

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by the divisional Quality Assurance Committee on 28 April 2023, and on behalf of Education Committee of Council on 23 November 2023.

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Political Theory Research

Brief note about nature of change:

Major changes to make the Research Design Proposal element formative.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2023

For first examination from 2023/24

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023-24, Master of Science by Coursework in Political Theory Research* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Strike all current citations:

~~^{1.1}The regulations made by the Politics Graduate Studies Committee are as follows:~~

~~^{1.2}*M.Sc. Examination*~~

~~^{1.3}A candidate for the M.Sc. in Political Theory Research shall follow a course of instruction in Political Theory Research for twelve months. Each candidate must pass the M.Sc. Examination at the end of Trinity Term in the two compulsory papers. Each candidate must also submit a thesis during the Long Vacation.~~

~~^{1.4}Compulsory papers~~

~~^{1.5}(1) *Theory of Politics*~~

~~^{1.6}(Compulsory paper taken from the M.Phil. in Politics)~~

~~1.7 A critical examination of political concepts and theories, including social concepts and theories with political relevance. The paper is assessed by a single three hour written examination at the end of Trinity Term.~~

~~1.8 (2) *Research Methods in Political Theory*~~

~~1.9 (Compulsory paper taken from the M.Phil. in Politics)~~

~~1.10 The paper is assessed in the following way. The candidate must submit:~~

~~1.11 (i) A Research Design Proposal of between 4000 and 6000 words, excluding the title page, contents, bibliography and any methodological appendices, on research design as it bears on the subject of the candidate's proposed M.Sc. thesis. One copy of the Research Design Proposal must be uploaded to the University approved assessment platform by noon on the Friday of sixth week of Trinity Term. The work must be anonymous and must be accompanied by a separate signed declaration that it is the candidate's own work except where otherwise indicated, and that it has not previously been submitted for assessment, either at Oxford or at another institution.~~

~~1.12 (ii) Research methods training coursework. Candidates will satisfactorily complete a programme of core and optional research methods training, as specified in the *Student Handbook*. Candidate who fail elements of the research methods training coursework are normally permitted to submit a second time (or, if the coursework is assessed by a test, to resit that test) by a date specified in the *Student Handbook*.~~

~~1.13 *The Thesis*~~

~~1.14 Each candidate must submit a thesis of not more than 15,000 words, excluding the title page, contents, bibliography and any methodological appendices. The thesis must be uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform by noon on the last Friday of August following the end of Trinity Full Term. On submitting the thesis, candidates will also be required to submit a declaration of authorship. The examiners shall exclude from consideration any part of the thesis which is not the candidate's own work or which has been or will be submitted to satisfy the requirements of another course, and the examiners shall have power to require the candidate to produce for their inspection the work so submitted or to be submitted. After the examination process is complete, each successful candidate must deposit one hardbound copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.~~

~~1.15 With respect to the Research Design Proposal and the thesis, only the file uploaded to the University approved online assessment platform constitutes a valid submission; no concomitant hard copy submission may be submitted for any purpose.~~

~~1.16 For a candidate to pass the degree of M.Sc. in Political Theory Research, the candidate must pass: the *Research Methods in Political Theory* paper (all elements of coursework and the Research Design Proposal), the *Theory of Politics* paper, and the thesis.~~

Insert and number:

1. The programme shall be under the supervision of the Politics Graduate Studies Committee of the Department of Politics and International Relations.

2. Candidates will be required to follow a course of instruction in Political Theory Research for three terms full-time.

3. Candidates will complete a course in *Theory of Politics* assessed by a written examination.

4. Candidates will complete a course in *Research Methods in Political Theory* assessed by coursework, full details of which will be set out in the Student Handbook.

5. Candidates will submit a thesis of not more than 15,000 words by noon on the last Thursday in August.

6. The thesis must be submitted using the University approved online submission system. Technical information on the requirements for online submissions is provided in the Student Handbook.

7. Successful candidates will be required to deposit a copy of their thesis in the Bodleian Library.

Explanatory Notes

The Research Design Proposal element in the Research Methods in Political Science and Research Methods in Political Theory will no longer be assessed summatively for students who began their studies on the courses as part of the cohort which commenced studies in Michaelmas term 2023 and subsequent cohorts. Whilst the Research Design Proposal will be retained in the same format in both Research Methods courses it will now be assessed formatively for the cohorts covered by this approval notification.