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 (04/07/2019)

Master of Science by Coursework in Social Data Science

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Change of title and assessment method of Part 4: 'Python for Social Data Science'

2. Minor factual corrections to text

Location of change

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

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.7 as follows:

'Part 4: Compulsory core paper in ~~'Python for Social Data Science' assessed by two-hour written examination at the beginning of Hilary Term and written coursework~~ 'Fundamentals of Social Data Science in Python' assessed by a project and a written report. Details of and arrangements for submission of the written coursework shall be notified to candidates via WebLearn by Monday week 1 of Michaelmas Term.'

2. Amend citation 1.8 as follows:

'Part 5: Compulsory core paper in 'Data Analytics at Scale' assessed by a project and written ~~coursework~~ report. Details of and arrangements for submission of the written course work shall be notified to candidates via WebLearn by Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas Term.'

3. Amend citation 1.10 as follows:

'Parts 7-8: Two option papers, to be chosen from a list to be published on the Oxford Internet Institute website annually by Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas Term <u>or another paper agreed by the Director of Graduate Studies</u>. Not all options may be available every year. The option papers will be assessed by arrangements which are specified in the reading lists for each paper, details of and arrangements for submission of which shall be notified to candidates by Monday of week 1 of Michaelmas Term.'

Explanation of Change

The revised title for Paper 4 ('Fundamentals of Social Data Science in Python') is a better description of the course purpose. A reduction of assessment load for Paper 4 from one written examination in python and one piece of coursework (consisting of a project and written report) to a single piece of coursework is proposed in response to concerns about the overassessment of students on the programme. Queries had also been raised about the value of the examination as an effective test of the programme's learning outcomes, as it followed an intensive 8 week course in python, and students receive further python knowledge through other papers taught in Michaelmas term.