

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of Quality Assurance Committee (29/04/2019) and on behalf of Education Committee (01/07/2019) [Changes 1&2]

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (04/07/2019) [Changes 3&4]

Master of Science by Coursework in Major Programme Management

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendment to permit the submission of the Research Methods assignment as part of the dissertation
2. Updates to the Schedule of Core Courses
3. Amendment to the timing of re-sits of summative assignments
4. Amendment to reduce the permitted minimum length of suspension of status at any one time from three months to one month.

Location of change

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

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2020-21

Detail of change

Amend text as follows (new text underlined, old text ~~struck~~):

^{1.1}1. Candidates will follow for twenty-four months (part time), a programme of instruction in Major Programme Management and will, when entering for the examination,

be required to produce a certificate to this effect from a supervisor of the M.Sc. in Major Programme Management appointed for the purpose.

^{1,2}2. The programme will consist of eight compulsory courses, as prescribed in the schedule, and a dissertation of 10,000 words. Candidates must satisfy the examiners in the assessment (~~assignment/practical work~~) associated with each component. Modes of assessment and submission dates will be published by the M.Sc. Director and distributed to all candidates in the first week of the Michaelmas Term of the year in which the assessment takes place. All pieces of assessment will be submitted online, as set out in the assessment section of the programme ~~WebLearn site~~ learning platform. ~~The dissertation should demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate, implement and present a project in the area of Major Programme Management. The dissertation, not exceeding 10,000 words in length (including endnotes, appendices, tables, but excluding references), must be submitted online, as set out in the assessment section of the programme Weblearn site, by noon on the first Monday of September in the calendar year in which the examination is taken. All material submitted for the project report shall be accompanied by a declaration of authorship statement indicating that it is the candidate's own work.~~

3. Dissertation

- (a) The title of the dissertation must be approved by the MPPM Programme Committee no later than eight weeks after the end of Module 8.
- (b) The dissertation should demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate, implement and present a project in the area of Major Programme Management. The dissertation, not exceeding 10,000 words in length, must be submitted online, as set out in the assessment section of the programme learning platform, by noon on the first Monday of September at the end of the second year of the course. All material submitted for the dissertation shall be accompanied by a declaration of authorship statement indicating that it is the candidate's own work.
- (c) The Research Methods assignment may be submitted as part of the dissertation providing:
 - (i) it has not been submitted in whole or in part for another degree of the University of Oxford, or a degree of any other university, and the candidate submits a statement to that effect;
 - (ii) the dissertation itself is substantially new;
 - (iii) the candidate also submits both the original Research Methods assignment

itself and a statement specifying the extent of what is new.

^{1.3}~~34.~~ Candidates who fail to satisfy the Examiners in the assessment of any one of the components may retake/resubmit the failed assessment only once, no more than ~~six months after the release of results for the original piece of assessment~~ twelve months after the final meeting of the Board of Examiners, excluding any period of suspension. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the dissertation may resubmit it on one, but no more than one, occasion which shall normally be by Week 10 of the Hilary Term in the following year.

^{1.4}~~45.~~ The Examiners may choose to examine any candidate or group viva voce.

~~^{1.5}5. The Examiners may award a distinction for overall excellence in the examination.~~

^{1.6}6. If, for good cause, a student is temporarily unable to carry out their studies, the MSc Director(s) concerned may grant him or her a request for a temporary suspension of status, for not less than ~~three~~ one month and not more than twelve months at any one time. Applications for suspension of status should be made to the MSc Director(s) concerned, c/o the relevant Graduate Studies Assistant; and will require additional approval from the Director of Graduate Studies. No student may be granted more than twenty-four months' suspension of status in this way by the MSc Director.

SCHEDULE OF CORE COURSES

~~^{1.7}(i) Designing and Managing Successful Programmes~~

~~^{1.8}(ii) Systems Engineering~~

~~^{1.9}(iii) Financial Management~~

~~^{1.10}(iv) Contract Management~~

~~^{1.11}(v) Major Programme Risk~~

~~^{1.12}(vi) Research Methods~~

~~^{1.13}(vii) Managing Performance~~

~~^{1.14}(viii) Globalisation and Major Programmes~~

(i) Designing and Managing Successful Programmes

- (ii) Major Programme Risk
- (iii) Systems Engineering
- (iv) Governance & Stakeholder Management
- (v) Commercial Leadership
- (vi) Research Methods
- (vii) Managing Performance
- (viii) Globalisation and Major Programmes

Explanatory Notes

1. Amendment to permit the submission of the Research Methods assignment as part of the dissertation

The Research Methods module is designed to equip students with the tools and techniques needed to plan, research and write up their dissertation. Research Methods is assessed by an individual research proposal of no more than 3,000 words, which may provide the basis for the dissertation. In response to the close association between Research Methods and the dissertation, a change to the examination regulations is proposed to allow students to submit a developed version of their Research Methods assignment as part of the dissertation without running the risk of auto-plagiarism.

2. Updates to Schedule of Core Courses

A change of title of two out of eight core courses is proposed alongside minor changes to module content: *Financial Management* renamed as *Governance & Stakeholder Management*, and *Contract Management* renamed as *Commercial Leadership*. There have also been minor amendments to the order of the core courses.

3. Amendment to the timing of re-sits of summative assignments

This amendment brings the MSc in Major Programme Management regulations in line with the EMBA.

4. Amendment to reduce the permitted minimum length of suspension of status at any one time from three months to one month.

Students often only need to suspend for a single module; however, this is usually not possible under the current regulations, and the requirement for students to suspend status for a minimum of three months at any one time means that a further, second module is often also affected. A reduction to the permitted minimum length of suspension from three to one month at any one time would make the management of suspensions easier, and there would be less impact on students. Students will still be able to apply for longer suspensions at any one time up to the maximum of 12 months.

This change would not bring these regulations into conflict with the current General Regulations concerning the status of graduate taught students, 'suspension of status of Graduate Taught Students'.