

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 Politics and International Relations

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 2021-22, Research Degrees in Politics and International Relations* ([ox.ac.uk](https://www.ox.ac.uk))

Details of Change:

Amend citations as follows:

^{1.6}3. Transfer to MLitt or DPhil status

^{1.7}Students will normally be admitted as Probationer Research Students. Students 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 Graduate Studies Administrator and will comprise the following:

^{1.8}(i) *Politics*

^{1.9}(a) a completed transfer of status form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~;

^{1.10}Either two copies of:

^{1.11}(b) a proposed schedule of work;

(c) a paragraph statement describing the project;

- (d) a research design of between 4,000 to 6,000 words maximum;
- (e) written work relevant to the thesis of between 5,000 to 7,000 words maximum.

1.12 Or for students following the three paper route:

- 1.13 (b) a submissions of a research design for one paper;
- (c) a document setting out the article-isation of the project and previewing the whole thesis;
- (d) an introduction to all of the proposed papers and explanation of their academic relationship;
- (e) a literature review;
- (f) a timetable for completion.

1.14 (ii) *International Relations*

- 1.15 (a) a completed transfer of status form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~;

1.16 Either two copies of:

- 1.17 (b) a short outline of the thesis topic including the title and chapter headings;
- (c) a proposed schedule of work;
- (c) a draft introduction of between 4,000 to 6,000 words maximum;
- (d) a draft chapter of the thesis of between 5,000 to 7,000 words maximum.

1.18 Or for students following the three paper route:

- 1.19 (b) a submissions of a research design for one paper;
- (c) a document setting out the article-isation of the project and previewing the whole thesis;
- (d) an introduction to all of the proposed papers and explanation of their academic relationship;
- (e) a literature review;
- (f) a timetable for completion.

1.20 All students must also provide evidence of the satisfactory completion of a course of lectures, seminars, and classes, as set out in the International Relations Student Handbook and supplemented by his or her supervisor, and satisfactorily complete a course of research methods training, as set out in the International Relations Student Handbook and supplemented by his or her supervisor and/or by the International Relations Director of Research Training.

1.21 Full details of the timings for submissions and requirements for the Transfer of Status application can be found in the relevant Student Handbook.

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 Graduate Studies Committee will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

^{1.22}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 or to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

^{1.23}4. Confirmation of Status

^{1.24}Students will normally be expected to achieve Confirmation of Status by no later than their ninth term after admission (or in their eighteenth term after admission for part-time students). Students admitted directly to DPhil status having completed the full-time MPhil in Politics or International Relations must achieve Confirmation of Status by the end of their tenth term (fourteenth term for part-time students) as a graduate student, inclusive of the time spent on the full-time MPhil degree.

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

^{1.25}(i) *Politics*

^{1.26}(a) a completed confirmation of status form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~;

^{1.27}Two copies of:

^{1.28}(b) a statement of the thesis title and chapter headings;

(c) a draft introduction;

(d) two additional chapters (or two draft papers for students following the three paper route) intended to form part of the final thesis.

^{1.29}The combined introduction and the two chapters should not exceed 30,000 words.

^{1.30}(ii) *International Relations*

^{1.31}(a) a completed confirmation of status form ~~and appointment of assessors form~~;

^{1.32}Two copies of:

^{1.33}(b) a statement of the thesis title and chapter headings;

(c) a draft introduction;

(d) two additional chapters (or two draft papers for students following the three paper route) intended to form part of the final thesis;

^{1.34}The combined introduction and the two chapters should not exceed 30,000 words.

^{1.35}(e) a self-assessment report of progress of no more than 300 words.

^{1.36}Full details of the timings for submissions and requirements for Confirmation of Status application can be found in the relevant Student Handbook.

^{1.37}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 Graduate Studies Committee will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

^{1.38}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 DPhil Committee can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt, 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.