

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 21/09/16 and by Education Committee on 05/10/16

Title of Programme

Research Degrees in the Oxford Internet Institute

Brief note about nature of change: introduction of part-time variant of programme

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016* <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/rdtoxfoinsteinst/>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2017

Detail of change

Amend as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

1. Admissions

Applicants shall be required to satisfy the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute that they have:

- (a) a Master's degree or other advanced degree, normally in one of the social sciences, and normally passed with a mark of at least 67 per cent or an equivalent level of distinction;
- (b) achieved at least a 2.1 (or its equivalent) at first degree level;
- (c) for students whose first language is not English, have met the higher level of the University's English language requirements; and that they are;
- (d) well-fitted to undertake research at doctoral level.

2. Probationer Research Students

All students are normally admitted as Probationer Research Students.

Unless granted a dispensation by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute, Probationer Research Students during their first year (and second year in the case of part-time students) shall:

- (a) attend such lectures, seminars, and classes as his or her supervisor and/or the committee shall determine;
- (b) attend and satisfactorily complete such courses or classes from the Institute's Research Methods Training Programme as directed by the committee;
- (c) attend and satisfactorily complete the Institute's Social Dynamics of the Internet course.

3. Special provisions for part-time D.Phil. students

Candidates are required to meet the following attendance requirements for their period of part-time study: attendance for a minimum of 30 days of university-based work each year, normally coinciding with the full terms of the academic year, to be arranged with the agreement of their supervisor, for the period that their names remain on the Register of Graduate Students unless individually dispensed by the Graduate Studies Committee. During a candidate's probationary period the attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events scheduled by the Institute.

34. Transfer to M.Litt. or D.Phil. status

Students will normally be expected to transfer to D.Phil. (or M.Litt.) status in their third or fourth term (sixth to eighth term for part-time students) as a Probationer Research Student at the Oxford Internet Institute. Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute and will comprise the following:

- (a) a transfer of status form, signed by the candidate's supervisor and an appropriate officer of the candidate's college;
- (b) confirmation from the candidate's supervisor that such courses as the candidate has been required to undertake have been satisfactorily completed;
- (c) an outline of their research (one side of A4 paper);
- (d) a detailed research proposal of no more than 6,000 words. This should:
 - (i) draw upon relevant literature to discuss the background to the research, theoretical perspectives, and possible outcomes to the research;
 - (ii) state key research questions;
 - (iii) discuss the overall methodological approach, and specific strategies, to be employed in answering these research questions, paying particular attention to

practical and ethical issues relevant to the research.

(e) a preliminary timetable for the research;

(f) a list of references;

(g) OII Training Needs Assessment Form.

The application will be considered by a specially constituted panel of two assessors appointed by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute. The panel will read the work, interview the candidate and make a recommendation to the committee in a reasoned written report.

Candidates will be expected during the interview to show evidence of their understanding of general theory and research methods in the social sciences applicable to their proposed study and specific research methods appropriate to the study of social aspects of the Internet and related ICTs.

A student whose first application is unsuccessful may be given one further opportunity to apply for transfer, following the procedures laid down, and may apply for an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purpose of making the application.

45. Confirmation of status

Applications for confirmation of status as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy should be made not earlier than the sixth term (or twelfth term for part-time students) from admission as a PRS. Any student who does not confirm status by the end of the ninth term (or eighteenth term for part-time students), will be required to apply for deferral of confirmation of status and may be allowed up to three terms (six terms for part-time students) for this purpose. Applications submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute shall comprise the following:

(a) a confirmation of status application form signed by the candidate's supervisor and an appropriate officer of the candidate's college;

(b) an abstract of the thesis (one side of A4 paper);

(c) an outline structure of the thesis, consisting of chapter headings, and a brief statement of the intended content;

(d) an outline timetable detailing what work has already been carried out and what activities are planned for the remaining stages;

(e) two completed draft chapters intended to form part of the final thesis;

(f) OII Training Needs Assessment Form.

The application will be considered by a specially constituted panel of two assessors appointed by the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford Internet Institute. The panel

will read the work, interview the candidate and make a recommendation to the committee in a written report.

A student whose first application is unsuccessful may be given one further opportunity to apply for confirmation, following the procedures laid down, and may apply for an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purpose of making the application.

5. Thesis

The thesis must not exceed 100,000 words for D.Phil., or 50,000 for M.Litt., the limit to include abstract, all notes and appendices but not the bibliography. Any thesis exceeding this limit is liable to be rejected on that ground unless prior dispensation has been granted by the Graduate Studies Committee on the advice of the candidate's supervisor.'

Explanatory Notes

Introduction of regulations for part-time variant of the DPhil in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences.