Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette

Social Sciences Board

Approved at the meeting of 25 February 2011

Title of Programme
Special Regulations for research degrees in Anthropology

Brief note about nature of change: Revisions to arrangements and requirements for Transfer of Status and for Confirmation of Status.

Effective date
With effect from 1 October 2011

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2010

Detail of change

1  p.911, delete ll.10-27 and substitute:

‘For transfer of status, the student should submit two copies in typescript of a substantial piece of written work relevant to the proposed thesis. The work should not exceed 20,000 words excluding bibliography and any appendixes, but including notes, and should consist of, or incorporate, a detailed research proposal. The student will be required to show that the research already undertaken shows promise of the ability to produce a satisfactory M.Litt. or D.Phil. thesis, as the case may be, on the intended topic. Students should submit their work to the Departmental Office, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, not later than the end of Trinity full term after the Michaelmas Term in which they were admitted. An extension of one term (i.e. to the end of the Michaelmas full term in the year after the student was admitted) may be granted in exceptional circumstances. In the case of students admitted in other terms, submission should take place by the end of the third term (i.e. full term) after admission, with the possibility of an extension for a further one term (i.e. to the end of full term) in exceptional circumstances. (NB: alternative provisions apply to
probationer research students with coursework, as described in paragraph 3, below). The student’s submission will be assessed by two assessors appointed by the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, to which they will submit a written report. In exceptional cases one assessor, but in the case of joint supervision not both, may be the applicant’s supervisor. A student whose first application is unsuccessful may be given one further opportunity to apply for transfer of status, for which an extension of one term is automatically granted.

All probationer research students must give presentations on their proposed research projects to the class designated for that purpose or an agreed equivalent to qualify for transfer of status. They will also be expected to attend relevant courses on training and methods, as agreed with, and directed by, their supervisor(s).‘

2 Ibid., delete from p.912, l.39 to p.913, l.3 and substitute:

‘Application for confirmation of D.Phil. status shall normally be made not earlier than the third term from admission as a research student in the case of a student transferring from an M.Phil. degree within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, and not earlier than the sixth term from admission as a research student in the case of a student transferring from the status of Probationer Research Student. Such application shall normally be made not later than the ninth term from admission as a research student in either case. The student will be required to give evidence confirming that the research already carried out gives promise of the ability to produce a satisfactory D.Phil. thesis on the intended topic. For this purpose the applicant must submit: a) a detailed outline of the whole of the proposed thesis, including an indication of the topics, theories, arguments etc. to be covered in individual chapters (as applicable); and b) at least one and not more than two sample chapters. In the latter case, the student is advised to submit one chapter that is basically ethnographic in type (if applicable), the other concerning the more general comparative and/or theoretical issues with which the thesis deals, though this advice may be varied in consultation with the supervisor(s). The outline should not exceed 4,000 words, and the submitted chapters should not exceed 20,000 words in total. If these materials do exceed these limits, the assessors are under no obligation to read beyond them, though they are permitted to require the student to submit extra materials to help them in reaching a recommendation. The materials should be submitted, in two copies, to the Departmental Office, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology.’.

3 Ibid., l.5 delete ‘Ethnology’ and substitute ‘Ethnography’.

4 Ibid., after l.12 insert:

‘All D.Phil. students must give presentations on their research projects to the class designated for that purpose or an agreed equivalent to qualify for confirmation of status.’.

Explanatory Notes

Clauses 1 and 3 make revisions to arrangements and requirements for Transfer and for Confirmation of Status so as to encourage more timely submission and to organise more effectively assessments by limiting them, where possible to the main examining period for graduate anthropology. The changes also require students applying for Confirmation to provide specific materials for assessors to aid them in their decision making. In addition,
for both Transfer and Confirmation, students are now required to present their work; and to undertake such additional research training that may be necessary, in line with new practice in relation to doctoral training now agreed across Social Sciences Division.