

**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**

MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)

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

**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 26/03/15

**Detail of change**

**1. P.655, I44 – P.656, I41:**

1. Candidates must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

2. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

(i) A compulsory core paper, **[For students starting from MT 2015: in either]** Evidence-Based Social Intervention **[For students starting before MT 2015: and]** **[For students starting from MT 2015: or]** Policy Evaluation;

(ii) A compulsory Research Methods paper, for which students will be examined on the basis of a methods work book (consisting of two Quantitative and one Statistics assignments each of up to 3,000 words, and a Qualitative assignment of up to 2,000 words) and a critical methods essay of up to 2,500

words.

(iii) One Option paper;

(iv) A thesis of not more than 10,000 words, on a topic related to, and attentive to the **[For students starting before MT 2015: evidence-based intervention and policy evaluation and evaluation methods] [For students starting from MT 2015: evidence-based intervention, policy evaluation or evaluation methods]**, and decided jointly with, and approved by, the supervisor on behalf of the Department.

3. Candidates shall submit the methods work book 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. Two printed or word-processed copies of the Research Methods essay must be delivered to the M.Sc. Examiners (Evidence-Based Social Intervention), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, no later than 12 noon on Friday of sixth week of the Trinity Term in which the examination has been taken. One electronic copy of the Research Methods essay 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 essay.

4. Two printed or word-processed copies of the thesis must be delivered to the M.Sc. examiners (Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, no later than noon on 15 August or the weekday nearest to 15 August of the year in which the examination has been taken. One electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted along with the physical copies to the Examination Schools. The electronic copy must be anonymous, submitted in word format, and identical in content and length to the physical copies of the thesis. Successful candidates may be required to deposit a copy of their thesis in the Social Science Library.

5. A candidate who fails the examination may enter for one subsequent examination only, provided this is within six terms of his or her initial registration. A candidate who has attained a satisfactory mark in any one of the four components of the examination in 2 above will not be required to retake the component(s) concerned.

6. Each candidate must attend a viva voce when required to do so by the examiners.

7. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

## SCHEDULE

(i) *Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation* (core course): Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major theories underlying evidence-based social interventions **[For students starting before MT 2015: and] [For students starting from MT 2015: or]** policy evaluation research. The course will use exemplary intervention and evaluation research studies to illustrate important theoretical, ethical, methodological, and practice issues.

(ii) *Research Methods* (core course): Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major

quantitative and qualitative techniques, and research designs for understanding social problems and evaluating social interventions and policies.

(iii) *Option course*: This will enable students to link evidence-based solutions to a range of social problems. Not every option will be offered in any one year, and applicants for admission will be advised of this. Areas from which options may be offered include: promoting the welfare of children and families; multicultural mental health interventions; substance misuse and offending; interventions in relation to HIV and AIDS; community work; refugees and asylum seekers.

### **Explanatory Notes**

1. Revision to text

2. Change to require electronic submission of thesis and Research Methods essay, in addition to hard copies.