

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Board

Approved by Teaching Audit Committee on 16/03/15 and by Education Committee on 18/03/15

Title of Programme

MSc Politics Research

Brief note about nature of change: layout and minor text amendments, removal of language proficiency requirement

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2015

For first examination from 2015-16

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2014

Detail of change

1. P693, I32 – P694, I27:

A candidate for the M.Sc. in Politics Research shall follow ~~for twelve months~~ a course of instruction in Politics Research for twelve months. Each candidate must pass the M.Sc. Examination at the end of Trinity Term in the two compulsory papers. Each candidate student must also submit a thesis during the Long Vacation.

Compulsory papers:

(1) A single three hour written examination paper testing knowledge of the candidate's core subject (*Comparative Government or European Governance*).

~~(a)~~ *Comparative Government*

(Compulsory paper taken from the ~~M.Phil.~~ [MPhil](#) in Politics)

The theory and practice of government in modern states.

~~Or~~

~~(b)~~ *European Governance*

(Compulsory paper taken from the ~~M.Phil.~~ [MPhil](#) in Politics)

The constitutions and formal structure of governments in European states, including the UK, and the theory and practice of integration in Europe.

and

~~(c)~~ (2) *Research Methods in Political Science*

(Compulsory paper taken from the ~~M.Phil.~~ [MPhil](#) in Politics)

The paper is assessed in the following way. The candidates must submit:

~~(i) Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the Student Handbook, and will also produce a A Research Design Proposal Essay of between ~~4,000~~ 4000 and ~~6,000~~ 6000 words, excluding bibliography, on ~~the subject of the student's research design as it bears on the subject of the candidate's~~ proposed ~~M.Sc.~~ MSc thesis. Two ~~hard~~ copies of the Research Design ~~Essay~~ Proposal, together with a copy on CD or USB, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated, and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. ~~The Director of Graduate Studies in Politics shall draw the attention of the examiners to the names of any candidates who have failed to complete their research methods training to a satisfactory level of quality, and the examiners may require candidates to retake the course or a specified part thereof.~~~~

(ii) Research methods training coursework. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the *Student Handbook*. Candidates who fail elements of the research methods training coursework are normally permitted to submit a second time (or, of the coursework is assessed by a test, to resit that test) by a date specified in the *Student Handbook*.

~~(d) Where necessitated by a candidate's choice of subject the Politics Graduate Studies Committee may require a candidate to pass a test of proficiency in a language other than English. Candidates who fail the test will normally be allowed to retake the test before the beginning of the next academic year.~~

The Thesis

~~(e)~~ A The candidate must submit a thesis of not more than 15,000 words, excluding bibliography. Two hard copies, together with a copy on CD or USB, must be submitted to the Examination Schools by noon on the last Friday of August following the end of Trinity Full Term. It must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution. The thesis must be clearly marked with the candidate's examination number, the title of the thesis and the words 'M.Sc. in Politics Research'². After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.

For a candidate to pass the degree of MSc in Politics Research, the candidate must pass: the *Research Methods in Political Science* paper (all elements of coursework and the Research Design Proposal), the written examination paper (*Comparative Government or European Governance*), and the thesis.

~~Candidates must present themselves for viva voce examination when requested by the examiners.~~ The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

Explanatory Notes

Layout and minor text amendments, removal of language proficiency requirement for European Governance students