

**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 International Development

**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 International Development \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

**Details of Change:**

Amend citations as follows:

**<sup>1.9</sup>4. Transfer to MLitt or DPhil status**

<sup>1.10</sup>Candidates will normally be expected to achieve Transfer of Status in their third or fourth term after admission (or in their sixth to eighth term after admission for part-time students). Applications should be submitted to the Divisional Senior Graduate Studies Administrator and will comprise the following:

<sup>1.11</sup>(a) a completed Transfer of Status application form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~; and

<sup>1.12</sup>(b) a provisional thesis title and an outline of the proposed research; and

<sup>1.13</sup>(c) a transfer paper of no more than 10,000 words, which justifies and locates the research in relation to earlier work in the field, sets out the questions on which it will focus and explains the methods by which these will be answered.

1.14 Candidates will also be required to present their research plan at a Transfer Preparation Workshop.

1.15 To successfully achieve Transfer of Status, students must have satisfactorily passed the Qualifying Examination. In cases where a full-time student is required to re-sit the paper, a deferral of Transfer of Status will be granted automatically as set out in section 3 above.

1.16 The Graduate Studies Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the transfer paper, 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.

1.17 A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt) is permitted to make one further application and will be granted an extension of one term (or up to 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 nor to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

#### 1.18 **5. Confirmation of DPhil status**

1.19 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 not later than the eighteenth term for part-time students). Students admitted directly to DPhil status having completed the full-time MPhil in Development Studies 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 Development Studies.

1.20 Applications should be submitted to the Divisional Senior Graduate Studies Administrator and will comprise the following:

1.21(a) a completed Confirmation of Status application form ~~and appointment of assessor form~~; and

1.22(b) a comprehensive outline (up to 3,000 words) of the treatment of the thesis topic including details of progress made and an indication of the anticipated timetable for submission; and

1.23(c) a written submission of between 15,000 to 20,000 words of the main thesis which may be one chapter or parts of two or more chapters. The submission should be core material based on fieldwork or other research.

1.24 The Graduate Studies Committee will appoint two assessors 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.

1.25 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 (up to two terms for part-time students) if necessary. 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.