

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (27/10/2020)

Master of Science by Coursework in Archaeology

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Introduction of regulations to govern movement between streams
2. Minor amendments to the assessment schedule
3. Minor amendments to the dissertation requirements

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2020*,

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosebpcourinarch&srchYear=2020&srchTerm=1&year=2020&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2020

For first examination from 2020-21

Detail of change

1.1. The Course shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Archaeology.

1.2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Archaeology for three terms.

1.3. Candidates will complete a course in Archaeological Principles: Data and Theory and will submit a portfolio consisting of the work candidates carry out for and during their classes, including a research proposal of no more than 300 words based on their initial ideas for their dissertation. The portfolio will be submitted by noon on Wednesday of week 0 of Hilary Term. The portfolio will be marked pass/fail only.

4. Candidates will select their chosen stream as part of their application. Candidates wishing to change stream will be required to apply to the Graduate Studies Committee by no later than Friday of week 2 of Michaelmas term. Changes beyond this date will not normally be permitted. Not all streams will be offered every year, and changes to stream are subject to availability.

~~1.4~~45. Candidates will present themselves for a three-hour written examination on a course from List A from ~~any~~their chosen stream as set out in the Course Handbook at the beginning of Hilary term.

~~1.5~~56. Candidates will submit two pre-set essays (each of no more than 5,000 words) ~~by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term~~ for a course from List B in the same stream as the written examination in clause ~~45~~45, as set out in the Course Handbook. One essay will be submitted by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term and the second by Tuesday of week 2 of Trinity term.

~~1.6~~67. Candidates will submit two pre-set essays (each of no more than 5,000 words) ~~by noon on Tuesday of week 2 of Trinity term~~ for a second course from one of the following (taking into account any requirements for combinations of courses set out in the Course Handbook): i) a course offered and available from List B in any stream, or ii) an option offered and available from Schedule B in the MSt in Classical Archaeology taught in Hilary Term, or iii) a subject offered and available in the MSc in Archaeological Science, unless the module under clause ~~56~~56 is a subject offered in the MSc in Archaeological Science. One essay will be submitted by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term and the second by Tuesday of week 2 of Trinity term.

Candidates will propose the pre-set essay topics under clauses ~~5 and 6~~ and 7 in consultation with the relevant course tutor and their supervisor (if they are different). The four essay titles must be submitted for approval by the Chair of Examiners by noon on Friday of week ~~87~~87 of Hilary term.

~~1.7~~78. Candidates will complete a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words (excluding bibliography and ~~descriptive catalogue or similar factual matter~~ appendices, but including notes ~~and appendices~~) on a topic agreed with their supervisor. The topic of the dissertation must be related to the stream candidates are following but clearly distinct from the topics covered by pre-set essays submitted by the candidate under clauses ~~5 and 6~~ and 7. The proposed title of the dissertation must be submitted for approval by the Chair of Examiners by 12 noon on Friday of week 6 of Hilary term. The dissertation must be submitted by the last Wednesday of August in the year in which the examination is taken.

~~1.8~~89. Candidates must upload their Archaeological Principles' portfolio, four pre-set essays, and dissertation to the Assignments section of the course WebLearn site by the specified deadlines. Each individual piece of written work must be accompanied by a statement that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated.

~~1.9~~910. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination if required by the examiners.

~~1.10~~1140. In the case of failure of the Archaeological Principles' portfolio, candidates will have the opportunity to resubmit a revised portfolio within three weeks of publication of the fail, on a date to be specified by the Chair of Examiners. Candidates who fail the written examination, any of the pre-set essays, or the dissertation will be permitted to re-sit the examination, or resubmit the pre-set essay(s) and/or dissertation, on one further occasion only, not later than one year after the first attempt.

Explanatory Notes

No regulation formally exists to describe the procedures for changing stream. Changing streams after week 2 would place candidates at a disadvantage as they are unlikely to catch up in readiness for the List A assessment. Exceptional cases for change beyond week 2 would be considered by the GSC.

An amendment is made to swap the submission deadline for one List B essay with one pre-set essay. This will ensure that students are given an equal amount of time to work on their essays for each Hilary term module. There is no change to the overall schedule of assessment as students will still submit two essays in week 0 of TT and two essays in week 2 of TT. The deadline for submitting the pre-set essay topics will move from week 8 to week 7 of Hilary term. This allows essay topics to be reviewed alongside dissertation titles at GSC in week 8, allowing crossover between topics to be more easily identified and concerns raised with students.

The elements included in the dissertation word-count has been amended to reflect the relevance of appendices to archaeological subjects. It is clarified that the dissertation topic should be related to the stream candidates are following but that direct overlap with earlier coursework is not permitted.