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

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair’s Action on behalf of Quality Assurance Committee (07/09/2020)

Master of Philosophy in Modern South Asian Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

1. Amendment to merge two of the three Research Methods courses into a single course ‘Qualitative Research Methods in Humanities’

2. Amendment to permit transfer from the MPhil language track to the MSc and MPhil non-language track

Location of change

In Examination Regulations 2019, https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mopimodesoutasiastud&srchYear=2020&srchTerm=1&year=2019&term=1

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2020

For first (qualifying) examination from 2020-21

Detail of change

1. Amend citation 1.7 – 1.11 as follows:

1.7(b) Research Methods

1.8 Candidates will complete one of the following three courses in Research Methods:

1.9(i) Research Methods for Area Studies: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Michaelmas Term; and a take-home test in quantitative analysis to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

1.10(ii) Qualitative Research Methods in Humanities and Historical Methods: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Michaelmas Term; and a 2,500 word essay on Historical Methods or Literature and Language to be set by Monday of Week 4 of Hilary Term and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.
Qualitative Methods, Literature and Language: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home test in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Michaelmas Term; and a 2,500 word essay on Literature and Language to be set by Monday of Week 4 of Hilary Term and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

2. Amend citation 1.21 as follows:

1.21. Students wishing to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies (non-language track) to the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies must normally apply to the Course Director(s) by 12 noon of Monday of week 4 of Hilary Term. It is not possible to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies (language track) to the MSc. Students are permitted to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies to the MSc in Modern South Asian Studies, or to transfer from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies language track to the non-language track. Applications for transfer must be sent to the Course Director(s) by noon of Monday of week 4 of Hilary Term in the first year of the course. Where a candidate transfers from the MPhil Modern South Asian Studies language track, the first year core language examination will constitute an advanced language option.

Explanatory Notes

Two of the existing three Research Methods courses (‘Qualitative and Historical Methods’ and ‘Qualitative Methods: Literature and Language’) will be merged into a single course entitled ‘Qualitative Research Methods in Humanities’. The two courses have been informally connected since the programme’s inception and they are co-taught and co-examined. The change is intended to formalise current arrangements and to provide clarity to students. There will be no changes to the content, teaching, or examination of students. The changes are considered to have no impact on current offer holders, as no changes to the content or assessment are proposed.

On entry to the MPhil, students select whether they wish to follow the ‘language track’ or ‘non-language track’. The Examination Regulations do not allow students on the MPhil language track to apply to transfer to the MSc or to transfer to the MPhil non-language track. The Centre see no pedagogical reason why this should be restricted. The first year core language examination would meet the requirements of an ‘advanced language option’ and could therefore be counted as the second option required of MSc and MPhil non-language track students. There would not be any notable administrative burden resulting from the change as the MPhil cohort is small and few students are likely to request to transfer.