

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Officer Action (04/07/2019)

Research Degrees in Law

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendments in response to changes to the MPhil courses in the Faculty of Law
2. Transfer the existing regulations into the new Divisional template for DPhil course regulations

Location of change

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

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

Detail of change

Insert the following text at the beginning of the regulations:

1. Governance

The DPhil in Law and the DPhil in Socio-Legal Studies shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Law. The DPhil in Criminology shall be under the supervision of the Criminology Board of Studies.

2. Attendance requirements

The DPhil programmes shall be offered on a full-time and part-time basis. Full-time students are required to meet the residence requirements set out in §6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Part-time DPhil students are required to undertake a minimum of 30 days of university-based work each year, normally coinciding with the full terms of the academic year, to be arranged with the agreement of their supervisor unless individually dispensed by the Law Faculty Graduate Studies Committee

or the Criminology Board of Studies. Attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events scheduled by the Centre for Criminology.

3. Transfer to MLitt or DPhil status

Students will normally be admitted as Probationer Research Students and, unless they have already completed the MPhil in Law, the MPhil in Socio-Legal Research or the MPhil in Criminology and Criminal Justice, must follow a course on instruction in Research Methodology appropriate to the qualification and must satisfy the assessors that they have completed to the required standard such tests or exercises as may be prescribed by the Graduate Studies Committee or the Board of Studies. Where the Graduate Studies Committee or Board of Studies judges that it has sufficient evidence of a student's proficiency in Research Methodology, it may in exceptional circumstances dispense a student from this requirement.

Students will normally be expected to achieve Transfer of Status in their third or fourth term after admission (or in their sixth to eighth term after admission for part-time students).

Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies Officer and will comprise the following:

Part A:

- (i) a completed transfer of status application form and Law 2 Qualifying Test form;
- (ii) two copies of a statement of no more than 2,000 words of the subject of the proposed thesis and details of the manner in which the student proposes to treat it.

Part B:

- (i) Two copies of a piece of written work of no more than 10,000 words, relevant to the subject of the proposed thesis. Students who have successfully completed the MPhil in Law, the MPhil in Socio-Legal Research, or the MPhil in Criminology and Criminal Justice will not normally be required to submit Part B (unless the proposed topic of their DPhil thesis has significantly changed from the MPhil) but may be required to provide the assessors with the MPhil thesis, at their request.

Full details of requirements can be found in the relevant course handbook.

The Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt) is permitted to make one further application and will be granted an extension of one term (up to two terms for part-time students) to Probationer Research Student status if necessary. Students may be required to resubmit Part A only, Part B only, or both Part A and Part B. If after a second attempt, the Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies can neither approve transfer to the DPhil

nor to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

4. Confirmation of Status

Applications for Confirmation of Status shall normally be made no earlier than the sixth term (twelfth term for part-time students), and Confirmation of Status must normally be completed no later than three terms (six terms for part-time students) after Transfer to DPhil status.

Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies Officer and will comprise the following:

- (a) a completed confirmation of status form and Law 5 form;
- (b) a statement giving the title of the thesis, and summarising each component chapter in approximately 100 words per chapter;
- (c) an overview of the intended thesis of approximately 1,000 words, stating how much of the thesis is complete and how much remains to be completed (with an estimate of the probable date of submission);
- (d) two copies of a piece of written work, normally of between 20,000-30,000 words intended to form part of the thesis.

Full details of requirements can be found in the relevant course handbook.

The Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

A student whose first application for Confirmation of Status is not approved is permitted to make one further application, normally within one term (two terms for part-time students) of the original application, and will be granted an extension of one term (up to two terms for part-time students) if necessary. If after the second attempt the Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

5. Theses

Theses for the Degree of DPhil must not exceed 100,000 words, and theses for the Degree of MLitt must not exceed 50,000 words, including all footnotes and appendices, but excluding the abstract, the table of contents, any table of cases, any table of statutes, the bibliography, any headers or footers, and any index. Any thesis exceeding these limits is liable to be rejected unless prior dispensation has been granted by the Graduate Studies Committee/Board of Studies on the advice of the student's supervisor. The format of theses must conform to the statements set out in the relevant course handbook.'

Explanatory Notes

A small number of changes to the regulations are required in response to changes to the MPhil courses in the Faculty of Law. Opportunity has also been taken to move the regulations for students starting from MT 2019 into the new approved Divisional template

for DPhil course regulations.