

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 3 July 2023

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Educational Assessment (Part-time)

Brief note about nature of change:

Increasing resit deadline and viva voce flexibility.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas 2023

For first examination from 2023/24

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23, Master of Science by Coursework in Educational Assessment (Part-time)* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Amend citations and renumber as follows:

^{1.1}1. The Course shall be under the supervision of the Academic Committee of the Department of Education.

^{1.2}2. Candidates must follow for six terms a course of instruction specializing in Educational Assessment. This course is available on a part-time basis only.

^{1.3}3. The examination shall consist of three core papers, one option paper, and a dissertation. Candidates will be informed of the available options by Friday of 0th week of Michaelmas Term in the year they start their course.

^{1.4}4. Papers are normally assessed by one or more coursework assignments totalling no more than 4,500 words. The details of the assessment requirements for each paper will be provided in the Course Handbook. **All such assignments must be uploaded to the**

~~University approved online assessment platform by the times and dates specified in the course handbook at the start of the course.~~

^{1.5}5. Candidates are required to submit a dissertation of 15,000 – 20,000 words, the title to be selected in consultation with the supervisor, on a topic relevant to the course. ~~The subject and title selected by the candidate must be approved by the course director at a time to be announced at the beginning of the academic year in which the examination is taken.~~ **The dissertation must be submitted no later than noon on the third Thursday in September in the final year of the course.**

~~^{1.6}6. The dissertation must be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform not later than noon on the third Thursday in September in the final year of the course.~~

^{1.7}~~7~~**6**. If a candidate receives a failing mark for any of the summative assessments **or dissertation**, they may resubmit the assessment on one further occasion ~~normally when the assessment is next examined the following year~~ **when this is next examined, or at an earlier date as agreed with the Course Director**. If a candidate fails the dissertation, they may resubmit the dissertation one further time on the next occasion when this is examined.

^{1.8}~~8~~**9**. Candidates may also be required to attend an oral examination **for any assessment**. ~~The oral examination will normally be on the candidate's dissertation.~~

Schedule

Core:

1. ^{1.9}Assessment issues and practices
2. ^{1.10}Assessment design and evaluation
3. ^{1.11}Psychometrics and assessment analysis

Options:

1. ^{1.12}Classroom-based assessment
2. ^{1.13}Advanced statistical methods

Explanatory Notes

The change is to introduce the option of an earlier submission for the dissertation to allow students flexibility. Students are currently required to resubmit their work on the next occasion when it is examined, which leads to a lengthy wait for those students who can complete their resubmission early. The addition of the words “or at an earlier date as agreed with the Course Director” provides that degree of flexibility for the students, but also ensures that the Course Director will be able to review the request and prevent early resubmission if it is deemed inappropriate.

The changes also include the option of a viva voce examination for any failing submission. The regulations currently normally allow this process for dissertations, however, this can

prove to be restrictive in cases where an assignment resit in year 1 is borderline and the student is at risk of failing.