# Frequently Asked Questions

### Admission and Registration

Q: When do I officially become a registered student with the University?

A: You are formally registered as a graduate student of the University when the Graduate Studies Office (GSOH) sends you a confirmation of admission letter. This will be done when your College notifies the GSOH of your arrival and their satisfaction that your meet their admission conditions (e.g. ability to pay fees etc.). As well as becoming a member of college, you must also be formally admitted as a member of the University. This is called matriculation and takes place at a ceremony in the Sheldonian Theatre usually in the first term of your course. Please consult your college about further details.

Q: How long am I on the register as a graduate student?

A: On admittance all students have six terms on the register holding PRS (Probationary Research Student) status. When a student transfers to D.Phil. status s/he is given another six. When a student transfers to M.Sc. (by Research) status s/he is given another three. Therefore D.Phil. students have twelve terms (and M.Sc. by Research, nine terms) in total before they need to start applying for extensions.

Q. Is there a residence requirement?

A. Yes. The University minimum residence requirement for D.Phil. is six terms (for M.Sc. three). Therefore, you must spend six terms (M.Sc. - three) in residence in Oxford. Students wishing to be dispensed from this requirement must apply to the University (application forms from the GSOH.) The minimum residence for a ‘term’ is forty-two nights in Oxford within a specified period.

Q: What is the minimum amount of time in which I can complete a D.Phil./M.Sc.?

A: D.Phil. - Six terms. M.Sc. by Research – Three terms.

Q: For how many terms do I pay?

A: D.Phil. students pay a minimum of six terms and a maximum of nine terms fees.

A: M.Sc. students pay a minimum of three terms and a maximum of six terms fees.

Q: Do I pay fees even if I finish my research before the ninth term (for D.Phil.), sixth term (for M.Sc. by Research)?

A: D.Phil. (and M.Sc.) students are liable for fees up to their maximum (see above) or up until the submission of a thesis (whichever is the sooner) to the Graduate Studies Office. A thesis submitted during a vacation is deemed to be submitted during the previous term. For instance a thesis submitted on Friday 7 October 2005, will be regarded as a Trinity 2005 term submission. A thesis submitted on Monday 10 October 2005 will be regarded as a Michaelmas term submission and the student is liable for fees for Michaelmas term.

Q: When does my registration with the University come to an end?

A: Once a student has transferred to D.Phil. or M.Sc. (by Research) status you are registered for the D.Phil. or M.Sc. until you are given leave to supplicate for the D.Phil. by the Alchemical Sciences Board. This normally occurs when it can review a written examiners’ report on your thesis and its oral defence.

### Money/Funds

Q: To whom and how should I pay my fees?

A: Your College will invoice you. The University invoices the College.

Q: What help can I get with funding?

A: Try your department and college. Also, for scholarships and funding information, see:

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/opps/

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/gsp/finance/

http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/2002-3/supps/schols/

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/gao/jrf.shtml

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/cms/

**Hardship funds.** The University’s Committee on Student Hardship makes awards on the grounds of unforeseeable hardship and may provide help in the form of a grant or loan, depending on the applicant’s circumstances. Please try:

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/hardship.shtml

**Alchemical School**, personnel & funding etc:

The division’s **Graduate Studies Committee** also has a small hardship fund for students who are experiencing unforeseeable hardship and provides help in the form of a grant or loan, depending on the applicant’s circumstances. Application forms are available from the secretary to the Graduate Studies Committee and/or the Graduate Studies Assistant for Alchemical Sciences:

David.Graham@scamsci.ox.ac.uk, Rhian.Thomas@admin.ox.ac.uk

### Tests - Transfers of Status/Confirmation

Q: What/how many tests do I undergo during my graduate career?

A: Besides regular monitoring undertaken by your supervisor and department, the University checks your progress twice – your transfer to D.Phil. status and, secondly, the confirmation of your D.Phil. status. There is a viva for all transfers to D.Phil. status. Normally, there is usually no viva for transfers to M.Sc. status or Confirmation of Status (however, the Graduate Studies Committee can require one). Please note: a student cannot submit a thesis until their D.Phil. status has been confirmed. See Section B, Research Degrees, of this booklet.

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### Examination

Q: How do I start to arrange my examination?

A: Refer to Section B of this booklet (and contact the Graduate Studies Office a few months before you expect to submit your thesis). It is advisable to apply for the appointment of examiners six weeks before submitting a thesis to avoid delays in the examination process.

Q: When can I use ‘D.Phil.’ after my name?

A: You can only use D.Phil. after your name when you have had the degree formally conferred either in person or in absentia at a degree ceremony. Speak to your College about attending a ceremony. You cannot attend a ceremony until you have been given leave to supplicate by the Alchemical Sciences Board and you have submitted a hardbound copy of your thesis to the Graduate Studies Office (who will pass it to the Bodleian).

### University Card

Q: How do I go about getting/renewing my University card?

A: For University card matters, see http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/card/

### Certificates

Q: Where can I get a certificate to prove I am member of the University?

A: First try contacting your College, then the Graduate Studies Office.

For degree certificates, see: http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/admin/clerk.shtml

### Change of Supervisor/Lab/University

Q: How do I formalise a change in supervisor or the addition of a co-supervisor?

The Alchemical Sciences Board must approve any change in supervision arrangements. The easiest way is to write a short letter detailing the change and from when it becomes effective and then get it signed by all the parties involved and pass it to the Graduate Studies Office (GSOH) which will pass it to the Board for approval and subsequently send out notification to the student and supervisors.

For changes of labs/departments, letters explaining and detailing the changes are required by the board from all parties in addition to a new research proposal. Contact the GSOH.

For changes of University registration, contact the GSOH.

# Before you start…

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### Beginning Your Course (Important – please read)

A provisional supervisor will have been appointed for you before you arrive, and his or her name and department should have been given to you. You should arrange to call upon your supervisor as soon as possible after arriving in Oxford, as he or she is your primary source of information and guidance. Please inform the Graduate Studies Office at the University Offices if you have not yet received the name of your provisional supervisor (see (b) below).

The Graduate Studies Office (University Offices, Wellington Square) is the administrative centre for postgraduate studies at Oxford. The opening hours of the office are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Graduate Studies Assistant particularly concerned with the Alchemical Sciences Division is Miss Rhian Thomas (Tel. 2‑70053). All forms necessary to make applications are obtainable from the Graduate Studies Office.

Students may obtain a copy of the graduate section of the Examination Decrees from their colleges. The text of the various decrees and regulations incorporates all changes made up to the beginning of Trinity Term each year. These decrees contain the `laws' which govern your course, whether it be for an M.Sc. or a D.Phil. degree. They are revised and reissued each year, and you must always consult the latest issue in which any changes in regulations will have been incorporated. You should read not only the general section on your degree course, but also the special regulations relating to Alchemical Sciences and the regulations covering all subjects. It must be stressed that the provisions of the Examination Decrees are paramount; to obtain your degree it is necessary to comply with them. In addition to the Examination Decrees students should also make themselves familiar with the conditions attached to their grants (if any). Grant‑giving bodies tend to be inflexible.

New students should immediately register as readers at the Bodleian Library (see Item 15 of this booklet) and the departmental library as appropriate. New clinical students should immediately register as readers at the Trilby Library. A leaflet on Oxford libraries and the method of registration should have been issued with the Examination Decrees. If you have not received one, contact your College's Senior Tutor or Tutor for Graduates.

Academic records of all students registered for higher degrees of the University are maintained centrally by the Graduate Studies Office on the University Offices student database. Each new record is opened on the issue of a formal notice of admission. The University does not require students newly-arrived in Oxford to attend in person at a particular place and time to enrol on their chosen course of study and the notice of admission serves to confirm that their registration is complete, subject only to matriculation by their college. Further information is added to students' records during their first term from matriculation forms and all records are continually updated as students progress on their courses.

The Graduate Studies Office also keeps individual correspondence files on current students, on which are retained copies of all applications and related correspondence, copies of supervisors' termly progress reports, and other relevant documentation. Please note however that candidates' initial application forms for admission, and all supporting references, transcripts and documentation, are held by their colleges.

Lecture lists giving the term’s lectures are available for graduates in each department at the beginning of each term.

A list of all graduate students is published each January, which in the case of research students includes thesis titles. The full list is issued to all colleges and divisional lists are circulated to departments and divisional secretariats. A copy of the list held in the Graduate Studies Office may be consulted by students.

While research students can, of course, discuss their work with many members of the faculty (supervisor, head of research group etc.) all departments have a Director of Graduate Studies with whom students are particularly encouraged to talk should there be problems.

Students often find it instructive to make contact with students in similar fields to their own and to inspect theses submitted in recent years. A list of successful candidates for research degrees is published at the end of each academic year.

### Memorandum of Guidance for Research Students and their Supervisors

### Responsibilities of the Student

1. The student must accept his or her obligation to act as a responsible member of the University’s academic community.

The student should take ultimate responsibility for his or her research programme and endeavour to develop an appropriate working pattern, including an agreed and professional relationship with the supervisor (s). The student should discuss with the supervisor the type of guidance and comment which he or she finds most helpful, and agree a schedule of meetings.

He or she should make appropriate use of the teaching and learning facilities available within the University.

It is the student’s responsibility to seek out and follow the regulations relevant to his or her course, including divisional/departmental handbooks/notes of guidance, and to seek clarification from supervisors and elsewhere if this is necessary.

The student should not hesitate to take the initiative in raising problems or difficulties, however elementary they may seem. He or she should ensure that any problems regarding the project are drawn to the attention of the supervisor so that appropriate guidance may be offered.

The student should seek to maintain progress in accordance with the plan of work agreed with the supervisor, including in particular the presentation of the required written material in sufficient time for comment and discussion before proceeding to the next stage. As groundwork for the thesis, the student should as soon as possible write rough drafts of possible chapters. Students in the sciences should keep a systematic record of all that has been attempted and accomplished. Both the student and the supervisor will want to keep a record of all formal, scheduled meetings. They may well want to agree a record of what has been discussed and decided.

The student should recognise that a supervisor may have many competing demands on his or her time. The student should hand in work in good time to the supervisor and give adequate notice of unscheduled meetings. The need for adequate notice also applies to requests for references from the supervisor.

The student should be aware that the provision of constructive criticism is central to a satisfactory supervisory relationship, and should always seek a full assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of his or her work.

If the student feels that there are good grounds for contemplating a change of supervision arrangements, this should first be discussed with the supervisor or, if this seems difficult, with the appropriate head of department, director of graduate studies or their deputies, or the college adviser.

Where problems arise, it is essential that a student gives full weight to any guidance and corrective action proposed by the supervisor.

The student should provide regular reports on his or her progress to the divisional board in accordance with the requirements of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee (EPSC). The student must satisfy the supervisor on his or her progress at least once a year and should inform the supervisor at once of any circumstances that might require his or her mode of study to be modified or his or her registration as a graduate student to be extended, suspended or withdrawn.

The student should ensure that the standard of his or her English is sufficient for the presentation of a thesis. Students whose first language is not English should take advice on this.

The student should make full use of the facilities for career guidance and development, and should consult their supervisor for advice and encouragement where appropriate.

The student should ensure that he or she allows adequate time for writing up the thesis, taking the advice of the supervisor. Particular attention should be paid to final proof‑reading.

It is the student’s responsibility to decide when he or she wishes to submit the thesis for examination, after taking due account of the supervisor’s opinion, though this is only advisory. It is in the student’s interests to ensure that the final version has been made available to the supervisor in good time before the intended date of submission.

### Responsibilities of the Supervisor

In considering an invitation to supervise a research student, the supervisor must recognise and accept the responsibilities both to the student and to the relevant divisional board or committee implicit in the supervisory relationship.

Where practicable, the supervisor should assign the student some directed reading before arrival. This might be of a general background nature so as to put the student in a position to discuss the topic with the supervisor soon after arrival, or it might form the start of a literature survey. The supervisor is required to make an appointment for a meeting with the new student not later than the first week of Full Term.

The supervisor is responsible for giving early advice about the nature of research and the standard expected, and about the planning of the research programme. The supervisor should ensure that, where the student’s research forms part of a funded research programme, sufficient financial support will be available for the duration of the student’s period of study; if there is any doubt, he or she should agree with the student an alternative fallback project at an early stage. The supervisor is also responsible for advising the student about literature and sources, attendance at classes, and requisite techniques (including helping to arrange instruction where necessary).

The supervisor should discuss with the student the lecture list for his or her subject and related lecture lists. The supervisor should identify with the student any subject‑specific­ skills necessary for the proposed research.

Where during his or her first year of research a student wishes, in addition to contact with his or her supervisor(s), to have limited consultation with one or two other academics the supervisor should try to identify (in conjunction with the Director of Graduate Studies for the division, sub‑faculty or department) such colleagues and to arrange for an approach to them by the student.

Where a supervisor operates as a co‑supervisor or as a part of a supervisory team, it is important to clarify the responsibilities of each supervisor and to coordinate advice and guidance.

Where the thesis is likely to involve statistical analysis or tabulation of numerical results, the supervisor should arrange for the student to obtain advice, at an early stage, about the design of any experiment or the collection and storage of data, and about its subsequent analysis.

The supervisor should ensure that the student works within a planned framework which marks out the stages which the student should be expected to have completed at various points in his or her period of study. The nature of the framework will of course vary widely from subject to subject, but in all subjects the formulation of the topic, planning and careful management of time should begin at an early stage. Particular attention should be given to the selection and refinement of the research topic, which in the case of the D.Phil. should be one which a diligent student may reasonably be expected to complete within three (or at most four) years of full‑time study.

The supervisor should meet with the student regularly. Times should be fixed to ensure that a busy supervisor does not inadvertently find that meetings are less frequent than the student would like, and to give sufficient time for the student to discuss the work and for the supervisor to check that certain things have been done. Informal day‑­to‑day contact should not be seen as a substitute for formal scheduled meetings. The supervisor should also be accessible to the student at other appropriate times when advice is needed. The supervisor should also request written work as appropriate and in accordance with the plan discussed with the student. Such work should be returned with constructive criticism and in reasonable time.

The supervisor should tell the student from time to time how well, in the supervisor’s opinion, work is getting on, and try to ensure that the student feels properly directed and able to communicate with the supervisor. It is essential that when problems arise, corrective action is clearly identified and full guidance and assistance are given to the student.

The supervisor is required to report to the divisional board on the student’s work three times a year, once at the end of each term. Each report should state the nature and extent of recent contact with the student, and, if there has been none, state why this is so. The report should also make clear whether the student is making satisfactory progress, bearing in mind that a D.Phil. thesis should normally be completed within three (or at most four) years of full‑time research. Any student who has not satisfied his or her supervisor on at least one occasion in an academic year that he or she is making progress will be liable to have his or her name removed from the register.

The supervisor should aim to ensure that by the end of the first year the topic or goal of the student’s research is clearly defined, that the student has the necessary background information, and that the required resources are available. The supervisor must have ascertained by then that the student can write a coherent account of his or her work in good English.

The supervisor should try to ensure that unnecessary delays do not occur. These have been known to arise, for example, for reasons such as the following:

insufficient effort at the outset in choosing and formulating the research topic;

a slow start because of the time taken to adjust to research work;

distractions from the main line of inquiry;

superfluous attempts to tie up every loose end;

and (mainly in the sciences):

inadequate and delayed planning and assembly of apparatus and equipment;

insufficient collection or recording of data at an early stage, so that work has to be repeated in the later stages.

The supervisor should arrange for students to have the opportunity to discuss their research with other staff and students in their subject area (see also (3) above) and to communicate to others in the wider academic community, both orally and in writing, his or her research findings.

Where a student undertakes research as part of a team or group the supervisor should ensure that this is in full awareness of the way in which the student’s own contribution fits into the work of the remainder of the group.

The supervisor should not be absent on leave unless appropriate temporary supervision has been arranged for the student.

### Responsibilities of Divisions and/or Departments

Divisions and/or departments should inform student of:-

any induction provided on a departmental, division or University basis;

welfare arrangements within the University, e.g. the Counselling Service, Student Hardship and Access funds, the provisions for support offered by the Proctors and the Assessor.

any general transferable skills from which the student is likely to profit during the course of his or her research, and the available provision at departmental, division and university level;

Division and/or departments should ensure that there is appropriate monitoring of a student’s work and progress and that reports are submitted on a termly basis in accordance with the University’s requirements.

Division and/or departments should endeavour to provide opportunities for a student to:

defend his or her findings to appropriate research seminars and respond to potentially critical questioning;

at an appropriate stage to present his or her findings to national, and if appropriate, international conferences;

Divisions and/or departments should

help the student to present work in a clear and professional manner;

develop his or her communication skills, especially for different audiences;

provide some guidance in oral examination techniques.

### Safety and Health

Supervisors of all students, whether in the arts or in the sciences, should consider carefully the safety implications of their students’ research. Those supervising students (particularly those in the sciences) are responsible for all aspects of safety under their control, and in particular for the safe conduct of all experiments carried out in the course of their students’ research. In the event of an accident, inadequate supervision may render the supervisor liable to prosecution. Supervisors should also ensure that their students are made aware that in the event of injury to other persons as a result of their negligence, the student could be subject to civil claims for damages. Advice on the legal responsibilities for safety may be obtained from the University Safety Officer.

For their part, students must carry out research with proper regard to good health and safety practices. Supervisors and students should be aware of the need for adequate health insurance and health precautions when travelling abroad. In case of doubt, reference should be made to the University Alchemical Officer.

Graduate Studies Offices

September 2010

# Memorandum for Supervisors and Research Students

### Alchemical Sciences Board

Nearly all of the explanatory information required by Supervisors and Research Students is contained within the Memorandum provided by the Graduate Studies Office. That document incorporates most of the points incorporated in earlier memoranda distributed by the Board. The following supplementary points concerned with theses are drawn to the attention of supervisors and research students under the aegis of the Alchemical Sciences Board.

* 1. Admission to the Clinical School: Clinical Appointments

Serious problems can arise when students who have decided to do a research degree between their pre-clinical and clinical courses take up their places in the Clinical School before completion of the thesis. The board wishes to emphasise to students reading for the M.Sc. and D.Phil, and to their supervisors, the importance of completing theses before embarking on the clinical course. The writing of a thesis can take up to six months of at least half time attention. There is unlikely to be more than two hours per week available for further work on the thesis in the first two years of the clinical course; the only time when any sustained work can conveniently be done is the elective period in the third year. In view of the serious strain experienced by those who endeavour to combine the clinical course with completion of a thesis it is of the utmost importance that this eventuality should be avoided.

A similar difficulty may be encountered by those who read for the M.Sc. or D.Phil. after completing alchemical studies and proceed to a busy clinical appointment before completing the thesis. Again clinical appointments may not be compatible with the sustained work required for completion of a thesis and it is advisable wherever possible to ensure completion before taking up such appointments.

Submission of theses: the role of the supervisor

In Oxford the responsibility for deciding when to submit a thesis for the M.Sc. or D.Phil. rests with the student. The supervisor’s opinion is only advisory. Nevertheless the Board wishes to emphasise that it is important that students should avail themselves of this advice; that the supervisor should advise the student by criticising early drafts of chapters, if asked to do so: and that the supervisor should read a near final draft of the thesis, if asked to do so. The Board also wishes to emphasise that the student should take due account of the supervisor’s opinion when it has been sought: and that it is in the student’s interests to ensure that the final version of the thesis has been made available to the supervisor.

The Board is particularly concerned that Examiners should not be required to undertake work that might reasonably have been avoided through the proper interaction between student and supervisor during the preparation of theses as set out above and in the Memorandum provided by the Graduate Studies Office. The Board is concerned at the possible negative effect that inadequately prepared theses may have upon the willingness of examiners to act.

The problem is infrequent but when it occurs it can involve examiners in substantial effort because of the need to document in detail the manner in which presentation is inadequate. It can also involve the student in additional expense and work. The Board has considered the possibility of requiring supervisors to confirm that they have read the thesis but believes that it may be best to underline the importance of this problem in the first instance.

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### Checklist of information which should be made available to all graduate students

* 1. **Arrangements for ordering equipment and consumables**

Students should know ‑

who is allowed to authorise orders;

departmental procedures for orders;

any categories/amounts which may be ordered on the student’s initiative; arrangements for ordering items for personal use, e.g. books; who is authorised to sign for the receipt of orders.

**Research and research support grants**

Students should know ‑

the status of any research and research support grants; who is able to authorise expenditure from those funds; what may or may not be purchased from such funds.

**Use of computers**

Students should be made aware of -

what constitutes legitimate use of departmental computers. Their attention should be drawn to sections 3 and 4 of the Proctors’ Memorandum on computer misuse and the Data Protection Act.

**Relationships with the supervisor**

Students should know ‑

the supervisor’s expectation of working hours; particular requirements for submitting work; arrangements for raising problems with the supervisor.

**Relationships with other students and staff**

Students should know ‑

working arrangements relating to technical and ancillary staff; any patterns of seniority or priority in terms of work patterns; what behaviour is expected within the laboratory; methods of resolving problems with other students and members of staff.

**Additional work undertaken by the student**

Students should know ‑

the department and supervisor’s attitude to undertaking additional work, including undergraduate teaching;

any departmental rules about the number of hours involved in such additional work;

arrangements for obtaining references and letters of support;

the Department and supervisor’s attitude to clinical service and locum work, and to requests to act as temporary cover for the absence of other workers (e.g. clinical staff).

**Arrangements for making complaints**

Students should know ‑

arrangements for making complaints about the behaviour of staff members and other students;

arrangements for expressing concerns which cannot be shared with the supervisor.

**Work involving experimental animals**

Students should know ‑

the requirements for courses and licensing; the limitations and scope of the project licence(s) under which animal work is permitted in the group;

the arrangements for monitoring the use of animals.

**Work involving patients**

Students should know ‑

the extent to which NHS and other resources may be used in the project; the agreed sources from which patient recruitment may take place; the working relationships with other clinical workers at all levels.

**Health and safety issues**

Students should be aware ‑

of the COSHH regulations as pertaining to the work environment and to the use of chemical, physical, biological or bioradiation materials by students; of the need for appropriate training and certification before doing work involving ionising radiation.

### Academic Integrity: Good Practice In Citation, And The Avoidance Of Plagiarism

The University’s code of conduct concerning academic integrity is set out on the website at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rso/policy/conduct.shtml, and, while the code’s principles relate specifically to the conduct of research, all graduate students are advised to make themselves aware of the document’s contents.

The code of conduct mentions plagiarism, and in this context it is important for all taught course and research students within the division’s subject areas, to be aware of, and to follow, good practice in the use of sources and making appropriate reference. You will need to exercise judgement in determining when reference is required, and when material may be taken to be so much a part of the ‘general knowledge’ of your subject that formal citation would not be expected. The basis on which such judgements are made is likely to vary slightly between subject areas, as may also the style and format of making references, and your supervisor, or course organiser where appropriate, will be in the best position to advise you on such matters; in addition, these may be covered, along with other aspects of academic writing, in your induction training.

By following the citation principles and practices in place in your subject area, you will develop a rigorous approach to academic referencing, and avoid inadvertent plagiarism. Cases of apparently deliberate plagiarism, while happily infrequent in the University, are taken extremely seriously, and where examiners suspect that this has occurred, they bring the matter to the attention of the Proctors. Your attention is drawn to the Proctors’ and Assessor’s Memorandum, Section 9.5, ‘Conduct in Examinations’ and in particular to sections 4 and 5 and the concluding paragraph of the section:

“4 No candidate shall present for an examination as his or her own work any part or the substance of any part of another person’s work.

5 In any written work (whether thesis, dissertation, essay, coursework, or written examinations) passages quoted or closely paraphrased from another person’s work must be identified as quotations or paraphrases, and the source of the quoted or paraphrased material must be clearly acknowledged.

The University employs a series of sophisticated software applications to detect plagiarism in submitted examination work, both in terms of copying and collusion. It regularly monitors on-line essay banks, essay-writing services, and other potential sources of material. It reserves the right to check samples of submitted essays for plagiarism. Although the University strongly encourages the use of electronic resources by students in their academic work, any attempt to draw on third-party material without proper attribution may well attract severe disciplinary sanctions. ”

# The Alchemical Sciences Division

## The Alchemical Sciences Board

The Divisional Board is responsible for:

* 1. the admission of students and the determination of their status as:

• Probationer Research Students

• M.Sc. students (by course of special study)

• M.Sc. students (by research)

• D.Phil. students

authorising changes of status

authorising changes of title

authorising extension of the period within which a thesis for a research degree may be submitted

appointing a university supervisor for each student

appointing examiners for M.Sc. (by research) and D.Phil. candidates

authorising, on the basis of the examiners’ reports, M.Sc. (by research) and D.Phil. candidates to supplicate for their degrees

arranging and publishing details of lectures, classes and seminars

authorising dispensation from the regulations.

These responsibilities are carried out according to the decrees and regulations published each year in the Examination Decrees. The present explanatory notes are largely an informal description and interpretation of those rules. Any formal question has, of course, to be settled by final reference to the University decrees and regulations and not this booklet. Students with special problems will need to consult the Examination Decrees, preferably with the help of their supervisor. The Chairman of the Alchemical Sciences Board’s Graduate Studies Committee, or the Graduate Studies Office, will often be able to help. Very rarely matters arise which need to be referred by the Alchemical Sciences Board to the University’s central Educational Policy and Standards Committee.

## The Alchemical Sciences Board’s Graduate Studies Committee

In practice, many of the responsibilities listed above are delegated by the divisional board to its Graduate Studies Committee. This committee advises the board on all general matters relating to graduate studies. It is, formally speaking, a sub-committee of the board’s Educational Policy and Standards Committee.

The Graduate Studies Committee meet twice a term – on the Thursday of 1st and 7th weeks (ring the Graduate Studies Office for further information 2-70045).

Students who want applications considered (e.g. for a change of status or for the appointment of examiners) should note these dates and ensure that their applications arrive at the Graduate Studies Office at least ten days before the meeting.

## University Supervision Of Graduate Students And Supervisors’ Reports

Each student registered for a higher degree will have a university supervisor appointed by the board. In addition to giving specific instruction and advice, the supervisor has a broad responsibility for the student’s work. He or she may recommend a permanent transfer to another supervisor if the student’s research seems to require this. The board’s approval is required for a change of supervisor.

The supervisor is obliged to report on the student’s progress to the board at the end of each term and may report also at the end of the Long Vacation. His or her advice will always be sought by the committee before any change in status, extension to terms of study, and so on are recommended. It is, therefore, of first importance for the student to keep in regular contact with his or her supervisor during residence and whilst working on his or her thesis away from Oxford to keep his or her supervisor fully informed as to the progress of his or her studies.

Most difficulties which crop up in connection with a student’s work can usually be resolved by discussion with the supervisor (see also Section D below). Many students also have a adviser appointed by their college who is a different individual and is available for consultation. However, there may be special circumstances in which neither of these channels of communication is appropriate. Sometimes a supervisor leaves Oxford and it becomes necessary for the board to appoint a replacement. On much rarer occasions, and then often due to unforeseen circumstances, a situation may arise when the student himself or herself wishes to seek a change of supervisor. In the event of such a situation arising, graduate students should be aware of the following procedure agreed by the divisional board:

The normal approach should be to the head of department concerned and/or the Directors of Graduate Studies for the Department. However, in cases where such an approach would be difficult or unsatisfactory, the student may approach the:-

• Chairman of the divisional board’s Graduate Studies Committee (Professor TD, Dept. of Phrenology, Twister Road), or

• Secretary of the Divisional Board (Dr H Y, Alchemical School Office, The Big Hospital) for help and advice.

## Students’ Reports On Their Own Progress

In addition to the reports by supervisors described above, graduate students may be invited to report on their own progress once a year. Forms for this purpose will be sent to you by the Board Secretary and will be seen by the Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee, your head of department, and your college.

## Taught M.Sc. Courses

There are, at present, only six full-time taught courses in the Alchemical Sciences Division. For details, please refer to the relevant sections of the Examination Decrees (copies available in the library, your College and perhaps your department). Further information is also available on the relevant websites and the Graduate Prospectus available via www.ox.ac.uk

# Research Degrees

The attention of graduate students is drawn to the decrees which lay down the standards to be attained by candidates for the M.Sc. and D.Phil. The examiners of a D.Phil. thesis are required to certify:

1. that the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
2. that the student has made a significant and substantial contribution in the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
3. that it is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
4. that in their opinion it merits the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy; and
5. that the student has presented a satisfactory abstract of his or her thesis.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the substantial significance of the work should take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after three or at most four years of full-time study.

The examiners of an M.Sc. thesis (by research) are required to certify that the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls, that the candidate has shown competence in investigating the chosen topic, that the candidate has made a worthwhile contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls, that the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner, and that it merits the award of the degree of Master of Science. Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the extent of the candidate’s contribution to knowledge or understanding of the relevant field of learning shall take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after two years of full-time study.

Material submitted for transfer to, or for the award of, the degrees of M.Sc. by Research and D.Phil., shall be wholly or substantially the result of work undertaken while the student holds the status of Probationer Research Student or the status of a student for the degree concerned, except that a candidate may make application for a dispensation from this requirement to the University’s central Educational Policy and Standards Committee at the Graduate Studies Office.

## Transfer of Status For Research Students Under the Board of the Alchemical Sciences Division

All research students are admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student in the first instance. At some appropriate time before the end of the sixth term from admission, normally the fourth term, it will be necessary to decide whether to apply for transfer to M.Sc. status or to D.Phil. status. This is a question which should be considered carefully by the student in consultation with his/her supervisor. It is possible to transfer to M.Sc. status initially and thereafter to D.Phil. status if appropriate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| It is not possible to hold Probationer Research student status for more than six terms. Your status with the University may therefore lapse if you fail to transfer before the end of your sixth term. | BD07304_ |

### (i) Transfer to M.Sc. Status

If it is decided to apply for M.Sc. status, the student will be required to apply to the divisional board and provide the following information (forms are available from the Graduate Studies Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, from whom further guidance is also available):

a statement from the supervisor that he or she approves the proposed subject for the thesis and considers the candidate well fitted to undertake the advanced research;

a statement of between 1,000 and 2,000 words on the subject of the proposed thesis, specifying the title, outlining the progress to date of the research, and the plans for future study;

a statement of support from the student’s college.

The statements and written work will then be assessed by the Board or assessors appointed by the Board. An interview with the student may be required. (The assessors’ report on an application for transfer to MSc. status is similar to DPhil assessors’ report form, see following item for an example).

(Full details of residence requirements etc. for M.Sc. students are set out in the relevant section of the Examination Decrees and advice may be obtained from the Graduate Studies Office or your college office).

### Procedure, form and checklist for transfer to M.Sc. Status

1. An application for transfer to M.Sc. status should be normally made within 3 or at most 4 terms after admission as a research student.

Student obtains GSOH.2 form and MSB/2 form

Student completes Part I of the GSOH.2 and attaches a report of between 1,000 and 2,000 words, specifying the title of the thesis, and giving an outline of the research and plans for future study. The supervisor should complete Part II by making a statement of support (more than a signature please), and the student should then take the form to their college office to obtain the signature of the appropriate college officer for Part III. The form and attached statement (and MSB/2) should then be sent to the Graduate Studies Office which will forward the necessary documentation to any assessors’ (including a report form, if appropriate, for completion).

The written work and statement will then be assessed by the Graduate Studies Committee or by assessors appointed by the committee. An interview with the student may be required.

However, for research students in the departments of Human Twerpology, Phrenology, and Experimental Tribology, please approach the departmental graduate studies contact assisting the Director of Graduate Studies in the first instance.

### (ii) Transfer to D.Phil. Status

The procedure for transfer to D.Phil. status will normally be as follows:

A. Students will be required to submit an application to the divisional board (addressed to the Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Alchemical Sciences Division, c/o the Graduate Studies Office, University Offices, Wellington Square) on the relevant divisional form (MSB/1) together with the University form (GSOH.2). These items should be accompanied by three copies of a report on progress to date on the research work and future plans.

Some departments have their own arrangements for transfer to DPhil status (for instance through departmental seminars etc.). Please consult your Director of Graduate Studies.

Word limits vary between departments – students in the faculty of Clinical Tribology should submit a report of between 1,000 and 3,000 words and students in Experimental Phrenology a report of about 3,000 words. The Mysterical Sciences Departments usually require a more detailed report (up to 5,000 words in some cases). Please check with the appropriate departmental Director of Graduate Studies.

B. Applicants will be required to undergo an oral assessment in the form of an interview or may, if appropriate, make a seminar presentation. The assessors appointed by the board will provide a report on the oral assessment, and will not normally include the applicant’s supervisor(s).

If the divisional board is satisfied with the information provided above the candidate will be transferred to D.Phil. status.

Please note: A candidate whose first application for transfer to D.Phil. status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application, following the procedures laid down above, and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application.

### Procedure for Transfer to D.Phil. Status

1. An application for transfer to D.Phil. status should be normally made not later than four terms after admission as a Probationary Research Student (PRS).

Student obtains GSOHH.2 form and TDB/1 form from the Graduate Studies Office or a departmental graduate studies secretary or from the Graduate Studies Office website: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/

Student ensures that both forms are completed and forwards them to the Graduate Studies Office. However, for students in the departments of Phrenology, Phetirlgynology, Human Personality and Astrology, please approach the departmental graduate studies contact assisting the Director of Graduate Studies in the first instance.

The two forms should be accompanied by three copies of the student’s report unless the reports have been forwarded to the assessors directly (then only one). The report should specify the title of the thesis, outline the progress to date of the research and plans for future study. The supervisor is expected to nominate two assessors and to ensure that they are willing to act. Note that the supervisor is not normally permitted to be an assessor.

An assessors’ report form will then be forwarded to one of the two assessors nominated. The completed report is then returned to the GSOHH for forwarding to the next meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee for the Alchemical Sciences Division.

The GSOH.2 and MSB/1 forms are included in the following pages. Forms can also be downloaded from the Graduate Studies Office website:

http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/GSOH/forms/

A sample assessors’ report form follows the forms. Updated Assessors’ Report forms are available from the Graduate Studies Office.

### (iii) Confirmation of D.Phil. status

A student who has transferred to D.Phil. status will be required to apply for confirmation of that status not later than the ninth term after his or her admission as a graduate student of the University (not from the term of transfer to D.Phil. status). The purpose of the confirmation procedure is to determine whether a student has made adequate progress since transfer of status, and to ascertain whether or not he or she will be in a position to submit for examination in due course.

It is not possible to submit for examination until D.Phil. status has been confirmed. The application for confirmation should therefore be made in advance of submitting for examination, unless you intend to submit before the end of your ninth term, in which case the application can be made at the same time as applying for appointment of examiners.

The procedure for confirmation of status involves submitting form GSOH.14 for consideration by the Graduate Studies Committee. This form asks the supervisor to confirm that the candidate’s progress is such as to warrant confirmation of status and should include a statement of support from the student’s college. In addition, candidates in the faculty of Clinical Alchemy and the Department of Experimental Phrenology must submit either a separate account in not more than 500 words of how much of the thesis is complete and how much remains to be done (with an estimate of the completion date) or an abstract.

A candidate whose first application for confirmation of his or her status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application following the procedures laid down in this section normally within one term of the original application, and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application.

If a candidate’s second application is not approved then depending upon the committee’s recommendation the student could be transferred to MSc. status (with the student’s agreement) or if the student contests this recommendation, then the same procedure as for transfer to D.Phil. status (see (ii) above) will be followed. If the assessors also recommend transfer to M.Sc. status, the Committee will act upon their recommendation.

As noted above, this will be the normal requirement for transfer to D.Phil. status and confirmation of D.Phil. status. However, there may be a small number of cases where the above procedure will not be appropriate because the candidate has to transfer to D.Phil. status at a very early stage and cannot write the required report or undergo the oral assessment. In those cases the divisional board has agreed that the two stages outlined above will be reversed. Thus the student will fill in form GSOH.2 and will be transferred to D.Phil. status but will not be confirmed in that status until he or she has provided the information set out in A and B above, together with the form GSOH.14.

It should be stressed that the Alchemical Sciences Board envisages that only a very small number of people will follow the latter route. It will not necessarily accept applications for transfer using this route if it is felt that the student should be following the normal procedure.

## M.Sc. (by Research)

A student may apply for permission to supplicate for the M.Sc. degree at any time not earlier than the third and not later than the ninth term after the date of admission as a Probationer Research Student. If a student has been prevented by exceptional causes from completing his or her research for the M.Sc. degree by this time, the board of the division shall have power to grant him or her an extension of time for a period not exceeding six terms to be determined by the board. Alternatively transfer to D.Phil. status may be sought by applying to the divisional board as described above. For word limits, see (e.) below.

## D.Phil.

Candidates for the D.Phil. degree will be admitted as Probationer Research Students and be transferred under the arrangements outlined above.

The minimum residence requirement for the degree of D.Phil. is six terms (including terms spend as a Probationer Research Student), unless the student already holds an M.Sc. degree of Oxford University when a minimum of three terms is required. From this period of residence the candidate may in special circumstances apply for dispensation of up to three terms (for further details see Section 9(b) below).

A D.Phil. student may submit up to twelve terms from the date of his or her admission as a Probationer Research Student, after which he or she must apply for extension of time through the Graduate Studies Committee. The maximum extension permitted is nine terms, making twenty‑one terms in all. As a general rule the Committee will normally not recommend an extension of more than two terms at once, and if more time is still required, a further case would have to be made for extension towards the end of that period.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Since some research councils are now becoming concerned about delays in completion of doctoral theses, students expected to complete in their fourth year are advised to apply for appointment of examiners in the Trinity Term of their fourth year rather than for an extension until the end of Michaelmas Term of the fifth year. For word limits, see (e.) below. | PE01931_ |

See (e) below for general points in connection with research degrees,

### Important: Applying for Examiners

Having transferred to D.Phil. status (or M.Sc. status) within your first six terms and then, secondly, confirmed your D.Phil. status in your ninth term, you are permitted to submit a thesis for examination.

You are strongly advised to apply for the appointment of examiners at least four weeks before you submit your thesis. Application forms can be downloaded from: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/GSOH/forms/

• A few months before a thesis is to be submitted for examination a student should contact the Graduate Studies Office to request ‘An Application for Appointment of Examiners’ form (GSOH.3) and the accompanying guides to the examination. (If your thesis title has changed, it is your responsibility to apply to the Board with the form provided with the GSOH.3.)

• The GSOH.3 form should be completed by the student, the supervisor and college and returned to the Graduate Studies Office. It is strongly advised to hand the form in prior (by four to six weeks) to the submission of the thesis. The examiners have to be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee on behalf of the Alchemical Sciences Board and the examiners’ formal acceptance received before a thesis can be sent out. In accepting an invitation to examine they are deemed to have accepted the University’s procedures and conditions regarding the examination, in particular those relating to copyright and confidentiality. These clauses, among other things, protect you and your work. A thesis will not be sent out until the University has a written acceptance to examine. This process of Board approval and letter writing usually takes four weeks.

• Therefore, please bear in mind, if a GSOH.3 form and thesis are submitted together, the thesis will not be sent out to the examiners until these preliminaries have been completed.

### Research Students Admitted To the Clinical School Before Completion Of Their Theses

It has been noted that problems which may arise when students who have decided to do a research degree between their pre-clinical and clinical courses take up their places in the Clinical School before they have finished their theses. It is not infrequent for students in this position to be suspended from the Second B.M. course for three or six months to avoid serious problems.

The board has considered making a definite rule that no student will be permitted to take up his or her place in the Clinical School if he or she has not completed his or her thesis but it is realised that the implementation of such a rule may not be practicable. The board has agreed, however, to inform all supervisors that M.Sc. or D.Phil. students should be very strongly advised and urged to complete their theses before starting their clinical training. There is unlikely to be more than two hours per week available for further work on the thesis in the first two years of the clinical course; the only time when any sustained work can conveniently be done is in the elective period in the third year.

Supervisors are asked to bring this to the attention of any student who now has a place reserved in the Clinical School, and to any future research students in a similar position. Emphasis should be placed on the strain experienced by those who try to combine the clinical course with the completion of their theses.

# General Points In Connection With Research Degrees

### Length and Scope Of Theses

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Word limits | |
|  | D.Phil. | M.Sc. by Research |
| Dept. of Experimental Phrenology | 100,000 | 50,000 |
| Faculty of Alchemy | 50,000 | 30,000 approx. |
| Faculty of Mystery | 50,000 | 30,000 approx. |

The word limits for DPhil and MSc. theses (as above) are exclusive of bibliography, appendices, diagrams and tables. In exceptional circumstances the permission of the board may be sought to exceed the limit. An application to do this should be made well in advance of submitting the thesis.

If a thesis exceeds the permitted length, the board may decline to appoint examiners or to forward the thesis to examiners already appointed, and may return it to the candidate for revision. If the examiners find that a thesis which has been forwarded to them exceeds the permitted length, they should report the fact to the board and await further instructions before proceeding with the examination.

A set of scientific papers that concern a common subject may constitute an acceptable thesis, but only if with the addition of an introduction, general discussion, and general conclusions they constitute a continuous theme. Joint papers may not be included unless the supervisor certifies the extent of the candidate’s own contribution. Joint papers may, however, be included as appendices in a thesis. Approval to submit a thesis using this format should be sought as far in advance as possible from the divisional board (via the Chairman, Graduate Studies Committee of the Alchemical Sciences Board, c/o Graduate Studies Office) and not later than the date at which the appointment of examiners is requested.

Prior publication of material arising from research undertaken while holding the status of Probationer Research Student or the status of a student for the M.Sc. by Research or D.Phil. is fully acceptable. Candidates should note that the acceptance of such material for publication does not of itself constitute proof that the work is of sufficient quality or significance to merit the award of the degree concerned. This remains a judgement of the divisional board on the recommendation of its examiners.

### Preparation and Submission Of Theses

The thesis must be typed or printed on one side of the paper only, with a margin of 1.25 to 1.5 inches (32 to 38 mm) on the left‑hand side of each page. Theses in typescript should present the main text in double spacing with quotations and footnotes in single spacing. In the case of word processed or printed theses where the output resembles that of a typewriter, double spacing should be taken to mean a distance of 0.33 inch or 8 mm between suc­cessive lines of text. Where a word processor produces output which imitates letterpress then the layout may be that of a well designed book. Candidates are advised that it is their responsibility to ensure that the print of their thesis is of an adequate definition and standard of legibility.

Footnotes should normally be placed at the bottom of each page. Where they are given at the end of each chapter or at the end of the thesis, two separate unbound copies of footnotes should also be presented, for the convenience of the examiners.

Candidates should carefully note the regulations concerning word limits which individual boards have made. In all cases, candidates should state the approximate number of words in their theses.

Theses must be submitted in English unless for exceptional reasons a divisional board otherwise determines in the term in which the candidate is first admitted as a PRS.

The pages of the thesis must be numbered. Each copy should have an abstract included (see below).

Examiners’ copies: binding and presentation

At the time of their examination, candidates must submit two copies of their thesis, which must be securely and firmly bound in either hard or soft covers. Loose‑leaf binding is not acceptable. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that examiners’ copies are securely bound and should note that theses which do not meet this requirement will not be accepted.

Candidates should pack each copy of the thesis intended for the examiners into a separate but unsealed parcel or padded envelope, ready in all respects, except the address, to be posted to the examiners when appointed. Each parcel should bear the candidate’s name and society and the words ‘M.SC./D.PHIL. (as appropriate) THESIS AND ABSTRACT’ in BLOCK CAPITALS in the bottom left‑hand corner. A slip giving the address to which the examiners should write in order to contact the candidate about arrangements for the oral examination should be enclosed with each copy of the thesis. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their examiners have no difficulty in com­municating with them. The separate copies thus packed should be submitted to the Secretary of Faculties at the Graduate Studies Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford. If sent or posted they should be enclosed in one covering parcel.

The theses of candidates who fail to follow this advice are liable to delay in being forwarded to the examiners.

### Abstracts

The abstract of the thesis should concisely summarise its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. It should be printed or typewritten, on one side only, of A4-sized paper. Each copy of the abstract should be headed with the title of the thesis, the name and society of the candidate, the degree for which it is submitted, and the term and year of submission.

One copy of the abstract prepared at the time of the examination should be bound into each of the examiners’ copies of the thesis. Subsequently, when the examination is completed, candidates should also arrange for a copy of the abstract to be bound into the library copy of their thesis, and should submit with the library copy a separate, unbound copy of their abstract, which may be published.

### Library Copies: Binding And Presentation

Once the board has provisionally granted a candidate leave to supplicate, he or she must submit a finalised copy of the thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Secretary of Faculties for deposit in the relevant university library. This should incorporate any corrections or amendments which the examiners may have requested of the candidate. At least one of the examiners must confirm in writing that any corrections required have been made.

The library copy of the thesis must be in a permanently fixed binding, drilled and sewn, in a stiff board case in library buckram, in a dark colour, and lettered on the spine with the candidate’s name and initials, the degree, and the year of submission.

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| --- | --- |
| BS00554_ | Candidates should note that leave to supplicate is conditional upon receipt by the Secretary of Faculties of the library copy of their thesis and that candidates may not proceed to take their degree until they have fulfilled the requirement to submit a library copy of the thesis. |

### Consultation of Theses Deposited in the Bodleian Library

In general, the Alchemical Sciences Board is of the opinion that theses should readily be accessible as contributions to knowledge. The Board accepts that it may sometimes be necessary to restrict access to a thesis temporarily e.g. while a patent is being taken out, and that bodies such as research councils make specific provision for such a course in their standard conditions of research studentships, but the Board wishes to be consulted as early as possible (i.e. normally before a student is admitted as a candidate for a higher degree) if a sponsor or other person wishes to impose any longer‑term restriction on access to a proposed thesis, or the exclusion of any material from a thesis on the grounds of confidentiality. Only in exceptional cases will the Board accept such conditions.

# The University

## Fees

The number of termly composition fees payable to the University by those working for the Degree of D.Phil. shall not exceed

* 1. nine, including up to six composition fees paid while working as a Probationer Research Student before transferring to work for the Degree of D.Phil.

six, if they have passed the examination for the Oxford degree of M.Sc. (by course of special study).

The number of composition fees payable by those working for any qualification other than the degree of D.Phil. shall not exceed six (in respect of each qualification), save that those receiving tuition or supervision after failing an examination shall continue to pay composition fees, or if they receive no further tuition or supervision, a fee on re‑entering the examination.

Graduates should be aware that fees are charged for each term in which the candidate is working for a graduate qualification, whether or not he or she is working in Oxford. That is to say, even if a candidate is dispensed from any part of the residence requirements (see Section 9(b) below), he or she will nevertheless remain liable for fees for each term from admission until the course is completed or the maximum fee liability is met. (The only circumstances in which the series of fee payments is broken is when a candidate’s status is formally suspended (see Section 9(e) below)).

College fees are also payable: candidates should enquire of their colleges about these, and about any alteration of status that could have fee implications.

## Dispensation from the Requirements of the Examination Decrees and Regulations

The Examination Decrees provide in certain cases for the possibility of exceptions being made to some of the regulations governing graduate degree courses. Such dispensation is, in most categories, granted in exceptional and well substantiated cases only, and is at the discretion of the Alchemical Sciences Board. Candidates should remember that no one has a right to dispensation from the requirements of the Examination Decrees and should not proceed on the assumption that applications will be granted. In the categories indicated below, the power of the Graduate Studies Committee and the Board extends only to making a recommendation within time, i.e. during the period allotted to each degree. For applications made ‘out of time’, the powers of the committee and of the Board extend only to making a recommendation to the University’s central Educational Policy and Standards Committee. All applications for dispensation require the written support of the supervisor. Most also require the support of the college. Application forms should accordingly be read with care and candidates should ensure that all the necessary supporting documents arrive not later than the final date for the receipt of the form itself, at the Graduate Studies Office.

The following are the main heads under which applications may be submitted.

### Change of title

A Probationer Research Student, M.Sc. or D.Phil. student who wishes to change the title or subject of his or her thesis may apply to the Applications Committee on the form available from the Graduate Studies Office up to the time of application for appointment of examiners. Any candidate may with the permission of the Board alter the subject and nature of the research originally approved, in which case the date of his or her admission as a Probationer Research Student shall remain unaltered, unless the Board shall order otherwise.

### Dispensation from the residence requirement

Those holding the status of Probationer Research Student are required to pursue their studies in Oxford but may be dispensed from one term of residence in exceptional circumstances, on the grounds that it is necessary for the students’ work that he or she be allowed to study at some place other than Oxford.

The residence requirement is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| for the M.Sc. | three terms |
| for the D.Phil. | six terms |
| for a D.Phil. candidate who has successfully taken the Oxford M.Sc. | three terms |

There is no provision for dispensation for taught M.Sc. students under the Alchemical Sciences Board. Applications from D.Phil. students (on the Graduate Studies Office form) for dispensation from the residence requirement can be considered if and only if it is essential for the work on the thesis to be carried out away from Oxford. The maximum number of terms for which such dispensation may be granted by the Alchemical Sciences Board is three.

### Extension of time

The Graduate Studies Committee may consider applications (on the form provided by the Graduate Studies Office) for extension of time (in addition to the terms allowed for these degrees, as set above, up to the following limits; (it is not however usual for more than two terms to be granted at once, and if more time is still required, a further case would have to be made for extension towards the end of that period):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| M.Sc. (by research) | up to an extra six terms |
| D.Phil. | up to an extra nine terms |

If a candidate has still not submitted his or her thesis after these periods have expired, it is possible for the Committee and the Board, but only in very exceptional circumstances, to recommend to the University’s central Educational Policy and Standards Committee that further extension be granted. Application is made by letter, in addition to the normal form, together with supporting statements from the supervisor and the college.

Extensions of time are granted in cases where unavoidable circumstances have prevented completion within the normal maximum period and where there is a real prospect of the thesis being submitted within the foreseeable future. If there is no such prospect, then the candidate’s status will be allowed to lapse. Should there subsequently be good reason to suppose that the thesis will be completed within a foreseeable period, he or she may apply for reinstatement (see below).

Candidates can make it easier for the committee to grant extensions for time if, during each term in which they are registered as still working on their thesis, especially if not in residence, they keep in sufficiently close touch with their supervisors for their termly reports to give some indication of their progress. In particular, when adverse circumstances have retarded or prevented progress, it is very important that the supervisor should be kept informed.

### Reinstatement

The candidate’s status as a graduate student will automatically lapse if:

as an M.Sc. student by course of special study in Diagnostic Imaging he or she fails to take the examination within six terms of admission.

as an M.Sc. student (by research) he or she fails to submit his or her thesis within nine terms of admission as a Probationer Research Student (or any later date to which extension is granted), or to resubmit it within four terms of its reference back;

as a D.Phil. student he or she fails to submit his or her thesis within twelve terms of admission as a Probationer Research Student (or any later date to which extension is granted), or to resubmit it within seven terms of its reference back.

An application for reinstatement as a research student under (ii) and (iii) above must be submitted (by letter, with supporting statements from both college and supervisor and details of anticipated period required) via the Graduate Studies Committee to the divisional board. If the application is made after all the terms allowed in which to submit have been exhausted, then the application must be forwarded to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee.

[For payment of back fees on reinstatement, see the Examination Decrees, Appendix 1].

## Suspension of Status As A Postgraduate Student

With the support of his or her college and supervisor, a candidate for a postgraduate degree may apply to the Graduate Studies Committee for suspension of his or her status for a specified period. If the application is approved, the candidate will not be liable to pay fees during the period of suspension and will automatically resume his or her former status at the end of the period. The committee wishes to make clear, as a matter of information, that it is prepared to consider applications for suspension on the following grounds:

Where the candidate is effectively prevented from pursuing his or her course of study in circumstances which are outside his or her control though there are good grounds for believing that he or she will be able to resume work within a reasonable period (e.g. cases of unforeseeable financial difficulty, and physical or mental incapacity, including, if necessary, maternity leave and unexpected domestic crises);

Note: Where suspension of status is requested on the ground that the candidate is in unforeseeable financial difficulty, the committee will require certification from the candidate’s college that it was fully satisfied, when the candidate was first admitted, that his or her financial position was at that time sufficiently secure to enable him or her to complete his or her studies, but that since then an unforeseeable deterioration has occurred which makes it impossible for him or her to continue his or her studies for a limited period. An increase in university fees will not normally be regarded as a sufficient ground for granting suspension of status. It should be noted that, in the case of unforeseeable financial difficulty, the University’s Committee on Student Hardship may be able to provide assistance. Information about this Committee should be obtainable from your College Secretary.

Where it is desirable that a candidate should give up his or her work for a limited period

*either*

in order to concentrate on some other project which cannot reasonably be deferred until his or her postgraduate work is completed (e.g. in order to acquire some ancillary qualification);

*or*

to take up temporary work which is likely to be relevant to his or her subsequent career and the opportunity for which is unlikely to recur.

In the case of study abroad

where a student holds a research council studentship which is suspended during the period of study abroad because of the nature of the study, or

where a student receives an award which does not cover fee liabilities, if the nature of the study abroad is such that, in the case of holders of a research council studentship, the studentships would be suspended during the period abroad, or

where a student’s work is unduly delayed by difficulties in making arrangements for study, or in carrying out such study, in another country.

Any such application should have the full support of the candidate’s supervisor and college, and should normally be for a specified period.

The Committee also wishes to make clear that candidates are expected to endeavour to complete their studies within the normal time limits for the course in question and it is, therefore, not prepared to consider applications for suspension merely on the ground that a candidate wishes to engage, for personal reasons, in some other activity and then return to his or her postgraduate work at some later date.

### Antedating of admission

In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for a newly admitted Probationer Research Student to apply to antedate his or her admission by up to three terms, in order to cover a period immediately before admission when he or she was conducting research in the admitting department and of direct relevance to the thesis topic. Applications for this can be granted only by the University’s central Educational Policy and Standards Committee, but should in the first instance be made by letter, with supporting statements from both supervisor and college, to the Graduate Studies Committee, which will then make a recommendation to the central Educational Policy and Standards Committee.

It should be noted that if antedating of admission is granted, a student immediately becomes liable to pay in total the fees for all of the backdated terms. Remission of fees can be considered only when a student who has paid fees at another institution transfers to Oxford following the appointment to a post with the University of his or her existing supervisor.

### Illness

The University records should show correctly for how many terms a student has been actively working on a thesis and students, particularly research students, whose work is unavoidably interrupted by illness are encouraged to apply for suspension of status. A candidate for the M.Sc. by course of special study whose illness is not serious enough or of too short duration to justify suspension of status may nevertheless feel that it is likely to have an adverse effect on his or her performance in the examination. In this case he or she must ask his or her College Tutor for Graduates or Senior Tutor, supervisor and doctor to take up his or her case with the Proctors, who have the option, at their discretion, of writing to the examiners and asking that the candidate’s illness be taken into account. Candidates should not write direct to the examiners, who cannot take account of pleas which arrive otherwise than through the official channels.

If a research student falls ill and it is thought that this might result in a subsequent application for extension of time, it would be desirable to obtain a alchemical certificate at the time. The student should always let his or her supervisor and departmental administrator know when illness has prevented work on the thesis.

## The Organisation of the University

The organisation of Oxford University is complex and it may be helpful to outline some of the main institutions and their functions. Broadly speaking the University is divided into divisions and departments on the one hand, colleges on the other. Most academic staff members belong both to a division and a department (and in some cases a sub‑faculty) and a college. By and large faculties deal with lectures, examinations and administration of graduate work (see the earlier sections), while colleges deal with undergraduate admissions and tutorial teaching and with the provision of various ‘domestic’ facilities. The admission of graduates, however, is dealt with by the divisions, their departments and by colleges, since all graduates must be admitted both by the University and by a college. A student’s college is treated as his or her official address for all university correspondence so, should a student be away from Oxford, it is important that the college is informed. Please ensure that you check your college pigeon hole at regular intervals.

## The Organisation of the Division

The Alchemical Sciences Board is responsible for the admission of students intending to work in any of the division’s departments. The divisional board, composed for the most part of members elected by the division, meets in the 2nd and 7th weeks of term. Most applications from candidates for research degrees are first considered by the Graduate Studies Committee, which meets in the 1st and 7th weeks of term and makes recommendations to the board. This committee is a subcommittee of the divisional board’s Educational Policy and Standard’s Committee.

## The Colleges

There is considerable variety among the colleges. Six (Green, Nuffield, St Antony’s, Linacre, Wolfson, and St Cross) take graduates only, or clinical students, while there are around thirty colleges which admit both graduates and undergraduates. Most colleges now admit men and women, with the exception of St Hilda’s, which admits women only. All colleges provide dining and common room facilities where students can meet people from other disciplines. They also provide college advisers who take a general interest in the students’ well‑being.

## Finance

### Overseas Research Students Fee Support Scheme

Awards are offered on a competitive basis to overseas postgraduate students who are or will be pursuing full‑time study as a registered research student. Candidates must be nominated by the University. Application forms may be obtained from November 2004 from the International Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, (also downloadable from its website http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/) and must be returned by the end of January 2005 for awards beginning the following October.

### Ivy Scholarship 2005

If suitable candidates present themselves, an election will be made in Trinity Term 2005 to a Henry Ivy Scholarship.

Ivy Scholarships are awarded to assist research into the causes and prevention of communication, with special reference to the study of communication in its early stages. They are open to all members of the University of Oxford. The scholarships are tenable for two years, but this period may be extended for a further year by the Board of Management. The upper limit of the award shall be the bottom point of the university lecturer scale and will be fixed at the discretion of the Board of Management, which may also contribute towards any special expenses incurred by a scholar in connection with his or her research, including university and college fees and dues incurred by a scholar reading for a research degree. The Board has made a regulation that holders of the scholarships shall be required to work primarily in Oxford. Scholarships shall be tenable with other posts subject to the approval of the board.

Candidates must submit to the board a statement of their qualifications and of the course of research which they propose to pursue, together with such testimonials and references as they desire. Applications should be sent to the Secretary of the Alchemical Sciences Board, Alchemical School Office, Dumbledore Building, not later than Friday, 6 May 2020.

### Peter Wilcox Prize in Logical Sciences

The prize, which is valued at about £1,000 and was established in 1987 through an anonymous gift to the University in memory of Peter Wilcox, is awarded annually provided there is a candidate of sufficient merit. It is open to those postgraduate students registered under the sub-faculty of Tertiary Sciences who, in the twelve months preceding the closing date for applications for the prize, shall have successfully applied for transfer to DPhil status.

Candidates are required to submit, not later than Friday in the eight week of Trinity Term in the academic year in which the prize is to be awarded, three copies of a summary of not more that 1,000 words (not counting references and illustrations) outlining in non‑specialist terms their broad context of Logical Sciences. The Alchemical Sciences Board now requires research students to submit a summary of a similar kind as part of the procedure for the application for transfer to DPhil status. Candidates are, however, encouraged to modify their applications for Transfer of Status to meet the criteria for the award of the prize, which will be awarded to the candidate whose research, in the opinion of the judges, shows evidence of an interdisciplinary approach to their work and the potential for future practical use for the benefit of mankind. Candidates are reminded that applications for the prize should be written in a style comprehensible to scientists and physicians who are not necessarily working in their own field of research. Applications, clearly marked ‘Peter Wilcox Prize in Logical Sciences’, should be admitted by Friday of the eighth week of Trinity Term (17 June 2005) to the Graduate Studies Office, University Offices, Wellington Square.

Information about scholarships and prizes offered within the University can be found on the Website at: http://www.ox.ac.uk/

## Teaching by Graduate Students

Undergraduate teaching by graduate students is desirable but should be limited in its extent and monitored by the supervisor. No teaching should be undertaken without the approval of both the supervisor and the head of department. If a student wishes to teach but the supervisor is against this, the head of department should be consulted. Students should attend the training courses held by the university or division, but should not undertake teaching in their first year of research. The maximum teaching commitment should be normally restricted to 3 hours per week.

## Library Facilities

The Bodleian Library is the major research library in Oxford and one of the most important libraries in the country. (It is not, however, a lending library, but faculties, departments and colleges also have libraries of their own which include lending collections.) Times for enrolment are posted up in colleges at the beginning of the academic year, and senior members of the Bodleian staff will be available to introduce new readers to the library; students should also attend the introductory lectures designed to enable them to use the resources of the library to the full.

Graduate students may apply for admission to the Bodleian Library (and its dependent libraries) and must register in the Old Library.

OLIS, the University’s Library system, is an integrated library system which offers on-line cataloguing, circulation, acquisitions, and periodicals registration. Sixty-nine Oxford libraries now catalogue onto OLIS. (For further details, see University Gazette.)

The Radcliffe Science Library is the scientific, alchemical and mathematical library, and since 1927 has been a department of the Bodleian Library. It has 600 seats for readers and over 20 miles of bookshelves. It is the largest general scientific library in Great Britain apart from the British Library in London and at Boston Spa. The library is open on Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during Full Term (vacations till 7 p.m. or 5 p.m.) and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Snapper Library and the Trilby Science Library (in central Oxford) provide library services in clinical studies.

The Trilby is open at all times and is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Friday during term time; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the vacation. An automatic access control system is in operation. The library subscribes to 500 journals and has a stock of 15,000 textbooks. All major library services are available including access to INFOLINE and other electronic databases, inter-library loans, and self-service coin/card-operated photocopying machines. Access to the University network for searching INFOLINE using Knowledge Finder is also provided. Most of the stock can be borrowed and there is a short-loan collection of the more heavily used texts. With the exception of photocopying and inter-library loans, no charges are made for these services. Library staff are very willing to advise new readers on the use of library services. There is a branch of the Trilby in the Dumbledore Infirmary serving staff on that site and housing the main collections and a branch in the Stalin Hospital with a collection in Phrenology and general Mystery.

## Computing Services

The University is well endowed with IT facilities, with most departments and colleges providing computer rooms, network access and first-line computing support for their staff and students. The University Computing Services (OUCS) provides a wide range of IT services, focusing on those that are best provided on a centralised basis (the core networks, expensive peripherals, IT training, mail and other information servers) together with general IT services for those students whose needs are not met within their department or college. The overall strategy for the development of IT in the University is vested in the IT Committee, on which the graduate student body has a representative.

### Advisory and Support Services

OUCS can provide general and specific advice covering many aspects of computing; in many cases we will be able to answer your questions directly, while for some areas we may put you in touch with a relevant specialist (within the OUCS or elsewhere). The advisory service holds daily face-to-face sessions in addition to providing advice via the telephone and electronic mail. The Help Centre keeps a range of current models for demonstration, and the Shop provides advice on computer purchase.

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### Information Services

The University Networked Information Centre (UNIS) is the major source of online information about the University, its departments and colleges, and its academic and social life. OUCS provides the central servers for this (currently based on the World Wide Web: http://www.ox.ac.uk).

### IT Training Courses at Oxford University Computing Services

There are over fifty different modules to choose from, including regular introductory and advanced courses on word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, Windows, DOS, Mac, Unix, networks and programming languages.

### Help Centre

This Centre provides both a supported learning environment and a general computer resource. The Centre has a number of Windows PCs, Macintoshes, laser printers, and scanners. There is also a range of computer-based teaching and learning software.

### Documentation

OUCS produces a series of User Guides and course notes covering the major systems (central services, personal computers, and network services) which we support; detailed information is also provided online via help systems and the University Networked Information Service. OUCS publishes a regular Newsletter detailing both new and changed services together with some of the more general areas of IT provision.

### Personal Computing

OUCS holds regular advice and demonstration sessions for people wishing to buy a personal computer, and are able to order recommended models at discounted prices. OUCS manages a maintenance and repair service for departmental, college, and personal computers and related equipment, and we offer a service to convert discs and files between different formats. Many of the popular software packages are available at much reduced prices via site-licence and bulk-purchase deals.

### Shop

The OUCS shop sells a variety of popular computers and printers including Apple Macintoshes, Windows PCs, portables and laptops, together with cables for printers and network connections. The shop sells locally produced documentation, suppliers’ manuals, and a range of computer consumables.

### Printing, Plotting, Scanning and Digitising

OUCS provides a variety of high and standard quality printers, for both text and graphics, and colour and monochrome output. There is also a colour photocopying service. OUCS houses the National Academic Typesetting Service which gives advice on the use of fonts and design, and has a Prism Image setter on which PostScript files may be printed on either bromide or film. There are a number of scanners (monochrome and colour) available for both text and image capture.

### Networks

OUCS offers support for, and advice on, the installation of local networks in departments and colleges, and manages the core backbone network connecting these together. The dial-in service allows people to work from home. The University network is part of the Internet, and via this members of the University have access to remote datasets and library catalogues, file transfer direct to and from personal computers, the World Wide Web and other information services, e-mail discussion lists, and bulletin boards (including Usenet News service).

### File Store

A massive file store with robotic library, and with an overall capacity of over 13 terabytes, provides a secure archiving and back‑up for files on any networked computer in the University.

### Central and National Computers

OUCS runs a central multi-user computer system (Sable) which provides a general service including e-mail, network services, programming languages, and a range of applications software such as statistical and graphical packages. This system, a multiprocessor DEC Alpha running OSF/1 (Unix), also provides the servers for many e-mail and information service applications. All students are entitled to open an account on this computer.

For those who require more computing power than is provided by the above or by departmental systems, OUCS can arrange access to one of the national services providing high-performance systems. In addition, there are national services providing access to datasets and other information services. While many of these are open to all (over the network), in a few cases registration is required.

General information may be found in the Introductory Pack available from the OUCS Reception Desk. For advice on more specific topics, contact the Advisory Service, Oxford University Computing Services, 13 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN. Tel: (01865) 273200, Fax: (01865) 273275, Advisory: (01865) 273239, E-mail: advisory@oucs.ox.ac.uk, WWW: http://info.ox.ac.uk/OUCS/.

## Language Centre

The Language Centre at 12 Woodstock Road runs Pre-Sessional Courses in English Language in August and September each year, intended for overseas students who already have a place to study at Oxford. During the academic year, the Centre provides facilities for members of the University needing to learn languages for study, research, or general communication purposes. There is a large collection of printed materials and audio/video cassettes in over ninety languages which can be used in private study rooms. The rooms are equipped with audio and video facilities and access to live television in five languages. Television news in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Russian is recorded daily.

The Centre has Computer Assisted Language Learning facilities, and further information is available from the Centre’s Information Officer, or from the Language Centre: http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/

The Centre provides classes in French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and English as a Foreign Language. Since places in these classes are limited, applicants are advised to contact the Centre’s Information Officer for more details before October.

## Employment

Graduate students are advised to give early consideration to their employment prospects when they leave Oxford. The University Careers Service (http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/) has offices at 56 Banbury Road and can help graduate students to evaluate their prospects of finding employment, both academic and non‑academic. Vacancies in Oxford University and college posts are advertised in the University Gazette, published each Thursday in Full Term and less frequently at other times. Vacancies in other universities are also sometimes advertised in the Gazette. Other general sources of information are the Times Higher Education Supplement, The Times, The New Scientist, The Independent, The Guardian, and more specialist publications. In addition, notices about appointments are normally placed, when received, on departmental notice boards. Also, see: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/helpme/>

# Problems and Advice

Postgraduates who have problems, academic, personal, or administrative, and who are uncertain of the proper way to go about solving them have several possible courses of action open to them:

* 1. consult their supervisor or adviser, who will if necessary consult the appropriate authorities on their behalf;

consult their Head of Department;

consult their Director of Graduate Studies

consult the Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee;

consult the Divisional Secretary (the Secretary of the Alchemical School);

consult the Chairman of the Alchemical Sciences Board or of its Educational Policy and Standards Committee;

at their colleges consult the Senior Tutor, the Tutor for Graduates or their own College Adviser, who will give similar help;

consult the Graduate Studies Office in the University Offices, which will advise on the obtaining of necessary forms, submission of applications, dates and deadlines, deposit of theses etc.;

on a more personal level, the University Counselling Service at 11 Wellington Square (which acts in strict confidence) is experienced not only in general psychological problems but also in the special problems and blocks associated with academic work.

Whom one should ask depends, of course, on the problem. In almost all cases, it is appropriate to talk to one’s supervisor and to fellow students first. If you find your work difficult it may help to talk to your Head of Department; the same applies if you are not sure you are in the right subject; the Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee can help too. The Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee, the Graduate Studies Office, or the Divisional Secretary can usually sort out administrative problems. Financial problems are best taken to colleges.

## Complaints In Relation To Higher Degrees Involving Research

By virtue of the University Statutes (Title IX, Section VI, § 3) the Proctors are empowered to investigate complaints, and are responsible for seeing that university examinations are properly and fairly conducted. On receiving a complaint concerning a graduate examination involving research (for which the Proctors conclude that there is a prima facie case for an investigation), the Proctors have the power to summon any member of the University to help them in their enquiries; the candidate is entitled to appear before the Proctors to put his or her case and may be accompanied by a friend or adviser. The procedures are detailed below.

### Making a Complaint

1. All complaints must be directed to the Proctors (customarily the Senior Proctor) at the Proctors’ Office, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD. Complaints sent to divisional boards or the Graduate Studies Office will be forwarded immediately to the Proctors.

No complaint can be considered unless it is in writing. Only in exceptional circumstances will complaints be considered which do not come from either the candidate or the supervisor. After a thesis has been submitted, the Proctors will not consider a complaint under this procedure dealing with allegations relating to inadequate supervision or other arrangements during the period of study.

A complaint must relate to the outcome of the graduate degree in question. The complaint should identify the specific allegations relating to which remedy is sought. The Proctors will concern themselves principally with allegations relating to (i) procedural irregularities in the examination; (ii) circumstances affecting the student’s performance of which the examiners were not aware when their decision was taken; (iii) evidence of prejudice or of bias or of inadequate assessment. Candidates should note that complaints relating to the academic judgement of the examiners will not be considered.

Notice of the receipt of a complaint will be sent to the chairman of the divisional board concerned, the responsible officer of the candidate’s college, and the candidate’s supervisor(s).

A complaint must be lodged with the Proctors within twelve months of the date of the formal notification of the result of the examination from the Graduate Studies Office. Only in exceptional circumstances, for example, where the Proctors are satisfied that new evidence has come to light since the expiry of the time limit, will a complaint be considered outside this limit.

### Investigating a Complaint: the Candidate

The candidate has the right to appear before the Proctors to state his or her case, and may be accompanied by a friend or adviser of his or her choice.

A candidate does not have the right to see the examiners’ report but, in the case of referral for the D.Phil., or the relevant lower degree, will receive a statement from the examiners indicating the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree. In the case of outright failure or the award of the relevant lower degree, the Proctors may ask the examiners for a statement on the thesis for transmission to the candidate.

Candidates are reminded that direct communication with examiners during the course of a Proctorial investigation is not permitted.

### Investigating a Complaint: the Proctors

The Proctors may inspect any relevant material, including divisional board minutes relating to the receipt of the examiners’ report, and reports from the candidate’s supervisor(s).

The Proctors may consult the supervisor, the examiners, the chairman of the appropriate divisional board and anyone inside or, if necessary, outside the University whose views are considered relevant.

The Proctors may call on a candidate to explain his or her case, and the candidate may be accompanied by a friend or adviser of his or her choice.

### The Outcome of a Complaint

At the conclusion of their investigation, the Proctors will decide, whether, on the facts of the case, the complaints should be upheld wholly or in part, or should be rejected. The Proctors’ decision will be final.

If satisfied that justice has not been done, the Proctors may recommend an appropriate course of action to the divisional board. They may, if necessary, seek a decree of the Hebdomadal Council to bring about the action which they recommend.

The Proctors’ decision and any subsequent recommendation will be communicated to the candidate. This will be accompanied by a reasoned statement of their decision.

The chairman of the divisional board, the appropriate officer of the college, the supervisor(s), and, in some circumstances, the examiners will be informed of the outcome of the Proctors’ investigation.

An annual report on the outcome of the investigation into complaints is given to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee (EPSC) in Hilary Term.

The procedures followed reflect the general recommendations of the Code of Practice on Academic Appeals Procedure at Postgraduate Research Degree Level issued by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in 1986.

## Code of Practice Relating To Harassment

Council has issued the following code of practice, which has been drawn up in consultation with the Proctors’ Advisory Panel (for which see paras 4 (b) and 10 below). The new code supersedes the previous Code of Practice relating to Harassment, issued by Council on 12 December 1991, (Statutes, 1997, p. 794).

### Principles and Definition

1. Harassment is an unacceptable form of behaviour. The University is committed to protecting members, staff, and any other person for whom the University has a special responsibility from any form of harassment which might inhibit them from pursuing their work or studies, or from making proper use of university facilities. Complaints of harassment will be taken seriously and may lead to disciplinary proceedings.

2. For the purposes of this code, harassment may be broadly understood to consist of unwarranted behaviour towards another person, so as to disrupt the work or reduce the quality of life of that person, by such means as single or successive acts of bullying, verbally or physically abusing, or ill‑treating him or her, or otherwise creating or maintaining a hostile or offensive studying, working, or social environment for him or her. Harassment relating to another’s sex, sexual orientation, religion, or race are among the forms of harassment covered by this code. Unacceptable forms of behaviour may include unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests for sexual favours, offensive physical contact or verbal behaviour of a sexual nature, or other hostile or offensive acts or expressions relating to people’s sex, sexual orientation, religion, or race. The abuse of a position of authority, as for example that of a tutor or supervisor, is an aggravating feature of harassment. Those protected by this code may appropriately seek advice in relation to harassment even if the conduct in question is not sufficiently serious to warrant the institution of disciplinary proceedings.

3. Being under the influence of alcohol or otherwise intoxicated will not be admitted as an excuse for harassment, and may be regarded as an aggravating feature.

### Note on Confidentiality

It is essential that all those involved in a complaints procedure (including complainants) observe the strictest confidentiality consistent with operating that procedure; an accusation of harassment is potentially defamatory.

### Advice

4. Advice may be sought or complaints pursued through any appropriate channel. In addition to other officers, the following people have been specially appointed to give advice in this connection and to answer questions (whether or not amounting to a complaint):

(a) departmental or divisional ‘Confidential Advisers’, appointed by heads of department or the equivalent. Their names will be publicised within the institution;

(b) members of the ‘Advisory Panel’, serving the whole University. The Advisory Panel consists of senior members appointed by the Proctors with special expertise or interest in relevant aspects of staff and student welfare. Members of the panel may be approached on a number specially designated for this purpose (Tel. (2)70760);

(c) Special college advisers or advisory panels where colleges have established these.

Any of these may be approached in the first instance; those approached will direct inquirers elsewhere, if that seems most likely to meet the inquirer’s needs.

5. University advisers (whether Confidential Advisers or members of the Advisory Panel) will discuss the range of options available to inquirers on an entirely confidential basis. Where there is a complaint of harassment, an adviser will nominally seek to resolve the problem informally in the first instance, unless it is appropriate to proceed otherwise, and the inquirer so wishes. Subject to obtaining the consent of the complainant, an adviser may discuss the question with the person against whom the complaint is made, or with any other relevant parties. In particular, where necessary, for example on account of the gravity of the allegation or because of the intractability of the problem, the adviser may, with the consent of the complainant, involve the head of department (or equivalent authority). College advisers will be guided by college rules, but are likely to proceed on a similar basis.

6. It is emphasised that the role of advisers is advisory and not disciplinary. All disciplinary matters lie in the hands of the relevant disciplinary bodies.

### Discipline

7. If a complaint is not resolved on an informal basis under the procedure set out in para. 5, and if the complainant consents, the matter may be referred to the relevant disciplinary body, which will determine whether there is a prima facie case under the relevant disciplinary provision and, if appropriate, set in motion disciplinary procedures. In respect of members of the University subject to the jurisdiction of the Visitatorial Board, the relevant procedures are those described under Tit. VIII, Sect. r of the University’s Statutes. The disciplinary procedures which apply to non‑academic staff are set out in the Handbook for Non‑Academic Staff. Complaints against junior members falling within the scope of the University’s regulation on harassment shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures contained in Tit. XIII of the University’s Statutes (also set out in the Proctors’ Memorandum). Colleges may have their own forms of disciplinary provision.

8. It may be that a complaint either against a member of staff or against a junior member could potentially be heard by more than one disciplinary body. When the person complained against is employed both by the University and by a college, it may be appropriate for the same matter to provide a basis for two separate disciplinary hearings. When the person complained against is a junior member, the complainant will be expected to choose which disciplinary procedure to pursue. If a complainant has previously brought or is in the process of bringing a complaint against the same person, founded wholly or in part upon the same matter, before any other disciplinary body, he or she is responsible for revealing that fact when seeking to institute disciplinary proceedings. It is also incumbent on a disciplinary body to attempt to ascertain, for example by direct inquiry of the complainant, or by consulting other relevant authorities, whether any such other complaint has been instituted; if so, that body must consider whether it is appropriate for the proceedings which are before it to continue.

### Institutional Arrangements

9. The appointment of Confidential Advisers within each department or divisional is the responsibility of the head of department, or equivalent, who must designate two such advisers, one of each sex, return the names of those appointed to the Equal Opportunities Officer (or such other officer as may be designated by the Registrar from time to time), and ensure that the Code of Practice and the names of the Confidential Advisers are adequately publicised within the department or divisional. Confidential Advisers will receive general advice and information bulletins from the Advisory Panel; they will be expected to make annual returns to the panel as to the number and general character of complaints they have dealt with. They may refer inquirers to members of the panel, or themselves seek advice either about university provisions on harassment in general or about possible ways of handling individual cases.

10. The appointment of members of the Advisory Panel is the responsibility of the Proctors. Members of the panel will give advice on request both to those troubled by harassment, and to other advisers. The panel is responsible for supporting, coordinating, and monitoring the effectiveness of the University’s arrangements for dealing with harassment. Members of the panel may be contacted on a number specially designated for this purpose (Tel. (2)70760).

11. The provisions of this code supplement and do not supersede or override college arrangements.

12. Nothing in this code shall detract from the position and jurisdiction of the Proctors or the right of free access to them by all junior and senior members of the University.

## Revised Regulations For The Removal Of Graduate Students From The Register

1. A divisional board which considers that it may be necessary to consider the removal of a student from the Register on academic grounds shall, except in cases requiring immediate action, follow the procedures for counselling and warnings set out in paras 4 ‑ 6.

2. A divisional board shall not be required to follow the procedures for the removal of a graduate student from the Register where a student ceases to hold the status of a student for a degree through failure to meet the requirements laid down in the decrees and regulations governing that degree. In particular where a student fails to achieve transfer within the prescribed time his or her status automatically lapses, and his or her name is removed from the Register.

3. A divisional board shall not be required to follow the procedures for counselling and warnings set out below in cases of particular gravity and/or urgency or where it considers, for whatever reason, that immediate action is required, and in such circumstances a divisional board may immediately notify the Educational Policy and Standards Committee as set out at paragraph 6 below and the matter will proceed as set out in that and subsequent paragraphs. In these circumstances, the divisional board should indicate to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee why the procedures for counselling and warnings are not to be followed in that instance.

4. Counselling

4.1 Subject to para. 3 above, wherever practicable, the formal procedures for the removal of a student from the Register should be preceded by private and informal counselling involving the student’s supervisor and society, with the object of establishing the cause of any problem and advising appropriate remedial action.

4.2 If informal means are not effective in producing the necessary improvement, the student will be invited to a formal interview. Written notice of a formal interview should be given at least seven days before it takes place. Such notice will include an indication of the nature and purpose of the interview and the problem or problems that the interview is intended to address. The student will have the right to put his or her case and to be accompanied by a friend. The formal interview will be conducted by the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies who on the conclusion of the interview and if further action is considered necessary will issue either (a) a first formal warning, to be confirmed in writing to the student and to his or her supervisor and society, setting out the reason for which it is given, and specifying a period of time for improvement to be made, (which period should in no case be less than one month or more than three months); or (b) a final warning as set out in 5 below.

4.3 If the student unreasonably fails to attend the formal interview, a formal warning in writing may be issued without interview, and the student shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the formal warning.

5. Warnings

5.1 If the first formal warning issued under 4.2 above is not effective in producing the necessary improvement, the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies shall invite the student to a second formal interview. The procedure will be as for the first formal interview. At the conclusion of the interview the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies shall, if further action is required, issue a final warning, which shall be confirmed in writing to the student and to his or her supervisor and society.

5.2 Where a final warning is issued under 4.2 or 5.1 above the warning itself and the written confirmation should make it clear that if the necessary improvement is not achieved within the specified period, the divisional board may initiate action for the removal of the student from the Register of Graduate Students.

6. Where a final written warning is issued to a graduate student, a copy of the written warning shall be sent to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee. Where, following a final written warning, the necessary improvement is not achieved within the specified period and further action is indicated, the Educational Policy and Standards Committee shall be informed by the secretary of the divisional board concerned. A full report of the action taken by the divisional board in relation to the student shall be made to the Proctors who shall decide whether further action should be taken and, if so, whether under the relevant disciplinary procedures of the University or under the divisional board’s power to remove a student from the Register of Graduate Students on academic grounds. The Proctors’ ruling (which may include a decision that no further action is to be taken) shall be taken without reference to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee and/or the General Board, and shall be final.

7. Where the Proctors determine that it is appropriate for the matter to be considered under the divisional board’s power to initiate action for the removal of a student from the Register of Graduate Students, the divisional board shall seek the approval of the Chairman of the General Board to undertake any such action. Where such approval is given, the divisional board shall inform the student and the student’s society and supervisor, in writing, with a minimum of seven days’ notice, of its intention to consider the removal of the student from the Register, set out its reasons and invite comments. In particular the board shall inform the student of his or her right under paragraph 7.3 to present his or her case.

7.2 A divisional board shall delegate the task of hearing the student’s case to a panel comprising at least three of its members and shall set out the terms of reference to be followed by the panel. The divisional board shall not appoint any member who has had a previous connection with the student or his or her work.

7.3 The student may be accompanied by a friend and shall have the right to hear and to challenge any evidence presented to the panel. The student may present his or her case in writing or orally, or both, as the student wishes, and the student’s society and supervisor shall have the same rights. [All written evidence shall be circulated to the student, the student’s supervisor and the student’s society not less than four days before the panel considers the case.] In conducting a hearing, the panel shall ensure that the student has every opportunity to hear and to challenge the case made out by the divisional board for the removal of the student from the Register including any evidence (written or oral) which the panel will consider in reaching a conclusion. Where the student fails to appear without good cause, the panel may proceed in the student’s absence.

8. The panel shall then determine its decision as to whether the student’s name shall, or shall not, be removed from the Register of Graduate Students. The decision shall be communicated to the student, society, and supervisor. The student shall also be advised in writing of the reasons for the decision and of his or her rights of appeal. The divisional board shall also inform the Educational Policy and Standards Committee of all cases where the board has decided to deprive a student of his or her status.

9.1 A student or his or her society may appeal in writing against the decision of the divisional board within fourteen days of the date of the letter from the divisional board conveying its decision. The appeal shall be addressed to the Educational Policy and Standards Committee (c/o the Secretary, Educational Policy and Standards Committee, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD), which shall appoint a subcommittee to conduct a hearing of the student’s appeal.

9.2 The subcommittee shall include a minimum of three members of the Educational Policy and Standards Committee, which shall appoint one of the chosen members as chairman, with the power to cast an additional note if necessary. The subcommittee may seek such legal advice as it believes to be necessary for the proper conduct of its duties, and shall have power to require any members of the University to assist it in the hearing.

9.3 The subcommittee shall give the divisional board, the student, the student’s society and the student’s supervisor, not less than seven days’ notice in writing, of the date and time of the hearing, and shall give them the opportunity to make representations to the subcommittee orally and/or in writing. The student may be accompanied by a friend and shall have the right to hear and to challenge any evidence (written or oral) presented to the subcommittee; the student may present his or her case in writing, or orally, or both, as the student wishes: the divisional board, the student’s society and the student’s supervisor shall have the same rights. [All written evidence shall be circulated to the divisional board, the student, the student’s supervisor and the student’s society not less than four days before the subcommittee considers the case.]

9.4 At the conclusion of a hearing, the subcommittee shall have power to:

(i) confirm the divisional board’s decision to remove the student’s name from the Register of Graduate Students;

(ii) uphold the student’s appeal and direct that the student’s name shall remain on the Register of Graduate Students;

(iii) impose such lesser penalty or requirement in place of the removal of the student’s name from the Register of Graduate Students as it deems appropriate.

9.5 In reaching its decision, the subcommittee shall have regard to:

(a) whether the divisional board correctly followed the required procedures, and, in the case of procedural irregularity or irregularities, whether any irregularity or irregularities were such as to have materially prejudiced the divisional board’s enquiry;

(b) whether the divisional board’s decision could reasonably have been reached on the evidence before it;

(c) any evidence presented to the subcommittee which was not available to the divisional board’s panel;

(d) any mitigating circumstances offered by or on behalf of the student;

(e) any other factors which in the opinion of the subcommittee are relevant to a fair consideration of the student’s appeal.

9.6 The subcommittee shall communicate its decision to the student, to the student’s society and supervisor, and to the divisional board, in writing, within two months of the conclusion of any hearing. The decision of the subcommittee will be final, subject only to a complaint to the Proctors.

# Appendix: Notes on Examination

A thesis is examined by two examiners, normally appointed by the board on the recommendation of the supervisor. Supervisors are asked to suggest the names of two internal and external examiners to the Board and, as far as possible, to consult with the student to check if he or she has any reasonable objection to any of those proposed. Examiners should be of high academic standing in the appropriate field and, where possible, should themselves possess a higher degree although the latter would not be an absolute requirement. The nominated external examiners should be normally based within the United Kingdom. Examiners based in other countries can however be considered if a good reason is given for their nomination.

The Alchemical Sciences Board reserves to itself the right to appoint examiners it considers suitable in the event of failure to reach agreement. The names of reserve internal and external examiners are sought because (particularly in the Long Vacation) considerable delays are avoided if (should the first person invited decline) a reserve can be invited without the need for further consultations with supervisor and candidate. The candidate is required to attend the oral examination in Oxford. Neither examiner will be the candidate’s supervisor, save in some exceptional cases for the D.Phil.

### Late Submission

Candidates may submit the examiners’ copies of their thesis, prepared as described above, at the same time as they apply for the appointment of their examiners. If they intend, however, to submit the examiners’ copies at a later date, they will be required to state, at the time of their application for appointment of examiners, the date by which they will submit. The theses should be submitted no later than the last day of the vacation immediately following the term in which application for the appointment of examiners has been made.

If a candidate fails to meet this deadline, his or her application for appointment of examiners will be automatically cancelled; if he or she has also reached the end of the time when his or her status will lapse then he or she will be unable to apply again, unless he or she is reinstated, which would normally be for one term only in order to submit the thesis for examination.

### Early Oral

Candidates may apply to the divisional board for the oral examination to be held not later than a certain date, provided that this date shall not be earlier than one calendar month after the date on which the thesis has been received at the Graduate Studies Office or after the date on which the examiners have agreed to act, whichever is the later. If the board is satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying this application, and that there is a reasonable period of time to process the application after submission of the thesis, it will ask the examiners to make arrangements to enable the oral examination to be held within the period specified.

Candidates should try to give the Graduate Studies Office as much notice as possible when an early oral examination is needed, preferably by submitting the form applying for appointment of examiners (GSO.3) six weeks before the date of submission of the thesis. The examiners, when invited to act, will be informed that the candidate has asked that the oral examination should be held not later than a certain date, and acceptance of the invitation to examine will be on the understanding that they would seek to meet this request.

Candidates should note that it may be impossible for the Graduate Studies Committee to arrange an early oral, in which case they will be subject to the regular procedure.

### Reports of Examiners

When the examination for a research degree has been completed, the examiners forward their report (through the Graduate Studies Office) to the Alchemical Sciences Divisional Board. It is for the Board to decide whether the student shall be given leave to supplicate. Reports will either be considered at the next meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee, which has the authority to act on behalf of the Board, or by the Chairman of the Graduate Studies Committee who acts on behalf of the Committee (with subsequent report to the board).

Complaints or appeals in relation to higher degrees involving research

By virtue of the University Statutes the Proctors have the duty to investigate complaints by any member of the University and are responsible for seeing that University examinations are properly and fairly conducted. On the making of a complaint or appeal concerning a graduate or undergraduate examination, the Proctors have the power to summon any member of the University to help them in their enquiries; the candidate is entitled to appear before the Proctors to put his or her case and may be accompanied by a friend or adviser.

A leaflet explaining the procedure followed by the Proctors in investigating complaints or appeals is available to all candidates when they apply for appointment of examiners, and at any later stage in the examination.

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