

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 Learning and Teaching

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 2024/25

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2022-23, Master of Science by Coursework in Learning and Teaching* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Incorporating Gazette notice [MSc in Learning and Teaching, 9 March](https://www.ox.ac.uk) ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Amend citations and renumber as follows:

- 1.11. The Course shall be under the supervision of the Academic Committee of the Department of Education.
- 1.22. Every candidate must follow for six terms a part-time course of instruction in Learning and Teaching.
- 1.33. The course will consist of four main topics as set out in the Schedule, and a research and development project. The examination shall consist of one coursework assignment, relating to the programme of study, and a research and development project.
- 1.44. The coursework assignment will relate to topics one to four of the course content and must be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length, or their equivalent. The details of the assessment requirements will be provided in the Course Handbook. The deadline for

submission of the assignment must be before Week 10 of Trinity Term of the candidate's first year of study, and will be no later than noon on a date specified by the examiners and published in the course handbook.

1.55. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the coursework assignment may be permitted to resubmit it on one occasion only, normally by the standard submission deadline the following year, or at an earlier date as agreed with the Course Director.

1.66. The Candidates must submit a research and development project must be of between 15,000 and 20,000 words in length, or their equivalent, ~~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 details of the assessment requirements will be provided in the Course Handbook. The research and development project must be submitted no later than noon on the third Tuesday in September of the candidate's ~~third or second~~ final year on the course.

[new citation] 7. 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.

1.78. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in either the coursework assignment or the research and development project are permitted to resubmit it on one occasion only; ~~normally~~ by the standard submission deadline the following year, or at an earlier date as agreed with the Course Director. However, for the coursework assignment, the candidate can also choose to resubmit within the same academic year at the deadline set for the research and development project (as described in clause 6 above).

1.89. Candidates may also be examined orally for any assessment ~~on their final research and development project.~~

Schedule

1.9 Programme of study:

- 1.10 ~~1.~~ Teachers and Learners
- 1.11 ~~2.~~ Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment
- 1.12 ~~3.~~ Responding to pupils
- 1.13 ~~4.~~ Schools, equity and achievement

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.