

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 (12/03/2019)

Master of Science by Coursework in Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendment to the assessment of the *Research Skills* course.
2. Amendment to remove reference to award of a Distinction as covered by General Regulation.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2018*, <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/mosbcin-sandenvigove/studentview/>

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2019

For first examination from 2019-20

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.4 as follows:

~~'(i) a written examination of three three-hour papers as described in the schedule;~~

'(i) a written examination of one two-hour paper in *Research Skills* and two three-hour papers in *Theory and Analysis* and *Policy and Governance*.'

2. Insert the following text after citation 1.5:

(ii) two assessed essays based upon elective courses. These must be uploaded to the course WebLearn Submissions site by the times and dates specified at the start of the course. Each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work.

'(iii) a policy brief based upon the fieldtrip undertaken in Hilary Term. The policy brief must

be uploaded to the course WebLearn Submissions site by the time and date specified at the start of the course. The submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating that it is the candidate's own work.'

3. Amend citation 1.6 as follows:

'~~(iii)~~ (iv) a dissertation on a subject selected in consultation with the supervisor and the Course Director and approved by the Course and Academic Directors.'

4. Delete citation 1.14

~~10. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.~~

Explanatory Notes

The *Research Skills* core course is currently assessed by a three-hour written examination paper. Feedback and discussion with the External Examiner has led the School to reconsider whether a three-hour written examination is the most appropriate way of assessing the skills-based and applied aspects of *Research Skills*. One area of the course that is not currently summatively assessed is the small group research projects students design and carry out during the Hilary Term fieldtrip, and it was agreed to develop a summative assessment for the fieldtrip which will examine students' ability to synthesise primary and secondary evidence collected during their fieldwork in the form of a policy brief. The policy brief shall constitute one-third of the *Research Skills* course, and the existing three-hour written examination paper has been reduced to two-hours with candidates answering two questions to accommodate the introduction of the new coursework assessment.