

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 the Quality Assurance Committee on 19 June 2023

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in International Relations

Brief note about nature of change:

Simplification of regulations.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas 2023

For first examination from 2023/24

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23, Master of Philosophy in International Relations* (ox.ac.uk)

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

^{1.1} ~~1.~~ The ~~regulations made by~~ programme shall be under the supervision of the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee ~~of the Department of Politics and International Relations, which is under the supervision of the Social Sciences Divisional Board.~~ ~~are as follows:~~

^[new citation] ~~2.~~ Candidates will be required to follow a full-time course of instruction for six terms.

^[new citation] ~~3.~~ The examinations shall consist of the following:

^{1.2} ~~First-Year~~ Qualifying Examination

^{1.3} ~~Every candidate must pass a first-year examination before the end of the third term from commencement of the course unless given exemption by the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee. The first-year examination shall be set and administered by~~

the examiners appointed to examine for the M.Phil. in International Relations. This test shall consist of two parts, as follows:

1.4 ~~1.~~ A single examination paper covering material from the core papers as taught in the first year, namely: **4. Candidates will complete the first year core course (The Development of the International System and Contemporary Debates in International Relations Theory) assessed by a written examination.**

~~1.5~~ *The Development of the International System*: The history of the relations between states in peace and war, and the development of the international system. It will include such topics as: major traditions of thought on International Relations; 19th century imperialism and euro-centrism; the concert system, the balance of power and the causes of the First World War; the peace settlement, collective security and the League of Nations; political and economic co-operation in the interwar period; the USA, Soviet Union, Middle East and Far East in the inter-war years; the impact of revolution, domestic politics and ideology on foreign policy; the causes of the Second World War; post war reconstruction and the origins of the Cold War; the nuclear revolution and the impact of technological change; the evolution of the Cold war; decolonization, nationalism and self-determination; détente, arms control and regional conflicts; the end of the Cold War; the evolution of international economic institutions; the evolution of security institutions; and international relations in the post-Cold War world.

~~1.6~~ *Contemporary Debates in International Relations Theory*: Ideas about, and explanations of, international relations, concentrating mainly (but not exclusively) on the major theoretical approaches in the academic study of international relations since 1945. The key theories and approaches to be examined include: realism and neo-realism; theories about war, security, and the use of force in international relations; classical liberalism, globalization, and transformation in world politics; theories about inter-state co-operation and transnationalism; the concept of international society; constructivism and the impact of law and norms in international relations; neo-Marxist and critical theory approaches to international relations; normative theory and international ethics.

~~1.7~~ Details of the scope and coverage are given in the *Course Handbook*.

1.8 ~~2.~~ A designated course of research methods training covering material from the programme as taught in the first year, including written work and/or tests in statistics and in Research Design and Methods in International Relations. The details of these requirements are set out in the *Course Handbook*. **5. Candidates will complete Research Design and Methods in International Relations (Combined) assessed by coursework, full details of which will be set out in the Course Handbook and on the University's Virtual Learning Environment.**

1.9 ~~3.~~ Candidates who fail either or both of the first year written examinations will normally be allowed to retake the failed paper(s) before the beginning of the next academic year. **6. To pass the qualifying examination and proceed to the second year each candidate must pass both courses. Candidates who fail either course will normally be able to retake it before the beginning of the next academic year.**

1.10 *Final Examination*

~~1.14~~ No candidate shall enter the final examination unless they have already passed the first-year examination or has been granted exemption by the Graduate Studies Committee as stated above. In the final examination every candidate must offer:

~~1.12~~ 1. A thesis of not more than 30,000 words, excluding bibliography, to be submitted electronically by noon on Monday in the first week of the Trinity Full Term in which the examination is to be taken. On submitting the thesis, candidates will also be required to submit an online declaration of authorship. The examiners shall exclude from consideration any part of the thesis which is not the candidate's own work or which has been or will be submitted to satisfy the requirements of another course, and the examiners shall have power to require the candidate to produce for their inspection the work so submitted or to be submitted. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.

1.13 2. Two subject papers taken from the approved list of option subjects in International Relations, as published in Trinity Term of the first year. Candidates should note that the International Relations subjects available in any particular year will depend on the availability of teaching resources. Not all subjects will be available in every year and restrictions may be placed on the number of candidates permitted to offer certain subjects in any particular year. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may, with the special permission of the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee, take subjects beyond the approved list of International Relations subjects. **7. Candidates will take two option papers from a list of those approved by the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee. With the special permission of the International Relations Graduate Studies Committee candidates may take an option paper from outside this list. Option papers will be assessed by written examination, research paper or essay as set out in the Course Handbook and on the University's Virtual Learning Environment.**

[new citation] 8. Candidates will submit a thesis of not more than 30,000 words by noon on Monday of Week 1 of Trinity term.

[new citation] 9. Option paper essays or research papers and the thesis must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook and on the University's Virtual Learning Environment.

1.14 **3** 10. Candidates must present themselves for viva voce examination when requested by the examiners. The examiners shall not normally fail any candidate without inviting them to attend such an examination. However, in the case of a failing mark in two of a candidate's final examination papers, the examiners shall not be obliged to ask the candidate for a viva.

Explanatory Notes