

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved by Chair's action on behalf of Education Committee on 21 June 2024.

Title of Programme

Research Degrees in the Social Sciences Division

Brief note about nature of change:

Introduction of specific regulatory provisions for students who are admitted to the Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership.

Effective date

For students admitted from October 2024

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2019-20, Research Degrees in the Social Sciences Division* (ox.ac.uk)

Details of Change:

Insert citations and number as follows:

Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership

1. Programmes covered by these regulations

These regulations shall apply to all research students registered for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy who have been awarded a studentship by the Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). The General Regulations Governing Research Degrees and the relevant disciplinary Special Regulations for Research Degrees shall apply except as specified below.

2. Research in Practice

Students will normally be required to undertake a 3-month placement within an academic or non-academic organisation agreed in consultation with their supervisor(s) and approved by the DTP Director.

The placement will normally be undertaken after Transfer of Status and must be completed before final submission of the thesis.

Students are required to submit a written report of between 1500-2000 words within 6 weeks of completion of the placement and before final submission of their thesis to the satisfaction of the DTP Director. Full details of the submission requirements are published on the DTP website. Where a student does not submit a report, or the report is considered unsatisfactory, the student shall be interviewed by the DTP Director who will determine if any further remedial action is required.

3. Confirmation of Status

Students first admitted to Probationer Research Status shall normally apply for Confirmation of Status by no later than their eighth term (or sixteenth term if studying part-time), or where admitted direct to DPhil status, by the normal deadline required by the relevant Special Regulations for Research Degrees for their discipline.

4. Submission

Students are normally required to submit their final thesis within the funded period of their studentship.

Explanatory Notes

The ESRC requires that, from 2024, all new DTP students submit within their funded period. Previously, DTP students were permitted to submit within 12 months of their funding end date (24 months for part-time students). Students will therefore need to be supported to complete within their funded period. ESRC-funded students at Oxford will have a revised timeline for milestones to encourage submission within their funded period (the normal University expectation being that a student should be able to submit their thesis within three terms of achieving Confirmation of Status). There would be no penalty for a student who does not achieve Confirmation by the end of the 8th term, as the General Regulations would still apply giving a final deadline at the end of term 9 (unless a deferral is approved by the relevant Board), but this would communicate the expectation of the timeline needed to the student, and provide evidence to the ESRC that the University is acting to ensure submission within the funded period.