

HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD	
Title of Programme	Master of Philosophy in Oriental Studies – Buddhist Studies
Brief note about nature of change:	Amendments to administrative procedures for the degrees and tidying up the regulations.
Effective date	For students starting from MT 2015 For first examination from 2015-16
Location of change	<i>Examination Regulations 2014, page 523</i>
Detail of change	Please see attached regulations.
Explanatory Notes	<p><i>Changes are to reflect some administrative procedural changes and tidying up the current regulations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Take-home papers will be released on Weblearn rather than collect from the Faculty Office. Information on where the paper will be released should be included in the setting conventions. Students do not have to come to the Oriental Institute to collect their papers. 2) Candidates must submit an electronic copy of the dissertation in Word or PDF in a memory stick or CD-Rom. The memory stick and CD-Rom must be included with the hard copies of the dissertations. 3) All options removed from the examination regulations to the course handbooks. However, subject groups must finalise their options for the following-year by early Trinity Term the year before to ensure that the list of available options is available in the course handbooks in time for the start of the academic year. 4) Remove the phrase 'Students are recommended to attend a language course abroad' or similar phrasing from the examination regulations and put the phrasing in the course handbooks. 5) To streamline the dissertation deadline to three deadlines (rather than five): noon Friday of Wk 2, 4 or 6 of Trinity Term. 6) Amend phrasing on viva requirements to 'Candidates may be required to attend a viva'. This

means that unless informed 2-3 days beforehand, candidates can assume that they are not required to attend a viva.

7) Removing some information like dissertation submission to the general regulations rather than under individual degrees so that information is only available at one place.

[From 1 October 2015: (xiv) Buddhist Studies

A. *Qualifying examination*

Each candidate must pass a qualifying examination not later than the end of the third term from the commencement of the course. The examination will consist of two papers:

(i) A three-hour examination in the chosen primary Buddhist Language (either Sanskrit, Tibetan, or Classical Chinese).

(ii) A three-hour examination on basic aspects of Buddhist thought and history.

~~Candidates who fail the Qualifying Examination may be allowed to retake that part or parts once at the end of the Long Vacation of the first year of the course.~~

B. *Final examination* In the Trinity Term of their second year, all candidates must offer:

(i) an advanced language paper consisting in a translation from seen and unseen texts in the chosen primary Buddhist Language, to be assessed by a three-hour examination

(ii) a thesis of not more than 20,000 words on a subject approved by the Board¹³

(iii) a paper on Approaches to the study of Buddhism, to be assessed by three-hour examination

(iv) *Either*

(a) a language paper in a second primary Buddhist language (either Sanskrit, Tibetan, or Classical Chinese), to be assessed by three-hour examination. The second primary Buddhist language can be studied either at a basic or at an advanced level. The former will be assessed by a three-hour examination in the chosen second primary Buddhist language (as for paper (ii) of the Qualifying examination); the latter by a translation from seen and unseen texts in the chosen second primary Buddhist language, to be assessed by a three-hour examination (as for paper (i) of the Final examination). Students who intend to study a second primary Buddhist language at an advanced level must satisfy the Faculty Board that they possess an adequate knowledge of the chosen language.

Or

(b) A paper chosen from a list published ~~annually in the course handbook~~, assessed as specified by the course instructor. Applications for approval of the chosen topic must be sent to the ~~Secretary of the Board~~ [Senior Academic Administrator](#) on or before the Monday in second week of Michaelmas Full Term preceding the examination.

~~(v) The examiners may examine any candidate by viva voce.]~~