

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

SSD/2/2/4

**Social Sciences Board**

**Approved by TAC 8 October 2012**

**Title of programme**

MPhil(s) in Visual, Material & Museum Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Social Anthropology.

**Brief note about nature of change:**

A change in regulations concerning the timing of Confirmation of Status for DPhil students in Anthropology who have been admitted to this research degree following the successful completion of any of the listed MPhil degrees.

**Effective date**

With immediate effect

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations* 2012

**Detail of change**

**1. P.912, I.45-P.913, I.2, delete all lines and insert**

*'4. Confirmation of Status as a student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy*

The provisions of the Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (§4) shall apply, except as specifically provided below.

Application for confirmation of D.Phil. status shall normally be made not earlier than the sixth term and not later than the ninth term from admission as a research student in the case of a student admitted first to the status of Probationer Research Student, and normally not earlier than the third term and not later than the sixth term

from readmission in the case of a student admitted directly to D.Phil. status from an M.Phil. degree within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

**For students admitted directly to D.Phil. status from an M.Phil. degree within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography before 1 October 2012:**

(i) Application for confirmation of D.Phil. status shall normally be made not earlier than the sixth term and not later than the ninth term from readmission.

**For students admitted directly to D.Phil. status from an M.Phil. degree within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography before 1 October 2011:**

(i) Application for confirmation of D.Phil. status shall normally be made not earlier than the fourth term and not later than the tenth term from readmission.

The Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography may in addition, and for good reason, permit a candidate to defer for a maximum of three terms his or her application for confirmation of status.

A student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall cease to hold such status unless it has been confirmed within nine terms of his or her admission if first admitted as a Probationer Research Student, or within six terms from readmission directly to D.Phil. status from an M.Phil. degree within the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (or within a maximum of twelve terms or nine terms respectively where deferral has been approved in accordance with the paragraph above).

**2. P.913, I.3, delete** 'admission as a research student in either case'.

### **Explanatory Notes**

The change in regulations concerns the timing of Confirmation of Status for DPhil students in Anthropology who have been admitted to this research degree following the successful completion of any of the above MPhil degrees (and therefore has the requirement to transfer status from PRS waived). The previous regulations specified that such students should seek Confirmation of Status not earlier than the third term after admission as a research student (sc. as a DPhil student) and not later than the ninth term. For PRS-pathway students the window is between the sixth and ninth terms, this difference reflecting the fact that the preparatory year for them is taken as part of the research degree, whereas for the MPhil-pathway students it is in effect the second year of their MPhil degree—a taught course degree—in which they do a substantial dissertation linked to proposed doctoral research by regulation. This current practice gives such students a year's advantage over PRS-pathway students, by virtue of the fact that their preparatory year is already accounted for as part of their MPhil degrees (transfer of status being waived for them), so that year one of their research degree is substantive research, whereas for PRS-pathway students year one is the year of preparation leading to transfer of status.

The previous General Regulations were interpreted in a manner to the effect that, in the case of MPhil-pathway students, the calculation of a maximum of nine terms for confirmation started right from the start of the MPhil degree, not the DPhil degree, as assumed previously. This interpretation posed severe problems for Anthropology students

transferring to the DPhil from the MPhil, and disadvantaged such students in comparison to their PRS-pathway fellows, i.e. the earlier anomaly was reversed.

This revised regulation will ensure both parity between and feasibility for all doctoral students in Anthropology. MPhil-pathway students would still use their second year as the preparatory year, but this would count as their first year of actual research. They will go to the field in their second year of research and have to confirm or defer at the end of their third year of research. The latter date would be six terms after readmission as doctoral students, but it would match the PRS pathway exactly in respect of actually conducting the research and writing it up. No change is required or asked for in relation to PRS students, whether on the standard pathway or the alternative pathway recently introduced for anthropology.