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

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved at the meeting of TAC on 24/02/17

Title of Programme
Research Degrees in the Blavatnik School of Government

Brief note about nature of change: correction to notice of 22 June 2017 regarding the date of effect of the introduction of an article-based thesis route, and housekeeping changes

Location of change
In Examination Regulations 2016 [http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/rdibschoofgove/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/rdibschoofgove/)

Effective date
With immediate effect

Detail of change
Delete citation reference. 1.1 to 1.33 and replace with the following:

1. Governance
The DPhil in Public Policy shall be under the supervision of the DPhil Committee of the Blavatnik School of Government.

2. Transfer of Status
Students will normally be admitted as Probationer Research Students. Applications for Transfer of Status should be submitted to the DPhil Committee not later than the end of Week 8 of their third term. An extension of one term may be granted by the DPhil Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Applications will comprise the following:

(a) a completed transfer of status form. If a student intends to submit an article-based
thesis, the student’s supervisor should indicate support for this on the application form;
(b) confirmation from the student’s supervisor that such courses as the student has been
required to undertake have been satisfactorily completed;
(c) two typewritten or word-processed copies of:
   i. a brief, single paragraph summary of the project, including information on
      methodological and theoretical approach;
   ii. a research proposal of no more than 4,000 – 6,000 words;
   iii. \textit{either} a draft chapter (for example the literature review) of between 5,000 and
        7,000 words; or, if submitting an article-based thesis, a draft of the introduction,
        of between 5,000 and 7,000 words.

Full details of requirements can be found in the course handbook.

The DPhil 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 DPhil
Committee will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

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 to Probationer Research Student
status if necessary. If after a second attempt, the DPhil Committee can neither approve
transfer to the DPhil or to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of
Graduate Students.

3. Confirmation of Status

Applications for Confirmation of DPhil status should normally be submitted to the DPhil
Committee no earlier than the sixth term and no later than the ninth term from admission as
a Probationer Research Student.

Applications will comprise the following:

\textit{(a)} a completed confirmation of status application form. If a student intends to
submit an article-based thesis, the student’s supervisor should indicate support for
this on the application form;
\textit{(b)} two typewritten or word-processed copies of:
   i. an abstract of the thesis (one side of A4 paper);
   ii. an outline structure of the thesis, consisting of chapter headings, and a
      brief statement of the intended content;
   iii. an outline timetable detailing what work has already been carried out and
      what activities are planned for the remaining stages;
   iv. \textit{either} two completed draft chapters (other than the literature review)
      intended to form part of the final thesis;
      \textit{or}, if submitting an article-based thesis, two of each of the following; a
      completed article, a second article in draft form, and the outline of a third article.

Full details of requirements can be found in the course handbook.
The DPhil 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 DPhil Committee will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

A student whose first application for Confirmation of Status is not approved is permitted to make one further application, normally within one term of the original application, and will granted an extension of one term 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.

4. Theses

DPhil theses must not exceed 100,000 words and MLitt theses must not exceed 50,000 words. The word limit must include the abstract, all notes and appendices but not the bibliography.

*Article-based thesis route*

To submit an article-based thesis, the student must submit a case supported by their supervisor, to the DPhil Committee. If approved, the student’s supervisor should also indicate support on the Transfer of Status and Confirmation of Status application forms. Should a candidate subsequently wish to revert to the traditional-style thesis, they must submit a written application to the DPhil Committee, with the support of their supervisor, detailing the reasons for the change.

A DPhil thesis submitted under this rubric will consist of three articles of publishable quality, framed by an introduction, a literature review (which may be included as part of the introduction) and a conclusion. Such a body of work must address an overarching research question and represent a coherent and focused body of research. The article-based thesis may have only one co-authored article. In the case of a co-authored article, students must submit to the DPhil Committee a description of their contribution to the article and demonstrate that their work represents the majority contribution.

The article-based thesis must not exceed 100,000 words, the limit to include the abstract, all notes and appendices but not the bibliographies. Further guidance can be found in the course handbook.

**Explanatory Notes**

Approval for the introduction of a part-time DPhil in Public Policy route has been approved for students starting from MT 2018. This was incorrectly presented in the Gazette notice of 22 June 2017 and has been corrected in the notice of 20 July. Approval for the introduction of an article-based thesis route and some minor housekeeping changes was given with immediate effect.