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 the Oxford Internet Institute

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* 2022-23, Research Degrees in the Oxford Internet Institute

Details of Change:
Amend citations as follows:
1.9**4. Transfer to DPhil, MLitt or MSc by Research status**
1.10Candidates will normally be expected to achieve Transfer of Status in their third or fourth term after admission (or sixth to eighth term after admission for part-time students). Applications should be submitted to the DPhil Coordinator and will comprise the following:
1.11(a) a completed Transfer of Status application form ~~and Appointment of Assessors form~~;
1.12(b) confirmation from the candidate's supervisor that such courses as the candidate has been required to undertake have been satisfactorily completed;
1.13(c) an outline of their research (one side of A4 paper);
1.14(d) a detailed research proposal of no more than 15,000 words. This should:
1.15(i) draw upon relevant literature to discuss the background to the research, theoretical perspectives, and possible outcomes to the research;

1.16(ii) state key research questions;

1.17(iii) discuss the overall methodological approach, and specific strategies, to be employed in answering these research questions, paying particular attention to practical and ethical issues relevant to the research.

1.18(iv) include a preliminary timetable for the research;

1.19(v) include a list of references.

1.20(e) confirmation of ethics approval (IREC/CUREC 1A/CUREC 2);

1.21(f) an OII Training Needs Assessment Form;

1.22(g) any other materials, including substantial original research, that may help the assessors evaluate the applicant's candidacy.

1.23To successfully achieve Transfer of Status, students must also have satisfactorily passed the relevant courses set out in 3 above. In cases where a student is required to re-sit a paper, a deferral of Transfer of Status for one or two terms as appropriate will be granted automatically.

1.24The 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 decide whether to approve Transfer of Status.

1.25A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt or 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 nor to the MLitt or the MSc by Research, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

1.26**5. Confirmation of DPhil status**

1.27Students 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).

1.28Applications should be submitted to the Graduate Studies DPhil Coordinator and will comprise the following:

1.29(a) a completed Confirmation of Status application form ~~and Appointment of Assessors form~~;

1.30(b) an abstract of the thesis (one side of A4 paper);

1.31(c) an outline structure of the thesis, consisting of chapter headings, and a brief statement of the intended content;

1.32(d) an outline timetable detailing what work has already been carried out and what activities are planned for the remaining stages;

1.33e) either:

> 1.34i) for monograph theses: two completed draft chapters intended to form part of the final thesis; or

> 1.35ii) for integrated theses: one completed paper and either a fully-developed literature review or a second completed paper;

1.36(f) an OII Training Needs Assessment Form;

1.37(g) a self-assessment report on progress of not more than 300 words.

1.38The 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 decide whether to approve Confirmation of Status.

1.39A 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 granted an extension of one term (two terms for part-time students) if necessary. If after the second attempt the Committee can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt or the 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.