

HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD	
Title of Programme	Master of Studies in Bible Interpretation
Brief note about nature of change:	Amendments to administrative procedures for the degree.
Effective date	For students starting from MT 2015 For first examination from 2015-16
Location of change:	<i>Examination Regulations 2014, page 552.</i>
Detail of change:	Please see attached.
Explanatory Notes	<p><i>These changes reflect some administrative procedural changes and also tidy-up the current regulations:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Take-home papers will be released on Weblearn rather than collected from the Faculty Office. Information on where the paper will be released will be included in the setting conventions. 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 are removed from the examination regulations to the course handbooks. Options will be finalised by the start of Trinity Term in the year preceding the start of the course to ensure that the list of available options is in the course handbooks in good time. 4) The phrase 'Students are recommended to attend a language course abroad' (or similar) is being removed from the examination regulations and put included in course handbooks. 5) The dissertation submission date is to be streamlined to three (rather than five) deadlines: noon on Friday of Wk 2, 4 or 6 of Trinity Term. 6) Amending phrasing on viva requirements to 'Candidates may be required to attend a viva'. 7) Moving certain information (e.g. dissertation submission) to the general regulations rather than under individual degrees so that information is only available at one place.

Bible Interpretation

1. Before admission to the course, candidates must satisfy the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies that they possess the necessary qualification in Classical Hebrew, Aramaic or Syriac, to profit by the course. Teaching for a second language from these three will be provided during the course if required. Evidence of proficiency in Greek or Latin will be expected if options in either of these languages are chosen.
2. Every candidate must follow for at least three terms a course of study in Bible Interpretation.
3. *Syllabus* There will be four Units: Units (i), (ii) and (iii) are each assessed by a written examination paper.

Unit (i) Essay questions on general background and methodology.

Unit (ii) Prescribed texts I. Passages for translation and comment, and essay questions on prescribed texts (a passage, or passages, for unprepared translation may also be set).

Unit (iii) Prescribed texts II. Passages for translation and comment, and essay questions on prescribed texts (a passage, or passages, for unprepared translation may also be set).

Units (ii) and (iii) must be chosen from two of the following:

- (a) Hebrew biblical and exegetical texts
- (b) Aramaic (Targum) texts
- (c) Syriac biblical and exegetical texts
- (d) Greek biblical and exegetical texts
- (e) Latin biblical and exegetical texts

Unit (iv) A ~~dissertation~~ thesis of not more than 15,000 words (excluding bibliography), on a topic selected in consultation with the candidate's supervisor and approved by the Faculty Board. Applications for such approval should be submitted to the Faculty office by ~~Friday of seventh week of Michaelmas~~ Monday of Week 0 of Hilary Term ~~and will be reported to the Faculty Board's second meeting of Michaelmas Term.~~ Two typewritten copies and an electronic copy of the thesis in PDF format in a memory stick or CD. ~~Two typewritten copies of the dissertation~~ must be delivered to the Chair of Examiners, M.St in Bible Interpretation, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than 12 noon on Friday of fourth week of Trinity Term. The work must bear the candidates' examination number (but not the candidates' name.) Candidates must include a signed declaration sealed in an envelope addressed to the Chair of Examiners that the work is the candidates own.

4. Lists of set texts must be submitted to the Faculty office by Friday of seventh week of Michaelmas Term ~~and will be reported to the Faculty Board's second meeting of Michaelmas Term.~~
5. ~~All work submitted to the Chair of Examiners must be in typewritten form. Two copies must be submitted, securely sealed and addressed. The work must bear the candidate's examination number (but not the candidate's name, which must be concealed). Candidates must include a signed declaration sealed in an envelope addressed to the Chair of Examiners that the work is the candidate's own.~~
6. ~~Every candidate will be examined by oral examination unless he or she shall have been individually excused by the examiners.~~
7. Candidates may be required to attend a viva.

Teaching for some options may not be available in every year. Applicants for admission will be advised of this.