

Medical Sciences Board

Approved at the meeting of the Graduate School Committee on 30 April 2015

Title of Programme:

Master of Science by Coursework in Psychological Research

Brief note about nature of change:

- a. To update the regulations for accuracy.
- b. To make the instructions for submission clearer and to require electronic submission.
- c. To update the regulations to reflect changes to the programme approved by the Medical Sciences Board in Trinity Term 2015, namely removal of the Mini Project.
- d. To amend the assessment of the MatLab to change the word limit of the report to bring it in line with the other submissions for the programme and to introduce a presentation and viva voce assessment for this module.
- e. To move the course requirements previously included in the Examination Conventions into the Examination Regulations.

Effective date:

- For students starting the programme from Michaelmas Term 2015
- For first examination from 2015-16

Location of change

*Examination Regulations 2014-15: { HYPERLINK
"http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mosbcinpsycrese/studentview/" }*

Detail of change

In *Examination Regulations 2014-15* { [HYPERLINK](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mosbcinpsycrese/studentview/)

"<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2014-15/mosbcinpsycrese/studentview/>" } :

- Delete clause 3, and substitute:

' 3. Each candidate shall follow a course of study in Psychological Research for at least three terms and for a substantial part of the three subsequent vacations, as determined by the course timetable.'

- Delete Clause 4, A, I and substitute:

'I. *Research Evaluation*

Each candidate shall be required to submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of a 2,000 word review of a journal article assigned by the Organising Committee to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. The deadline for submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course.'

- Delete Clause 4, A, II and substitute:

'II. *Statistical Theory and Methods*

(a) Each candidate shall be required to submit two hard copies and one electronic copy each of the four Statistical Workshop assessments based on data analyses carried out during statistical workshops to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. The deadline for each submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course.

(b) Each candidate shall also be required to sit a two-hour written examination. The examination will be marked on a pass/fail basis and candidates failing to reach the required standard will have one further opportunity to enter for the examination before the end of the academic year.'

- Delete Clause 4, A, III and substitute:

'III. *MatLab Programming for Experimental Psychology*

Each candidate shall be required to submit one electronic copy of a piece of MatLab code that they have produced, as well as two hard copies and one electronic copy of a report of no more than 3,000 words that explains the code to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. The deadline for submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course. Each candidate shall make a brief oral presentation of their code to a group of two assessors, after which, the candidate shall be assessed *viva voce* on the code. The form of the presentation to the assessors shall be specified in the course information at the beginning of the academic year of the examination. Candidates who do not give a presentation and do not pass the *viva voce* assessment to a satisfactory standard will be deemed to have failed the module.'

- Delete Clause 4, A, IV and substitute:

IV. Computer Modelling of Brain Function

Each candidate shall be required to submit two hard copies and one electronic copy a portfolio of reports based on practical work completed during the module and an essay of no more than 3,000 words ~~Committee~~ to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. Essay topics must be approved by the Organising Committee. The deadline for submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course. Candidates who fail to submit a portfolio will be deemed to have failed the module.’.

- Delete Clause 4, A, V and substitute:

V. Project Design

Each candidate shall be required to submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of a 3,000 word review of relevant literature and methods relating to their chosen research project to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. The deadline for submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course. Each candidate shall make an oral presentation on the methodological aspects of their own research project. Candidates who fail to give a presentation will be deemed to have failed the module.’.

- Delete Clause 4, A, VI
- Delete Clauses 4, B and 4, C and substitute:

B. Optional Modules

Candidates shall be assessed in each of three optional modules, selected from the following list:

I. Philosophical Foundations of Psychology

II. Brain and Cognition

III. Emotion, Personality and Social Behaviour

IV. Language and Development

For each optional module undertaken, candidates shall be required to submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of an essay of no more than 3,000 words to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford. Essay topics must be approved by the Organising Committee. The deadlines for submission shall be notified to students at the start of the course.’.

C. Research Project

Candidates shall be required to submit not later than noon on the first Monday in September, three bound copies and one electronic copy of a typewritten or printed dissertation of not more than 10,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and any

appendices) on his or her research project to the Chair of Examiners, MSc in Psychological Research, c/o Examination Schools, Oxford.

Candidates shall also be required to deliver a poster presentation based on their research project. However, this shall not contribute to the overall result for this module. The date on which candidates are required to deliver their presentations will be in the Long Vacation.'

- Delete clauses 5 and 6, and substitute:

'5. Candidates must achieve a pass in each of the modules in order to pass the examination overall. In the event that a candidate is deemed not to have achieved the required standard in an element of the examination, he or she will have the opportunity to re-submit or re-sit the relevant assessment on one further occasion.

6. Each written submission must be accompanied by a statement signed by the candidate confirming that it is his or her own work.'

- Delete A, VI of the **Schedule**

Explanatory Notes

To make some updates for accuracy and to ensure that the examination regulations and conventions are aligned.

To require an electronic copy of each submission, in anticipation of enabling the Department to use software applications to screen any individual's submitted work for matches either to published sources or to other submitted work.

To update the regulations to reflect changes to the programme which were approved by the Medical Sciences Board in Trinity Term 2015, namely:

- To eliminate the one-term Mini-Project, which has received negative feedback from students for not being of long enough duration and not adding sufficient value, and instead allow students to engage with their major Research Project and to integrate with their group/lab earlier in the course.

The introduction of a presentation and viva voce assessment for the MatLab module will assist the assessors in their understanding of the students' application of the MatLab code.