

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 divisional Quality Assurance Committee on 30 August 2023, and Chair's Action on behalf of Education Committee on 9 January 2024.

Title of Programme

Postgraduate Certificate in Education

Brief note about nature of change:

Major changes to assessment.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas 2024

For first examination from 2024/25

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* [2023-24, Postgraduate Certificate in Education \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

General Regulations

1.11. The Departmental Board of the Department of Education shall have power to grant Postgraduate Certificates in Education to candidates who have satisfied the relevant conditions prescribed in this section.

1.22. The examination for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education shall be under the supervision of the Departmental Board which shall have the power to make regulations concerning the examination and arrange lectures and courses of instruction for the Certificate.

1.33.

1.4(a) All applicants for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education must have obtained on entry to the course a grade C or above in GCSE English Language and in GCSE Mathematics, or their equivalent.

1.5(b) Applicants must be graduates. Candidates for admission should normally have at least a good upper second class degree in a subject appropriate for the curriculum area to which they are applying.

1.64. After admission as a certificate student, a candidate must have kept statutory residence and pursued a course of study in Oxford for at least three terms before taking the examination. No certificate student shall retain that status for more than six terms in all.

1.75. A student reading for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, who is not a graduate of the University, may wear the same gown as that worn by Students reading for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Special Regulations

1.81. *Course*

1.9(a) The course will consist of lectures, tutorials, seminars, and classes in the theory and practice of education, together with a serial placement and two extended periods of practical experience in schools or other educational settings.

1.10(b) The subjects of the course of study are as follows:

1.11 *Curriculum studies* related to the professional knowledge, understanding and skills required for teaching a specific subject across the 11–18 age range: the place of the subject in the school curriculum; the establishment and maintenance of a purposeful learning environment; lesson planning, teaching, and evaluation; formative and summative assessment; the promotion of young people's health and well-being; professional team work and collaboration In each of the seven subjects offered (English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Education, and Science) an integrated programme requires students to set theoretical and research-based understandings alongside classroom observation and teaching experience, subjecting both the educational theory and the practice to rigorous critical evaluation.

1.12 A *Professional Development Programme* presented through an integrated programme taught within the University and across the partnership schools, concerned with issues of policy and professional practice which transcend individual subjects. This programme is structured around a number of core themes which include: the changing nature of education and the role of schools; the developing school curriculum (secondary phase) and assessment; adolescence, learners and learning; inclusion and issues of social justice; teacher professionalism and collaborative working. It also includes training in research methods appropriate to the conduct of small scale practitioner research studies.

1.13 *School Experience*. The course includes ~~420~~ 125 days' experience in a school or other educational setting nominated for this purpose by the Department of Education.

1.14 Candidates are required to keep statutory residence and pursue their studies at Oxford during a period of at least 35 weeks in three terms for the dates shown at: http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/university_year/dates_of_term.html.

1.152. Examination

1.16 Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

~~1.17 (a) an assignment of 4,000 to 5,000 words (including footnotes/endnotes but excluding appendices, references or bibliography) on an issue of professional practice which transcends individual subjects.~~

1.18 One electronic copy of the assignment (in a software format available in the department) must be submitted online to a digital address provided by the PGCE Examiners, at such dates and times as the examiners shall determine. The assignment should be anonymous except for the candidate number.

1.19 (ba) two curriculum PGCE assignments of ~~4,000-5,000~~ 6,000 words each (including footnotes/endnotes but excluding appendices, references or bibliography), related to the theory and practice of teaching and learning within and beyond the candidate's own subject discipline (i.e. including reference to issue/s of professional practice which transcend individual subjects).

1.20 One electronic copy of the assignment (in a software format available in the department) must be submitted online to a digital address provided by the PGCE Examiners, at such dates and times as the examiners shall determine. Each assignment should be anonymous except for the candidate number.

1.21 (eb) an assessment of the candidate's professional attributes, knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the Teachers' standards as determined by the Department for Education. This assessment is carried out by persons representing both the University and its partnership schools who are appointed for this purpose by the Departmental Board of the Department of Education.

1.22 Details of submission deadlines for the assignments set out under (a) and (b) above and of the deadlines for the assessment of candidate's professional attributes, knowledge, understanding and skills as set out in (eb) above shall be published annually in the PGCE course handbook distributed to candidates at the start of the course.

1.23 The determination of any candidate's fitness to teach during the course of the Postgraduate Certificate of Education programme must be carried out in accordance with the Regulations for procedures concerning fitness to teach during the PGCE programme published annually in the PGCE course handbook and made available to students on the first day of the PGCE term.

1.24 Candidates may also be called for viva voce examination.

1.25 If it is the opinion of the examiners that any or all of the candidate's written assignments are not of the standard required for the award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Education, but that all assignments are nevertheless of sufficient merit to meet the standards required for the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, then the board may recommend

that the candidate should be awarded the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, provided that the candidate's professional attributes, knowledge, skills, and understanding are also assessed as having met the Teachers Standards.

1.26 Candidates who fail the examination may apply to the Departmental Board to be re-examined on not more than one occasion which should normally be within one year of their initial failure.

1.27 Those candidates who have failed the examination, but whose assignments meet the standards required for the Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, may apply for re-examination for the Postgraduate Certificate in Education within one academic year. In such cases the Departmental Board may recommend candidates to the Department for Education for the Award of Qualified Teacher Status even before their assignments have been resubmitted provided that they have satisfied the examiners in 2(~~eb~~) above.

1.28 Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in 2(~~eb~~) above shall not be granted permission to re-enter for the examination.

Explanatory Notes

Changes to assessments

- Reducing the number of assignments from 3 to 2
- Increasing the word count of each assignment from 4000-5000 words to 6000

Increase in the amount of time in school from 120 days to 125 – to accommodate the DfE's new Intensive Training and Practice requirements