

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 on 26 February 2025

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Comparative Social Policy

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to module order and associated assessment modifications.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2025

For first examination from 2025/26

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* [2024-25, Master of Science by Coursework in Comparative Social Policy](#)

Details of Change:

Strike all existing citations:

~~^{1.1}Every candidate must follow, for at least three terms, a course of instruction in Comparative Social Policy.~~

~~^{1.2}The examination will be in four parts.~~

~~^{1.3}**A.** One compulsory paper in *Methods of Social Research*. As specified for the M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy.~~

~~^{1.4}**B.** The core paper in *Comparative Social Policy and Social Policy Analysis*. As specified for the M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy.~~

~~^{1.5}**C.** One option paper. This will be from the list of optional papers as specified for the M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy. In exceptional circumstances and with the~~

~~special permission of the Course Director, the option paper may be from subjects outside this list.~~

~~^{1.6}D. A thesis of not more than 10,000 words on a topic within the subject of the course, to be specified jointly by supervisor and student. The thesis should employ comparative method in the study of a social policy topic. This word count applies to the text, but does not include graphs, tables and charts in the main text, or bibliography. An additional word limit of 2,000 words in total applies to the abstract, footnotes, endnotes and technical appendices (including graphs, tables and charts). Candidates are required to submit the thesis using the University approved online assessment platform by noon of the weekday on or nearest to 15 August of the year in which the examination is to be taken. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook. Successful candidates may be required to deposit a copy of their thesis in the Social Science Library.~~

~~^{1.7}The examiners may examine any candidate viva voce.~~

Insert and number as follows:

1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Comparative Social Policy Teaching Committee of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.

2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Comparative Social Policy for at least 1 year full-time.

3. Candidates must submit assessments as detailed below.

4. Methods of Social Research – Candidates must submit:

(1) a 3,000 word quantitative methods assignment by noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Hilary term.

(2) a 3,000 word qualitative methods assignment by noon on Wednesday of week 11 of Hilary term.

5. Core Paper: Comparative Social Policy and Social Policy Analysis – Candidates will sit a written examination in Trinity term.

6. One Option Paper – Candidates must submit a written assignment of up to 4,000 words by noon on Wednesday of week 0 of Trinity term.

7. Thesis – Candidates must submit a thesis of not more than 10,000 words by noon on the weekday on or nearest to 15 August of the year in which the examination is to be taken. An additional word limit of 2,000 words in total applies to the abstract, footnotes, endnotes and technical appendices (including graphs, tables and charts).

8. Candidates should refer to the Course Handbook for full details of the requirements for each assessment.

9. Option Papers will be chosen from a list published annually by Friday of the week 6 of Michaelmas term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. In exceptional circumstances and with the special permission of the Course Director, the option paper may be from subjects outside this list offered in any other relevant master's degree in the University.

10. All assessments must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.

11. Candidates who fail either/both of the Methods of Social Research assignments, or the option paper assessment will have the opportunity to resubmit in the same academic year. Candidates who fail a written examination paper will have the opportunity to retake the exam, normally before the start of the next academic year. In the case of failure of the dissertation, the candidates may resubmit by noon on 15 August (or the weekday nearest 15 August) the following year.

12. Candidates must present themselves for an oral examination if required by the examiners.

Explanatory Notes

Approved changes:

1. Moving the timing of the 8 Quantitative Research Methods applied workshops from Hilary term to Michaelmas term.
2. Moving the 8 sessions in Qualitative Research Methods from Michaelmas term to Hilary term.
3. Aligning the assessment load between the two courses by reducing the Quantitative Research Method assessment to one 3,000 words piece of coursework.
4. Changes to timing of the option paper and qualitative assessment deadlines.
5. Shortening the option paper word-count from 5,000 to 4,000 words.