Title of programme
MPhil in International Relations

Brief note about nature of change:
Restructuring of the teaching and assessment of the first year of the programme, including replacement of the qualifying test.

Effective date
1 October 2013

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2012

Detail of change
1. P.538, l.3, delete “Social Sciences Board” and insert “International Relations Graduate Studies Committee”.
2. P.538, l.4, delete “Qualifying Test” and insert “First-Year Examination”.
3. P.538, l.5, delete “qualifying test” and insert “first-year examination”.
4. P.538, l.7, delete “qualifying test” and insert “first-year examination”.
5. P.538, l.12-13, delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in International Relations” and insert “Student Handbook”.
6. P.538, l.16, delete “two terms.” and insert “year, namely:”
The development of the International System: The history of the relations between states in peace and war, and the development of the international system. It will include such topics as: major traditions of thought on International Relations; 19th imperialism and euro-centrism; the concert system, the balance of power and the causes of the First World War; the peace settlement, collective security and the League of Nations; political and economic co-operation in the interwar period; the USA, Soviet Union, Middle East and Far East in the inter-war years; the impact of revolution, domestic politics and ideology on foreign policy; the causes of the Second World War; post-war reconstruction and the origins of the Cold War; the nuclear revolution and the impact of technological change; the evolution of the Cold war; decolonization, nationalism and self-determination; détente, arms control and regional conflicts; the end of the Cold War; the evolution of international economic institutions; the evolution of security institutions; and international relations in the post-Cold War world.

Contemporary Debates in International Relations Theory: Ideas about, and explanations of, international relations, concentrating mainly (but not exclusively) on the major theoretical approaches in the academic study of international relations since 1945. The key theories and approaches to be examined include: realism and neorealism; theories about war, security, and the use of force in international relations; classical liberalism, globalization, and transformation in world politics; theories about inter-state co-operation and transnationalism; the concept of international society; constructivism and the impact of law and norms in international relations; neo-Marxist and critical theory approaches to international relations; normative theory and international ethics.

7. P.538, l.16, before “Details” insert “3. ”.

8. P.538, l.17, delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in International Relations.” and insert “Student Handbook.”.

9. P.538, l.18, delete “Thursday of noughtth week of Trinity Term” and insert “Friday of eighth week of Trinity Term”.

10. P.538, l.20, before “The examiners” delete “3. ” and insert “4. ”.

11. P.538, l.24-25, delete “Notes of Guidance for Graduate Students and Supervisors in International Relations.” and insert “Student Handbook.”.

12. P.538, l.25-26, delete “Notes of Guidance” and insert “Student Handbook”.

13. P.538, l.28-30, delete “Entries for the qualifying test must be made on the appropriate form, obtainable from the University Offices, by Friday of the fourth week of the Hilary Full Term following the candidate’s admission.” and insert “5. ”.

14. P.538, l.30-31, delete “Candidates who fail the examination part of the qualifying test may retake it in the eighth week of the same Trinity Term.” and insert “Candidates who fail the written examination part of the first-year examination will normally be allowed to retake it before the beginning of the next academic year.”.
15. P.538, l.37, delete “qualifying test” and insert “first-year examination”.

16. P.538, l.41-42, delete “hard-bound copies” and insert “hard copies, together with a copy on CD.”.

17. P.538, l.42-46, delete “statement that it is the candidate’s own work except where otherwise indicated. After the examination process is complete, one of the bound copies of the thesis of each successful candidate is sent by the Department to the Bodleian Library, and the other can be collected from the Department by the candidate.” and insert “separate signed declaration that is the candidate’s own work except where otherwise indicated and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or another institution. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.”.

18. Delete from P.538, l.47 to P.539 l.19.

19. P.539, l.20, before “Two” delete “4. ” and insert “2. ”.

20. P.539, l.20-22, delete “subjects chosen from the following. (Teaching in some options may not be available every year. Students will be advised during the first year of the course of the teaching arrangements for the optional subjects.)” and insert “subject papers taken from the approved list of optional subjects in International Relations, as published in the Student Handbook by the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee on Monday of first week of Michaelmas Term each academic year to apply to candidates being examined in the Trinity Term of that year. Candidates should note that the International Relations subjects available in any particular year will depend on the availability of teaching resources. Not all subjects will be available in every year and restrictions may be placed on the number of candidates permitted to offer certain subjects in any particular year. Candidates may, with the special permission of the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee, offer subjects beyond the approved list of International Relations subjects. Applications must be made by the last Friday of the Trinity Term preceding that in which the examination is to be taken, and must be supported by the student’s supervisor. Supervisors should ensure that applications are submitted as early as possible so that if approval is not given, the candidate has sufficient time to choose an alternative.”.

21. Delete from P.539, l.23 to P.542, l.33.

22. P.542, l.34, before “Candidates” delete “5. ” and insert “3. ”.

Explanatory Notes
Clause 1: Re-wording in order to eliminate obsolete reference to the Social Sciences Board.
Clauses 2-4: Change to reflect replacement of the qualifying test with the first-year examination.
Clause 5: Change to reflect that the documentation used by students has been renamed.
Clause 6: Change to reflect that the new first-year examination will incorporate assessment of subjects that were previously examined at the end of the second year – further information is included in the attached rationale document.

Clause 7: Minor amendment to tidy numbering.

Clause 8: Change to reflect that the documentation used by students has been renamed.

Clause 9: Change to the timing of the examination at the end of the first year from 0th week of TT to the end of 8th week of TT. Explanation is included in attached rationale document from the department.

Clause 10: Minor amendment to tidy numbering.

Clauses 11-12: Change to reflect that the documentation used by students has been renamed.

Clause 13: Stipulation no longer needed due to the qualifying test being made obsolete.

Clause 14: Tidying up of section in order to reflect elimination of the qualifying test and to clarify re-sit timings and procedures for the first-year examination.

Clause 15: Minor amendment to reflect elimination of the qualifying test and introduction of the first-year examination.

Clauses 16-17: Minor amendments to bring submission procedures in line with those used by Politics.

Clause 18: Removal of section due to being moved into the first year of the programme.

Clause 19: Minor amendment to tidy numbering.

Clauses 20-21: Changes to clarify that not all option subjects may be offered in a given year, and removal of the schedule of options with a reference to the options being outlined in the Student Handbook, so that the department can respond more easily to staffing changes resulting in options not being able to be offered.

Clause 22: Minor amendment to tidy numbering.