

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 on 16 September 2024.

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)

Brief note about nature of change:

Major changes to assessment and reassessment

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2024

For first examination from 2024/25

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024-25, Master of Science by Coursework in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE)* (ox.ac.uk)

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Social Policy and Intervention.

1.1 **42.** Candidates must follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

1.2 **34.** Every candidate will be **assessed by** ~~required to satisfy the examiners in the following:~~

1.3 (i) A compulsory ~~core~~ paper, in *either* Evidence-Based Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation, examined by an unseen written examination;

1.4 (ii) A compulsory **Evaluation Research** Methods paper, ~~for which students will be assessed by~~ ~~examined on the basis of~~ three assignments (consisting of one research methods essay (up to 2,500 words), ~~and~~ one statistics assignment (up to 3,000 words); ~~and~~ a qualitative critical appraisal (up to 2,500 words)). ~~These are to be~~

~~submitted throughout the year anonymously and in Word format via the University approved online assessment platform. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.~~

1.5 (iii) One ~~Option~~ option paper assessed by a 4,000 word coursework assignment to be submitted by no later than noon on Tuesday of week 0 of Trinity term. The list of options will be published annually by Friday of week 6 of Michaelmas term. In exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Course Director, the option paper may be from subjects outside this list. ~~examined by an unseen written examination;~~

1.6 (iv) One research thesis on a topic related to, and attentive to evidence-based intervention, policy evaluation or evaluation methods. The subject of the thesis must be approved by the supervisor on behalf of the Department and should not exceed 10,000 words in length. The thesis must be submitted by no later than noon on 15 August or the weekday nearest 15 August.

5. All assessments must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Course Handbook.

~~1.7 The thesis must be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform no later than noon on 15 August or the weekday nearest to 15 August of the year in which the examination has been taken. The thesis must be anonymous, and submitted in Word format. Successful candidates may be required to deposit a hard copy of their thesis in the Social Science Library.~~

1.8 ~~36. Each candidate must attend a viva voce when required to do so by the examiners.~~ The examiners may examine any candidate viva voce.

Schedule

1.9 (i) ~~Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (core course):~~ Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major theories underlying evidence-based social interventions or policy evaluation research. The course will use exemplary intervention and evaluation research studies to illustrate important theoretical, ethical, methodological, and practice issues.

1.10 (ii) ~~Evaluation Methods (core course):~~ Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of major quantitative and qualitative techniques, and research designs for understanding social problems and evaluating social interventions and policies. In the event of failure of any of the three methods assignments, candidates are able to resubmit that assignment once. The maximum mark awarded for re-submitted elements is 50 except in exceptional circumstances. Candidates must pass all three assignments to successfully pass the methods workbook.

1.11 (iii) ~~Option course:~~ This will enable students to link evidence-based solutions to a range of social problems. The list of options will be published annually by Friday of the sixth week of Michaelmas Full Term in the Department of Social Policy and Intervention. Candidates are expected to take options offered through the EBSIPE course. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the special permission of the Course Director, the optional paper may be from subjects outside this list.

Explanatory Notes

The changes comprise:

Changing the option paper assessment from 3hr unseen exam to 4000 word coursework essay

Moving TT exams earlier in term

Moving the deadline for the 3rd Research Methods (RM3) assessment from TT 0th week to HT 9th week

Standardisation of re-assessment arrangements for MSc and MPhil students

Changing terminology from 'evaluation methods' to 'research methods'