

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee of Council on 11 December 2023, and the divisional Quality Assurance Committee on 21 May 2023.

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in Global and Area Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to thesis and paper deadlines.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2023

For first examination from 2023/24

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023-24, Master of Philosophy in Global and Area Studies* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Amend citations as follows:

^{1.11}. The Course shall be under the supervision of the Global and Area Studies Teaching Committee, which shall report to the Graduate Studies Committee of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

^{1.22}. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Global and Area Studies for six terms **full-time**.

First year examinations

^{1.33}. Candidates will present themselves for a written examination on the core course Competing Approaches in Areas Studies in Trinity Term.

^{1.44}. Candidates will choose one Comparative Area Studies paper and one option paper from lists published by the Course Director in the Course Handbook at the beginning of the academic year in which the option paper is to be taken. For each paper, candidates

will either present themselves for a written examination in Trinity Term, or submit an essay of no more than 5,000 words in Trinity by the deadline specified in the Course Handbook.

Research Methods for Social Sciences and Humanities

^{1.5}5. All candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home **test paper** in qualitative methods to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Michaelmas Term.

^{1.6}6. In addition, all candidates will submit one of the following:

^{1.7}(i) Historical Research Methods: a 2,500 word maximum essay in the collection and analysis of historical data to be submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

^{1.8}(ii) Quantitative Methods: a 2,500 word maximum take-home **test paper** in quantitative analysis to be set on Monday of Week 8 of Hilary Term and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of Week 9 of Hilary Term.

Other requirements

^{1.9}7. A PDF copy of each submission must be accompanied by a declaration indicating it is the candidate's own work and must be submitted electronically to the School's VLE by the relevant deadline.

^{1.10}8. Candidates will be required to pass the core course examination, the Comparative Area Studies option examination, the option paper examination essay and the two Research Methods assessments to progress to the second year. Candidates who fail either of the Research Methods assessments will be permitted to resubmit a new submission for the failed piece(s) of work within four weeks of publication of the failed mark(s), on a date specified by the Chair of Examiners. If a student fails one or more of the core or option papers they may, by permission of the Global and Area Studies Teaching Committee, proceed to the second year of the course and re-sit/resubmit the failed paper(s) on one subsequent occasion during the final examination.

^{1.11}9. Candidates are required to spend a period of at least three months on an approved course of Area Studies Immersion after the examinations at the end of Trinity Term of the first year, and before the start of Hilary Term of the second year.

Final year examinations

^{1.12}10. Candidates must submit a core Global and Area Studies essay of no more 4,000 word (excluding the bibliography) by **12 noon on Thursday of week 8 of Hilary term** ~~Tuesday of week 6 of Trinity Term~~. The essay must be accompanied by a declaration indicating it is the candidate's own work.

^{1.13}11. Candidates will choose two further option papers from a list, including details of the assessment method, published by the Course Director in the Course Handbook at the beginning of the academic year in which the option papers are to be taken. Candidates will either present themselves for a three-hour written examination in Trinity Term, or submit an essay of no more than 5,000 words in Trinity by the deadline specified in the

Course Handbook. A PDF copy of each essay must be accompanied by a declaration indicating it is the candidate's own work and must be submitted electronically to the School's VLE by the relevant deadline.

^{1.14}12. Candidates will complete a 30,000 word thesis including footnotes/endnotes but excluding the table of contents, the abstract, the bibliography of cited works and any approved technical appendices. The broad title of the thesis must be approved by the Course Director by 12 noon on Tuesday of week 2 of Trinity Term in the first year. A PDF copy of the thesis accompanied by a declaration indicating it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise stated must be submitted electronically to the School's VLE by 12 noon on **Thursday of week 3 of ~~Tuesday of week 2 in~~** Trinity Term.

^{1.15}13. Candidates who fail one or more of the written examinations/essays or the thesis will be permitted to retake the examination paper(s)/re-submit the essays, or resubmit the thesis on one further occasion, which will normally be when the examination is next offered the following year.

Explanatory Notes

Global and Area Studies Seminar core course

(i) Delivering the course in four longer classes in weeks 1-4 of HT, rather than 8 shorter classes across the weeks 1-8 to allow students to make their presentations and receive feedback by the end of HT week 4, to better support the associated summative essay for the course and their MPhil thesis.

(ii) Move the submission deadline of the summative essay from Tue of week 6 of TT to Friday of week 8 of HT, to reduce the overall assessment burden in TT, and facilitated by completing the associated teaching and feedback by the end of week 4 of HT.

Thesis

(i) Change the submission deadline for the final thesis from Tue of week 2 of TT to Fri of week 3 of TT, to more evenly balance workload in TT following movement of the Global and Area Studies Seminar essay deadline from TT to HT (see above), and to better accommodate the various submission deadlines and exams for the shared options taken from across the suite of OSGA programmes, and more closely aligning the thesis deadlines for the majority of other OSGA MPhil programmes.