

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee 10/07/2019

Master of Science by Coursework in African Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendments to the option paper assessment schedule
2. Deletion of reference to the award of distinction

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018*, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbcinafristud/studentview/>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.5 as follows:

'(iii) One 4,500 word essay for one option paper, selected from a list of at least eight questions prepared by the course convenor and made available to candidates by Monday of Week ~~7~~6 of Hilary Term. The essay must be submitted not later than 12 noon on ~~the last~~ Friday of Week 2 of Trinity Term in the year in which the examination is taken.'

2. Delete citation 1.8:

~~'4. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.'~~

Explanatory Notes

Currently the dissertation submission, 4,500 option essay submission, and three-hour written examination are all at the end of Trinity term which has led to a great amount of

pressure felt by students, and the submission of a number of deadline extension requests. Feedback has been sought from students and one of the main concerns raised was the issue of too many submissions clustered at the end of Trinity term. The proposed week 2 deadline would spread out the coursework submission more evenly throughout the year and will bring the optional essay submission deadline into line with submission in related departments. The proposed assessment schedule for the option essay is comparable to the schedule for the programme's other 4,500 word essay submitted at the beginning of Hilary term.