

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

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Divisional Board**

**Approved by officer's action on behalf of the divisional Quality Assurance Committee on 26 September 2023**

**Title of Programme**

Research Degrees in Economics

**Brief note about nature of change:**

Minor amendments to the wording in preparation for the new SSD-specific GSO forms

**Effective date**

For all students from Michaelmas term 2023 onwards

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations* [2019-20, Research Degrees in Economics \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

**Details of Change:**

Amend citations as follows:

**1.11 4. Transfer to MLitt (or MSc by Research) or DPhil status**

1.12 Candidates will normally be expected to achieve Transfer of Status in their third or fourth term after admission (or in their ninth term after admission for part-time students). Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies Coordinator and will comprise the following:

- 1.13(a) a completed Transfer of Status application form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~; and
- 1.14(b) a provisional thesis title and a short outline statement of the proposed research topic, which should include sources and methods to be used; and
- 1.15(c) a piece of written work relevant to the thesis of between 5,000 and 7,000 words.

1.16 To successfully achieve Transfer of Status, students must also have satisfactorily passed the Qualifying Examination. In cases where a student is required to re-sit a

subject, a deferral of Transfer of Status will be granted automatically as set out in section 3 above.

1.17 The Graduate Studies Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The committee will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

1.18 A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt or the MSc by Research) is permitted to make one further application and will be granted an extension of one term (or two terms for part-time students) to Probationer Research Student status if necessary. If after a second attempt, the Graduate Studies Committee can neither approve transfer to the DPhil or to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

1.19 **5. Confirmation of DPhil status**

1.20 Students who were initially admitted to the status of a Probationer Research Student must achieve Confirmation of Status not later than their ninth term or normally earlier than their sixth term (or not later than the eighteenth term or normally earlier than the twelfth term for part-time students). Students admitted directly to DPhil status having completed the full-time MPhil in Economics must achieve Confirmation of Status by the end of their eleventh term (sixteenth term for part-time students) as a graduate student, inclusive of the time spent on the MPhil in Economics.

Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies Coordinator and will comprise the following:

1. 1.21(a) a completed Confirmation of Status application form ~~and appointment of assessor form~~; and
2. 1.22(b) a comprehensive outline of the treatment of the thesis topic including details of progress made and an indication of the anticipated timetable for submission; and
3. 1.23(c) two draft chapters intended to form part of the final thesis.

1.24 Candidates applying for Confirmation of Status shall also present their preliminary results of their research at a departmental seminar or workshop as part of the confirmation process, under arrangements to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

1.25 The Graduate Studies Committee will appoint an assessor who will read the work, interview the student, and submit a written report to the committee. The committee will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

1.26 A student whose first application for Confirmation of Status is not approved is permitted to make one further application, normally within one term (two terms for part-time students) of the original application, and will be granted an extension of one term (two terms for part-time students) if necessary. For the second attempt, the Graduate Studies Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student, and submit a written report to the committee. If after the second attempt the Graduate Studies

Committee can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt or MSc by Research, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

**Explanatory Notes**

Minor amendments to the wording in preparation for the new SSD-specific GSO forms GSO.2 and GSO.14 going live Michaelmas term 2023.