

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

**Approved: Stephanie Halford on behalf of MSD Graduate School Committee
(05/06/2019)**

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Research Degrees in the Medical Sciences Division

Brief note about nature of change:

Change to the requirements for reports submitted for transfer to DPhil status

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018*, Research Degrees in the Medical Sciences Division
(<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/rditmedisciedivi/>)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

And

For first examination from 2019-2020

Detail of change

Amend citation reference 1.20 as follows:

4. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO THE STATUS OF STUDENT FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Candidates should submit the statement from the supervisor and the statement from the candidate's society as specified by the regulations governing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. **[For students starting from MT 2016:** All candidates must include a completed Training Needs Analysis detailing the skills training that they have undertaken and planned.] In addition, candidates, with the exception of those on the Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental Psychology, should submit a report of no more than ~~3,000~~ 5,000 words which should include an abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, any appendices, and future plans including a proposed timetable for completion. ~~Students may add appendices as necessary of up to a further 2,000 words including methods, figure legends, and references.~~ Candidates on the Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental

Psychology should submit a report of no more than ~~6,000~~ 7,000 words which should include an abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, any appendices, and future plans including a proposed timetable for completion. ~~Students may add appendices as necessary of up to a further 2,000 words including methods, figure legends, and references.~~ These are maximum word limits, exclusive of tables and references. Candidates will not be penalised for submitting reports of shorter length, so long as they include sufficient material to merit admission. However, if the maximum word limit is exceeded the report may be returned to the candidate for amendment. Further guidance on the form of report should be sought from the departmental Director of Graduate Studies. ~~[For students starting before MT 2016: Further guidance on the form of report should be sought from the departmental Director of Graduate Studies.]~~

Explanatory Notes

This change brings the regulations for transfer to DPhil status in the Medical Sciences Division into line with current practice, and makes clearer to candidates which elements of the transfer report should be counted within the word limit. For transfer reports (excluding Experimental Psychology) the word limit is changed to 5,000 words; this includes the abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, any appendices, and future plans, but *excludes* tables and references. For Experimental Psychology, the transfer report word limit is changed to 7,000 words, in light of the longer thesis length for those candidates.