

**MPLS Divisional Board**

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

**Title of Programme/ Name of Regulation**

Postgraduate Diploma 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, Postgraduate Diploma in Statistical Science \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)**Effective date**

**For students starting from:** MT21-22

**For first examination from :** TT22

**Detail of change for Special Regulations**

<sup>1.12</sup>1. The Divisional Board of Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences shall elect for the supervision of the course a supervisory standing committee which shall have power to arrange lectures and other instruction.

<sup>1.13</sup>2. Candidates shall follow for at least three terms a course of instruction in Statistical Sciences.

3. In the following, 'the Course Handbook' refers to the Postgraduate Diploma in Statistical Science Handbook and course web pages published by the Supervisory Committee.

<sup>1.14</sup>3. 4. The examination will be in two parts: ~~consist of a written examination consisting of two papers on the syllabus described in the schedule~~.

(i) Candidates shall offer eight units from the schedule of units (see below). These

must include SB1 (a double-unit) and SB2 (a double-unit).

- (ii) Candidates shall submit a practical assignment on Statistical Programming.

~~4. In the written examination the examiners will permit the use of bilingual dictionaries.~~

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.

~~5. The specification of calculators permitted in the written examinations will be announced by the Examiners in the Hilary Term preceding the examination.~~

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

~~6. Each candidate will be expected to have displayed evidence of the ability to apply statistical methods to real data.~~

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.

~~8. The examiners will take into account the results of an assessment of ability to apply statistical methods to real data organised by the standing committee. The committee will be responsible for notifying the candidates of the arrangements for the assessment, and for forwarding the assessed material to the Chair of 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.~~

## 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.

<sup>1.19</sup>Paper 1: Principles of statistical analysis

<sup>1.20</sup>Paper 2: Further statistical methodology

<sup>1.21</sup>Topics 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.