Changes in Examination Regulations

Social Sciences Board

Approved at the meeting of 25 February 2011

Title of Programme
Postgraduate Certificate in Education

Brief note about nature of change: Revisions to assessment requirements concerning the dissertation.

Effective date
With effect from 1 October 2011

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2010

Detail of change
1  p.997, delete ll18-21, and substitute:
‘(a) an assignment of 4,000 to 5,000 words (including footnotes/endnotes but excluding appendices, references or bibliography) on an issue of professional practice which transcends individual subjects.’.

2  Ibid., l.22 and l.25, delete ‘dissertation’ and substitute ‘assignment’.

Explanatory Notes
Following a review of the assessment load of the programme, it was determined that this was disproportionately high in comparison with other PGCE programmes and the demands of other PGT programmes in the Department of Education, and creates excessive demands on students at times when professional practice and examined assignments coincide. The replacement of the dissertation with a shorter assignment addresses this by reducing the word count and removes the element of detailed school based research, shifting the emphasis to a professional literature review driven by and relevant to professional
concerns. Students’ academic workload is eased at the time when they most need to spend time on professional work focused on the achievement of the Standards for the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).