Changes in special regulations governing the Master of Studies in Ancient Philosophy: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Philosophy

Subject to the approval of the Humanities Divisional Board, which is now sought, the following change in special regulations is proposed:

Humanities Divisional Board

Master of Studies in Ancient Philosophy

Brief note about the nature of the change: Change to thesis title word limit

With effect from 1 October 2013 (for first examination in 2014)

In Examination Regulations, 2013, p. 601, l. 15, delete “10,000 words” and substitute “10,000-15,000 words”.

Explanatory Note

(i) For 2012-13 the thesis word limit was reduced from 15,000 words to 10,000 words for this course. The MSt in Ancient Philosophy Examinations Committee was, however, asked to keep this change under review to ensure it does not have any negative effects on the quality of the theses produced. The Examination Committee had a lengthy discussion of the theses submitted during 2012-13 and the relative benefits of a shorter or longer thesis word limit, and it was decided that a word limit range, rather than an upper word limit, would be preferable, to prevent a very complex or novel thesis from losing coherence and polish. As a result, it was decided that 10,000-15,000 words would be the new word length from October 2013 onwards.

(ii) The change will not affect current students.

(iii) There are no resource implications.