HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Title of Programme
Master of Studies in Chinese Studies

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
Examination Regulations 2014, page 554.

Detail of change: Please see attached.

These changes reflect some administrative procedural changes and also tidy-up the current regulations:

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.
Chinese Studies

1. Before admission to the course, candidates must either have taken a degree in Chinese in the Honour School of Oriental Studies at Oxford or a comparable degree from another university, or must otherwise satisfy the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies that they possess the necessary qualifications in the Chinese language to profit by the course.

2. Every candidate must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Chinese Studies.

3. Syllabus There will be four Units.

4. Unit (i) Prescribed texts, with special reference to a subject approved by the Board. This is a written examination paper.

5. Unit (ii) Either Classical Chinese unprepared translation or Japanese or another Asian language approved by the Board. This is a written examination paper. Candidates may choose a language other than Classical Chinese only if the Board is satisfied that they possess a good knowledge of Classical Chinese. Candidates who have taken Chinese in the Honour School of Oriental Studies at Oxford are required to take Japanese or another Asian language.

6. Unit (iii) Bibliography and techniques of sinology, with special reference to the subject chosen in Unit (i). Exercises will be set after examinations for Units (i) and (ii) have taken place. Each candidate will be assigned one or more exercises set on a topic directly relating to the course of instruction he/she has followed, and will be required to submit a written answer to the Chair of Examiners by a date which the Chair will announce, but which shall, in any case, be not sooner than two days and not later than seven days following the examinations. Two copies of each typewritten essay must be submitted to the Chair of Examiners, M.St in Chinese Studies, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. Candidates must include a signed declaration sealed in an envelope addressed to the Chair of Examiners that the work is the candidate’s own.

7. Unit (iv) A dissertation 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 Monday of nought week of Hilary Term. The dissertation must be sent to the Chair of Examiners, M.St in Chinese Studies (Oriental Studies), Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford, not later than 12 noon on Friday of fourth week of Trinity Term. Two typewritten copies and an electronic copy of the thesis in PDF format in a memory stick or CD, must be submitted to the Chairman of the Examiners, name of degree, c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG, not later than 12 noon on Friday of Week 4 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.
10. Every candidate will be examined by oral examination unless he or she shall have been individually excused by the examiners. Candidates may be required to attend a viva.