

MPLS Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of Education Committee Trinity 2020 and MPLS Education Committee Trinity 2020

Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation

Master of Science by Coursework in Statistical Science

Brief note about nature of change

In 2016-17 the teaching for the MSc in Statistical Science was restructured. The assessment structure of the MSc remained unchanged at two exams (each 25% of the MSc), practicals (25%), and a dissertation (25%). The Department of Statistics now proposes to restructure the assessment of the MSc, while retaining the split of the assessment at exams (50%), practicals (25%), dissertation (25%).

Location of change [2019-20, Master of Science by Coursework in Statistical Science \(ox.ac.uk\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk)

Effective date

For students starting from: MT21-22

For first examination from : TT22

Detail of change

^{1.1}1. The Divisional Board of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences shall elect for the supervision of the course a Standing Committee which shall have power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

^{1.2}2. Candidates shall follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Statistical Science.

3. In the following, ‘the Course Handbook’ refers to the MSc in Statistical Science Handbook and course web pages published by the Supervisory Committee.

^{1.3}~~3~~ ⁴4. The examination will be in three parts consist of:

^{1.4}(i) ~~a written examination consisting of two papers on the syllabus described in~~

~~the schedule;~~ Candidates shall offer eight units from the schedule of units (see below). These must include SB1 (a double-unit) and SB2 (a double-unit).

~~1.5(ii) a dissertation on a subject selected in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the chair of the committee.~~ Candidates shall submit a practical assignment on Statistical Programming.

(iii) Candidates shall also submit a dissertation on a subject selected in consultation with the supervisor and approved by the director of the course.

~~1.64. Two typewritten or printed copies of the dissertation must be sent not later than noon on the second Monday in September in the year in which the written examination is taken, to the M.Sc. examiners (Statistical Science), c/o Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford. The examiners may retain one copy of the dissertation of each candidate who passes the examination for deposit in an appropriate departmental library.~~

5. The mode of assessment of SB1 and SB2 shall be a combination of written examinations and practical assignments, as detailed in the Course Handbook. The supervisory committee may specify that one of the practical assignments will be carried out as group projects, as detailed in the Course Handbook.

~~1.7 5. Each candidate will be expected to have displayed evidence of the ability to apply statistical methods to real data.~~

~~1.8 The examiners will take into account the results of an assessment of ability to apply statistical methods to real data organised by the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee will be responsible for notifying the candidates of the arrangements for the assessment, and for forwarding the assessed material to the chair of the examiners before the end of the Trinity Term in the year in which the assessment is made. The supervisory committee may specify that one of the practical assessments will be carried out as group projects, the details of which will be given in the Course Handbook.~~

6. The mode of assessment of other units shall be either written assignment or written examination, as detailed in the Course Handbook.

~~1.9 6. The specification of calculators permitted in the written examinations will be announced by the Examiners in the Hilary Term preceding the examination.~~

7. The use of calculators is generally not permitted for written papers. However, their use may be permitted for certain exceptional examinations. The specification of calculators permitted for these exceptional examinations will be announced by the Examiners in the Hilary Term preceding the examination.

~~1.10 7. In the written examination the examiners will permit the use of bilingual dictionaries.~~

~~1.11 8. The examiners may also examine any candidate viva voce.~~

~~1.12~~⁹ 8. The examiners may award a distinction for excellence in the whole examination.

~~1.13~~¹⁰ 9. If it is the opinion of the examiners that the work done by the candidate is not of sufficient merit to qualify for the Degree of M.Sc., but is nevertheless of sufficient merit to qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Statistical Science, the candidate shall be given the option of retaking the M.Sc. examination on one further occasion, ~~not later than one year after the initial attempt~~, or of being issued with a postgraduate diploma. In the event of a candidate's work not being of sufficient merit to qualify for the award of the M.Sc., the examiners will specify which of the assessed components of the course may or must be redone.

10. A candidate who fails the course, or who declines the option of being issued with a postgraduate diploma, will be permitted to retake on one further occasion only. This resit attempt shall be taken at the next opportunity. The examiners will specify at the time of failure which of the assessed components of the course may or must be redone. No candidate who has achieved a mark of at least 50 (pass) in any one of the assessed components may enter again for the same component.

Schedule

The schedule of units and the mode of assessment details for each unit will be published in the Course Handbook by the beginning of the Michaelmas Full Term in the academic year of the examination.

The Course Handbook will also include the rules governing the submission of dissertations, practical assignments and any units assessed by written assignment, including deadlines.

~~¹⁴Paper 1: Principles of statistical analysis~~

~~¹⁵Paper 2: Further statistical methodology~~

~~¹⁶Topics for Papers 1 and 2 will be published in the Course Handbook by the beginning of Michaelmas Term of the academic year in which the written examination is to be taken.~~

Explanatory Notes

This restructuring means a wider range of course combinations available than at present. The overall number of courses would not change, but the number of allowable combinations would increase.