



Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by officers on behalf of Education Committee on 12 April 2024

Regulations for the Degrees of Master of Philosophy in Law and Master of Philosophy in Socio-Legal Research

Brief note about nature of change: Clarification of suspension and reassessment arrangements

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023*, [2023-24, Regulations for the Degrees of Master of Philosophy in Law and Master of Philosophy in Socio-Legal Research \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

For students starting from MT 2023

For first examination from 2023-24

Detail of change

Amend citation reference. 1.5 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

Suspension of status

5. If, for good cause, a student is temporarily unable to carry out their research, the Graduate Studies Committee may grant them a request for a temporary suspension of status, for not less than one and not more than three terms at any one time. Applications for suspension of status should be made to the Graduate Studies Administrator; and should be accompanied by statements of support from a student's supervisor and society. No student may be granted more than three terms' suspension of status in this way. Students who have submitted their thesis are not permitted to suspend.

Amend from citation reference. 1.29 as follows (new text underlined, deleted text struck through):

Outcome of the examination

26. The examiners shall write a report and make one of the following recommendations to the Graduate Studies Committee:

- (i) that the candidate be awarded the Degree;
 - (ii) that the candidate be awarded the Degree with Distinction;
- or
- (iii) that the thesis be referred for revision, and the candidate given the opportunity to re-submit for the Degree within ~~one further term~~: three months of the formal notification of the outcome.

27. Candidates who wish to re-submit for the Degree after referral must submit a further application for appointment of examiners and a revised copy of the thesis via RTDS. The procedures for the first submission will apply, except that the deadline for both submission of the thesis and the application for appointment of examiners will be ~~the final day of the candidate's fourth term~~ three months after the formal notification of the outcome.

28. The examiners shall conduct a second examination under the terms outlined in clauses ~~20-24~~ 21-23 and 25 above, except that they may exempt a candidate from oral examination if they are satisfied that they can recommend to the board that the candidate has reached the standard required for the Degree without an oral examination.

29. On the occasion of the second examination, the examiners shall write a report and make one of the following recommendations to the Graduate Studies Committee.

- (i) that the candidate be awarded the Degree;
- (ii) that the candidate be deemed to have failed the requirements of the Degree.

30. Candidates are not required to ~~a~~ submit a hard bound copy of a successful thesis to the Bodleian, but if they wish to do so, they must first undertake any minor corrections identified by the examiners, and submit a corrected copy of the thesis for approval by the internal examiner before depositing the Bodleian copy.

31. If a candidate wishes to re-submit for the Degree after referral under clause ~~25-26~~ 25-26 above, but is unable to do so ~~by the final day of their fourth term under clause 26 above~~ within three months of formal notification of the first assessment, no subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Master of Philosophy in Law/Socio-Legal Research. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a revised copy of the thesis should have been submitted to the Graduate Studies Committee via RTDS, and such reinstatement fee as may from

time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Explanatory Notes

These changes:

- Clarify that it is not possible to suspend once a thesis has been submitted for examination.
- Standardise the amount of time that students have to revise their thesis if it has been referred back to take into account the possibility of varying submission and assessment dates. The amount of time available will be based on the actual date of notification of results.
- Update some incorrect cross-references.