

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved via Chair's Action on behalf of the Quality Assurance Committee on 9 August 2023

Title of Programme

Master of Science by Coursework in Public Policy Research

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to assessment methods and deadlines.

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 Public Policy Research* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

^{1.1}1. The Course shall be under the supervision of the Blavatnik School MSc **Teaching Committee**.

^{1.2}2. Each candidate will be required to follow a course of instruction in Public Policy Research for three terms.

^{1.3}3. Candidates will complete the following two core courses:

^{1.4}(a) Theories and Approaches in Public Policy Research, assessed by a 5,000 word essay to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week **29** of **Hilary Michaelmas** term.

^{1.5}(b) Research in a Public Policy Context, assessed by **(i) an individual 10 minute policy podcast** ~~1,500 word policy memo and a three minute oral video policy~~

briefing and (ii) a 5 minute oral individual video presentation; both elements are to be submitted by ~~no later than~~ 12 noon on Friday of week 9 of Hilary term.

1.64. Candidates will complete a course in Research Design and Methods comprising of the following three components:

1.7(a) Qualitative Methods for Public Policy Research, assessed by a 3,000 word submission to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week 0 of Hilary term.

1.8(b) Research Design, assessed by a 3,000 word research proposal to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week 9 of Hilary term.

1.9(c) Statistics for Public Policy

1.10(i) assessed by one submission (a practical exercise task) to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week 9 of Hilary term.

1.11(ii) assessed by one 3,000 word essay to be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week 10 of Hilary term.

1.125. Candidates will choose one option paper offered for the Master of Public Policy in Trinity term from a list which will be published by the Blavatnik School MPP Committee before the first Monday that term. The option paper will be assessed by a 3,000 word essay or policy brief which must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday of week 9 of Trinity term. Candidates who have previously completed the Master of Public Policy may not select any option previously completed to meet the requirements of that degree.

1.136. Candidates will complete a 10,000 word thesis which addresses a specific policy problem. A certificate of approval must be granted by the Blavatnik School of Government prior to the commencement of the thesis. Candidates must also submit a 1,500 word ~~policy memo~~ **research brief** which summarises the main findings and conclusions of the thesis in a style and a format suitable for policymakers. The thesis and ~~policy memo~~ **research brief** must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on 1 September, or the first working day thereafter where 1 September falls on a weekend.

1.147. 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.

1.158. A candidate who fails any assessment may enter again for that assessment on one further occasion. The reassessment attempt for assessments under clauses, 3 **and** 4 **and** 5 above will usually be within the same academic year as the first attempt. The deadline for resubmission **of the assessment under clause 5 and** of the thesis and ~~policy memo~~ **research brief** is 30 June (or the first working day thereafter where 30 June falls on a weekend) in the year following the first submission.

Explanatory Notes

Theories and Approaches in Public Policy Research – submission deadline move from HT2 to MT9. Advancing this deadline helps with workload distribution for students across the terms.

Research in a Public Policy Context - Change the assessment from a 1,500-word policy memo and 3-minute recorded oral group policy briefing to a 10-minute individual podcast and 5-minute oral individual video presentation.

Thesis and policy memo to become a thesis and research brief to better reflect the nature of the assessment.

Changes to re-assessment deadlines to align with the option module re-assessment deadlines of the Master of Public Policy.