

Humanities Divisional Board

Approved by officers on behalf of the Board on 11 June 2019

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Research Degrees in Philosophy

Brief note about nature of change:

Correction of essay pass mark and introduction of special Transfer of Status requirements

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018* (<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/rdegrinphil/>)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2019-20.

Detail of changes

New text underlined, deletions struck-through:

^{1.32}Candidates admitted as Probationer Research Students after completing the Master of Studies degree in Ancient Philosophy at the University of Oxford must complete all of the following requirements by the end of Week 8 of their third term as a Probationer Research Student:

^{1.33}(a) Attend two graduate classes with at least one from the following subject areas: moral philosophy; metaphysics; theory of knowledge; philosophical logic and philosophy of language; philosophy of mind and action.

^{1.34}(b) Submit one 5,000 word essay on a topic of the student's choice for one of the above listed classes, the pass mark for which is 65.

(...)

^{1.41}(b) Submit one 5,000 word essay on a topic of the student's choice for one of the above listed classes, the pass mark for which is ~~68~~5.

(...)

^{1.47}If it waives (a) and (b) and replaces (d) by (e) then the student must complete the requirements by the end of Week 2 of their third term as a Probationer Research Student.

Candidates admitted as Probationer Research Students after completing the Master of Studies degree

in Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford must complete all of the following requirements by the end of Week 8 of their third term as a Probationer Research Student:

(a) attend at least one graduate class, which cannot be in Practical Ethics. This could potentially include Moral Philosophy; Political Philosophy; Ancient Ethics; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Action.

(b) submit one 5,000 word essay on a topic of the student's choice, for one of the above listed classes, the pass mark for which is 65;

(c) submit a thesis outline of about two pages;

(d) submit a piece of written work of approximately 5,000 words in the area and style of the proposed thesis.

The board will appoint two assessors, who will read the submissions and conduct an interview with the candidate. If the mark for the essay mentioned in (b) above is between 50 and 64 (inclusive) then the assessors may, depending on the quality of the candidate's other submitted work, recommend approval or refusal of the Transfer of Status application.

The Philosophy Graduate Studies Committee may, depending on the student's prior experience and education, waive requirements (a) and/or (b). If it waives both requirements then the student must complete the requirements by the end of Week 2 of their third term as a Probationer Research Student.

^{1.48}3. *Confirmation of D.Phil. status*

^{1.49}Applications should be accompanied by a thesis outline of about two pages and a piece of written work of approximately 5,000 words, intended as a part of the thesis, in final or near-final draft.

Explanatory Notes

Following the university-imposed change to a masters marking scheme with 50 (instead of 60) as the minimum pass mark, the minimum essay pass mark needs to be reduced from 68 to 65, in line with the new marking scheme. Note that this does not equate to a lowering of the quality of work that will receive a pass mark, but instead the lower mark is the equivalent mark on the new marking scheme.

The introduction of special Transfer of Status requirements for students progressing from the MSt in Practical Ethics, brings the transfer of status requirements for this MSt in line with those for the Faculty of Philosophy's two other MSt courses.