Mathematical, Physical, and Life Sciences Division

New courses approved by the MPLS Divisional Board and by the University's Education Committee.

New qualification of MMathPhys approved by Council.

**Title of Programme**

MMathPhys in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics  
MSc in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

**Brief note about nature of change:**

See below.

**Effective date**

See below.

**Location of change**

See below.

**Detail of change**

See below.

**Explanatory Notes**

As in ‘Brief note about nature of change’
VOTING ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: ESTABLISHMENT OF DEGREE OF
MASTER OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

Explanatory Note

The following Legislative Proposal establishes the new degree of Master of Mathematics and Physics. This degree is on the model of the final year of existing four-year courses that lead to master's awards, such as the Master of Computer Science (MCompSci), and the Master of Mathematics and Philosophy (MMathPhil). It differs from these in that the Master of Mathematics and Physics consists only of the Part C examination. It may be entered only by candidates registered on certain four-year courses that lead to master's awards, as specified in the examination regulations, who after their Part B examinations transfer, following application, to Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. Initially this will be confined to candidates registered at the time of their Part B examination for the Master of Mathematics in Mathematics, the Master of Physics in Physics, and Master of Physics and Philosophy in Physics and Philosophy.

WHEREAS it is expedient to establish the degree of Master of Mathematics and Physics, THE UNIVERSITY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS.


'(21) Master of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Philosophy, Mathematics and Physics, Physics and Philosophy, and Computer Science and Philosophy

Insignissime, etc., praeamento vobis hos meos scholares in facultate Artium, ut admittantur ad gradum Magistri in Biochimia, vel Chimia, vel Scientia Computatoria, vel Scientiiis Terrenis, vel Ingeniaria, vel Physica, vel Mathematica et Scientia Computatoria, vel Mathematica et Philosophia, vel Mathematica et Physica, vel Physica et Philosophia, vel Scientia Computatoria et Philosophia prout in schedula a Registrario scriptum est.'

3 Ibid., in regulation 4.3 delete paragraph (16) and substitute:
'(16) Master of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Philosophy, Mathematics and Physics, Physics and Philosophy, and Computer Science and Philosophy


**Regulations to be made by Council if the Statute is approved**


2 Ibid., after 'Master of Arts, or Master of Biochemistry or Chemistry or Computer Science or Computer Science and Philosophy or Earth Sciences or Engineering or Mathematics or Mathematics and Computer Science or Mathematics and Philosophy' insert ‘Master of Mathematics and Philosophy’.
HONOUR SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICAL AND THEORETICAL PHYSICS

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first Part A examinations in specified Honour Schools in 2014, first Part B examination in specified Honour Schools in 2015, and for first Part C examination in 2016)

1 In Examination Regulations, 2012, p.10, l.33, after ‘Mathematics and Philosophy,’ insert: ‘or Mathematics and Physics (after transfer to that Honour School for their Part C examination from the Master of Mathematics in Mathematics, the Master of Physics in Physics, or the Master of Physics and Philosophy in Physics and Philosophy following their Part B examinations)’

2 Ibid., p.11, l.4, after ‘Mathematics and Philosophy,’ insert: ‘or Mathematics and Physics (after transfer to that Honour School for their Part C examination from the Master of Mathematics in Mathematics, the Master of Physics in Physics, or the Master of Physics and Philosophy in Physics and Philosophy following their Part B examinations)’

p.55, l.15, second column, after ‘Master of Mathematics and Philosophy’ insert ‘Master of Mathematics and Physics’.

3 Ibid., p.64, after l.28, insert:

‘Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division’

‘Mathematical and the Course Handbook’ refers to the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Handbook and supplements to this published by the Joint Supervisory Committee for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and also posted on the website at
The Divisional Board of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences shall appoint for the supervision of the course a supervisory committee, which shall have the power to approve lectures and other instruction. The committee shall appoint a Director of Studies who will be responsible for ensuring that the programme is set up and the decisions of the committee are carried out.

1. The subject of Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall be Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and related subjects.

2. The Examination in the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall be under the supervision of the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Board. The Board shall have power from time to time to frame and vary regulations for different parts and subjects of the examination.

3. The examination in the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall consist of one Part only, namely Part C, and each candidate shall follow a course of study in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for three terms.

4. A candidate may only be admitted to the examination in this School if he or she:

   (a) was, at the time of taking their Part B examinations, registered for the four year course in one of the following Honour Schools: Mathematics, Physics, or Physics and Philosophy;

   (b) has achieved an upper second class Honours or higher in their Part B examinations referred to in (a) above;

   (c) has applied for and been accepted for entry to Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics in accordance with the procedure set out in the Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics;

   (d) enters the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Part C examinations in the academic year after taking their Part B examinations.

(a) and (b) above are necessary minimum conditions of eligibility to transfer to Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics after the Part B examinations. Candidates wishing to transfer will also have to apply to transfer as stated in (c) above by the end of week 1 of Hilary Term of their third year. To be accepted they will have to satisfy the other requirements set out in the Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics from time to time. These requirements may specify the subject matter of the papers chosen for their Part A and Part B examinations (where relevant), the marks achieved in those papers, the overall mark achieved in their Part A and Part B examinations, and an assessment of their overall aptitude for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics. The Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall set out the subject matter of optional papers that candidates should follow in Part A or Part B to maximize their chances of being accepted for transfer to Mathematical and Theoretical Physics at Part C. For this purpose, this Handbook shall be available by the start of Michaelmas Term
in the year in which a candidate starts Part A in Mathematics, Physics, or Physics and Philosophy.

5. A candidate who has transferred to Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics in accordance with cl.4 above is permitted transfer to Part C of the Honour School in which he or she was registered at the time of his or her Part B examination up to the end of Week 4 of the Michaelmas Term in which he or she first registered for Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, so long as that candidate has not opted to supplicate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts under cl.7 below.

6. The result of the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Part C examination will be published in terms of Distinction, Pass, or Fail.

7. (a) A candidate who obtains a Distinction or Pass in the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Part C may supplicate for the degree of Master in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics provided that the candidate has fulfilled all the conditions for admission to a degree of the University.

(b) For such a candidate, the Examiners of the Honours School in which the candidate sat Parts A and B shall classify and publish the combined results of the examinations in Part A and Part B, and the examiners for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall separately assess and publish the results in Part C.

(c) Such a candidate will receive a classification for Parts A and B in the subject in which he or she sat those Parts, and a separate result for Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

8. A candidate in the final year of a four-year course, registered for Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, but who does not enter Part C, or who fails to obtain a Distinction or Pass in Part C, is permitted to supplicate for the Honours degree in the subject in which he or she sat Parts A and B (namely the Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics, Physics, or Physics and Philosophy respectively), with the classification he or she obtained in Parts A and B together; provided that no such candidate may later enter or re-enter the Part C year or supplicate for the degree of Master of Mathematics, Master of Physics, Master of Physics and Philosophy or Master of Mathematics and Physics; and provided in each case that the candidate has fulfilled all the conditions for admission to a degree of the University.

9. A candidate on the four-year course who fails to satisfy the Examiners in Part C may retake Part C on at most one subsequent occasion, not later than one year after the initial attempt. In such a case the examiners will specify at the time of failure which components of the examination may or must be redone.

B

1. Candidates will complete and be assessed on the following parts:

   (i) Candidates will offer 10 units with one unit corresponding to a 16 hour lecture course.
(ii) At least four units will be assessed by written examination.

(iii) The other units will be assessed by marked course work, take-home papers or mini-projects. The Course Handbook will specify which units will be assessed by each method mentioned above.

(iv) Candidates may offer one unit which is a dissertation. The dissertation will follow the guidelines and procedures of the Part C Mathematics course outlined in the Special Regulations for the Honour School of Mathematics.

(v) Candidates will be required to attend an oral examination at the end of the course of studies.

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

2. Syllabus and examination details will be published each year in the Course Handbook and on the course web pages by the beginning the Michaelmas Full Term in the academic year of the examination.
HONOUR SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first Part A examination in 2014, first Part B examination in 2015, and first Part C examination in 2016)

In Examination Regulations, 2012, p.327, after l.14, insert

‘Transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

9. Subject to the regulations for the Honour School in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, candidates on the four-year course in Mathematics may apply to the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics to transfer, after their Part B examination, to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. Such a candidate will need to achieve at least an upper second class or higher at the end of Part B, and be accepted by the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics under the procedures referred to in the regulations for the Master of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and set out in the course handbook for that degree. Acceptance is not automatic. As specified in the regulations for that degree, Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics must be taken in the academic year following the candidate’s Part B examination, and on successful completion of Part C of the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics candidates will be awarded the Master of Mathematics and Physics in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

10. The Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall set out the options that candidates should follow to maximize their chances of being accepted for transfer to Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. This Handbook shall be available by the start of Michaelmas Term in the year in which a candidate starts Part A in Mathematics.

11. A candidate who has transferred from the Honour School of Mathematics to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination in accordance with cl.9 above is permitted transfer to the Honour School of Mathematics for their Part C examination up to the end of Week 4 of the Michaelmas Term in which he or she first registered for Part C in the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, so long as that candidate has not opted to supplicate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics under the regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

12. The regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics set out how the results obtained in Parts A and B in the Honour School of Mathematics are published for candidates who transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination.
HONOUR SCHOOL OF PHYSICS

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first Part A examination in 2014, first Part B examination in 2015, and first Part C examination in 2016)

In Examination Regulations, 2012, p.433, after l.19, insert

Transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

6. Subject to the regulations for the Honour School in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, candidates on the four-year course in Physics may apply to the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics to transfer, after their Part B examination, to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. Such a candidate will need to achieve at least an upper second class or higher at the end of Part B, and be accepted by the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics under the procedures referred to in the regulations for the Master of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and set out in the course handbook for that degree. Acceptance is not automatic. As specified in the regulations for that degree, Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics must be taken in the academic year following the candidate's Part B examination, and on successful completion of Part C of the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics candidates will be awarded the Master of Mathematics and Physics in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

7. The Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall, where relevant, set out the options that candidates should follow to maximize their chances of being accepted for transfer to Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. This Handbook shall be available by the start of Michaelmas Term in the year in which a candidate starts Part A in Physics.

8. A candidate who has transferred from the Honour School of Physics to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination in accordance with cl.9 above is permitted transfer to the Honour School of Physics for their Part C examination up to the end of Week 4 of the Michaelmas Term in which he or she first registered for Part C in the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, so long as that candidate has not opted to supplicate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Physics under the regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

9. The regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics set out how the results obtained in Parts A and B in the Honour School of Physics are published for candidates who transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination.
HONOUR SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first Part A examination in 2014, first Part B examination in 2015, and first Part C examination in 2016)

In Examination Regulations, 2012, p.438, after l.26, insert

Transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

7. Subject to the regulations for the Honour School in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, candidates on the four-year course in Physics and Philosophy may apply to the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics to transfer, after their Part B examination, to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. Such a candidate will need to achieve at least an upper second class or higher at the end of Part B, and be accepted by the Supervisory Committee for Mathematics and Physics under the procedures referred to in the regulations for the Master of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and set out in the course handbook for that degree. Acceptance is not automatic. As specified in the regulations for that degree, Part C in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics must be taken in the academic year following the candidate's Part B examination, and on successful completion of Part C of the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics candidates will be awarded the Master of Mathematics and Physics in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

8. The Handbook for Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall set out the options that candidates should follow to maximize their chances of being accepted for transfer to Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination. This Handbook shall be available by the start of Michaelmas Term in the year in which a candidate starts Part A in Mathematics.

9. A candidate who has transferred from the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination in accordance with cl.9 above is permitted transfer to the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy for their Part C examination up to the end of Week 4 of the Michaelmas Term in which he or she first registered for Part C in the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, so long as that candidate has not opted to supplect for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Physics and Philosophy under the regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics.

10. The regulations for the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics set out how the results obtained in Parts A and B in the Honour School of Physics and Philosophy are published for candidates who transfer to the Honour School of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for their Part C examination.
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE BY COURSE WORK IN MATHEMATICAL AND
THEORETICAL PHYSICS

With effect from 1 October 2015 (for first examination in 2016)

1. In Examination Regulations, 2012, p.674, after l.10, insert:

‘Mathematical and Theoretical Physics Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences’

2. Ibid., p.735, after l.31, insert:

‘Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

1. The Examination in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall be under the supervision of
the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Board.

2. The Divisional Board of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences shall appoint for the
supervision of the course a supervisory committee, which shall have the power to approve
lectures and other instruction. The committee shall appoint a Director of Studies who will be
responsible for ensuring that the programme is set up and the decisions of the committee are
carried out.

3. The subject of the MSc of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics shall be Mathematical and
Theoretical Physics and related subjects.

4. In the following ‘the Course Handbook’ refers to the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics
Handbook and supplements to this published by the Joint Supervisory Committee for
Mathematical and Theoretical Physics and also posted on the website at

https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/current-students/undergraduates/handbooks-synopses

5. Each candidate shall follow a course of study in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics for at
least three terms.

6. Candidates will complete and be assessed on the following parts:

(i) Candidates will offer 10 units with one unit corresponding to a 16 hour lecture course.

(ii) At least four units will be assessed by written, invigilated examinations which will take
place. Examination details will be published in the Course Handbook.

(iii) Candidates may offer one unit which is a dissertation. The dissertation will follow the
guidelines and procedures of the Part C Mathematics course outlined in the Special
Regulations for the Honour School of Mathematics.

(iv) The other units will be assessed by marked course work, take-home papers or mini-
projects. The Course Handbook will specify which units will be assessed by each method
mentioned above.
(v) Candidates will be required to attend an oral examination at the end of the course of studies.

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

8. A candidate who fails to satisfy the Examiners may retake the examination on at most one subsequent occasion, not later than one year after the initial attempt. In such a case the examiners will specify at the time of failure which components of the examination may or must be redone.

9. Syllabus and examination details will be published each year in the Course Handbook and on the course web pages by the beginning of the Michaelmas Full Term in the academic year of the examination.