

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 27 April 2023

Title of Programme

Master of Philosophy in Russian and East European Studies

Brief note about nature of change:

Change to include the language qualifying examination as part of the final examination.

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 Russian and East European Studies \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

^{1.1}The regulations made by the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee are as follows:

^{1.2}All candidates will be required to follow a course of instruction in Russian and East European Studies for six terms.

First year examinations

^{1.3}Candidates will be required to sit written examinations on two compulsory papers, to be taken in Trinity Full Term at the end of the first year of the course:

^{1.4}1. An examination paper on *Contemporary Russian and East European Studies Part 1*.

^{1.5}2. An examination paper on *Contemporary Russian and East European Studies Part 2*.

1.6 Candidates will also be required to submit one extended essay on History of Russia, the USSR and Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century of 5,000 words, excluding bibliography. The extended essay should be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform by 12 **n**Noon on Monday ~~in the first of~~ week **1** of Hilary Term in the first year of the course.

1.7 *Research Methods for Area Studies*: Candidates will submit a 2,500 word maximum take-home 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; and a take-home paper in quantitative analysis to be set on Monday of Week 8 and submitted by 12 noon on Monday of week 9 of Hilary Term. Each of the items of written work described above must be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform.

~~1.8 *Language Requirement*. All candidates will be required to pass a Russian language qualifying exam. The specific arrangements for the provision and methods of assessment of language training are governed by the Examination Conventions and Notes of Guidance of the year of matriculation of the candidates.~~

1.9 Candidates who pass these qualifying papers and the extended essay may proceed to the second year of the course and take the final examination ~~at the end of the second year~~. Candidates who fail the research methods course overall will be permitted to re-submit a new submission for the failed piece(s) of work within four weeks of publication of the failed mark, on a date specified by the Chair of Examiners. Candidates who fail the extended essay will be required to re-submit by 12 noon on Monday of week ~~one~~ **1** of Trinity Term of the same year. Candidates who fail one or more of the examination papers may, by permission of the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee, proceed to the second year of the programme and re-sit the failed papers on one subsequent occasion during the final examination.

Final Examination

1.10 The final examination shall consist of:

1.11 (a) a thesis of at least 25,000 words but not more than 30,000 words on a subject approved by the Management Committee for Russian and East European Studies, to be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform by 12 **n**Noon on Monday ~~in the fourth of~~ week **4** of Trinity Term in the second year of the programme. ~~The thesis must be accompanied by a statement that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated.~~

1.12 (b) two ~~subjects (optional courses)~~ chosen from a list, which is approved annually by the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee **and assessed either by written examination or submitted coursework. Coursework assignments must be submitted using the University approved online assessment platform.** The selection of ~~subjects options~~ has to be approved by the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee in Trinity Term, Year 1.

new citation (c) a Russian language examination taken in Hilary term of the second year. **Candidates who on matriculation are deemed by the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee to have an excellent knowledge of Russian may take the**

examination in Hilary term of their first year. Candidates who fail the language examination will be permitted to re-sit the examination in Trinity term of the second year.

Explanatory Notes

This change is in response to concerns from Education Policy Support about whether the language examination was part of the formal qualifying examination to progress to the second year of the MPhil as most students take the language assessment in Hilary term of year 2 (only those with existing excellent Russian on entry take it in year 1). Further, it is not practical for students to sit the exam in Hilary term of year 2 (or re-sit in Trinity term of year 2), but still be required to pass before they submit their thesis and take options in Trinity term of year 2. Following consultation we have agreed to class the language exam as part of the final exam, but with provision for the REES Management Committee to permit students to take the exam early in year 1 if they have the required language prerequisites.