handbook.~~

SCHEDULE

The following courses are required to be taken. Details can be found in the course handbook:

1. Major policy challenge introduction
2. Core I Foundations
3. Core II Economics
4. Core III The ~~Organization and Practice of Government~~ Politics of Policymaking
5. Core IV Science and Public Policy
6. Core V Law and Public Policy
7. Core VI Policy Evaluation
8. Applied Policy I - Strategy and Communication
9. Applied Policy II - Public Budgeting and Private Finance
10. Applied Policy III - Major Programme Management
11. Applied Policy IV - Negotiation

Explanatory Notes

1. Minor text revisions
2. Change to re-sit arrangements, detailed further in the Course Handbook
3. Change to title of a core module