

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of QAC on 4/6/21

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Philosophy in Economics

Brief note about nature of change: Major amendments to enable first (qualifying) year students to choose to undertake advanced papers in core subjects. Clarification of the choice of papers required for the final examination.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2019-20*

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mophilinecon&srchYear=2020&srchTerm=1&year=2019&term=1>

Effective date

For MPhil students starting in MT21, for first (qualifying) examination in 2021-22, and final examination in 2022-23.

Detail of change

Strike existing regulations and replace with:

Master of Philosophy in Economics

1. The course shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Economics.
2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Economics for six terms.

First-year examinations

3. All candidates will take three compulsory papers: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and

Econometrics, each examined by an unseen written examination at the beginning of Trinity term. Candidates will normally take the “Core” versions of the papers, but may take one or more of the “Advanced” versions with the permission of the Graduate Studies Committee.

4. Details of the content of the three compulsory papers (“Core” and “Advanced”) will be published on the Department’s VLE site at the beginning of Michaelmas Term each year.

5. All candidates must take either Core Empirical Research Methods or Advanced Maths in their first year examined by submitted coursework. With the permission of the Economics Graduate Studies Committee, candidates may take both papers in their first year.

6. To progress to the second year candidates must achieve an average mark of at least 50 in the compulsory papers at either “Core” or “Advanced” level. Candidates who fail to progress to the second year must re-sit the failed papers when next offered. Candidates who fail an “Advanced” compulsory paper may re-sit the “Core” version. The Graduate Studies Committee reserves the right to exercise discretion in exceptional cases.

Final Examination

7. All candidates must offer four papers (except where they have taken both Core Empirical Research Methods and Advanced Maths in the first year, in which case they must offer three papers), and a thesis. These papers must be chosen from {Field papers, Advanced Maths, Core Empirical Research Methods, Advanced Empirical Research Methods, Advanced Macroeconomics, Advanced Microeconomics and Advanced Econometrics} excluding any papers already taken in the first year. A maximum of two of the papers can be chosen from the set {Advanced Empirical Research Methods, Advanced Macroeconomics, Advanced Microeconomics and Advanced Econometrics}. Students wishing to offer any of these four Advanced papers need the permission of the Graduate Studies Committee. Achieving a Distinction in the corresponding Core paper in the first year, or a Pass in the corresponding Core Empirical Research Methods, will grant this permission automatically. The definitive list of Field papers together with information on content, structure and assessment method will be published on the Department’s VLE at the beginning of Michaelmas Term of the year in which the examination is to be taken.

8. All candidates must offer a thesis of no more than 20,000 words which must be submitted using the University approved online submission system by noon on Wednesday of week 3 of Trinity Term in which the final examination is taken. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook. Candidates

must submit their thesis title and outline to the MPhil Director by Friday of week 0 of Hilary Term in which the final examination is taken.

9. Candidates who fail the final examination will be permitted to retake the failed second-year examination paper(s) or resubmit the failed thesis on one further occasion, which will normally be within one year of the initial failure.

10. Candidates are reminded that work submitted for the MPhil in Economics may subsequently be incorporated into a thesis submitted for the DPhil in Economics.

11. The examiners will not provide calculators, but will permit the use of a hand-held pocket calculator in the examination room, both for the first year examinations and for the final examination, subject to the conditions set out under the heading 'Use of calculators in examinations' in the *Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations*. A list of permitted calculators will be reviewed annually in the week 0 of Michaelmas Term and published on the Department's VLE.

12. Successful candidates will be required to submit an electronic copy of their finalised thesis to the Oxford Research Archive.

Explanatory Notes

Major amendments to enable first (qualifying) year students to choose to undertake advanced papers in core subjects. Clarification of the regulations for the final examination.