

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

SSD/2/2/4

Social Sciences Divisional Board

Approved on behalf of Education Committee on 19 June 2024.

Title of Programme

Research Degrees in the Saïd Business School

Brief note about nature of change:

Changes to the DPhil Finance probationer research student courses.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2025

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* [2024-25, Research Degrees in the Saïd Business School](#)

Details of Change:

Amend citations and re-number as follows:

1.11. Governance

1.2The DPhil in Finance and the DPhil in Management (~~or the DPhil in Management Studies for those having started before MT2019~~) shall be under the supervision of the DPhil Committee of the Saïd Business School.

1.32. Attendance requirements

1.4The DPhil programmes shall be offered on a full-time basis only. Full-time students are required to meet the residence requirements set out in §6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

1.53. Probationer Research Students

1.6All students are normally admitted as Probationer Research Students (PRS) ~~[For students admitted before MT2019: and follow either the 'Management Research' or 'Financial Economics' pathway as set out in the Course Handbook].~~

1.7 During their first year, students will be required to attain satisfactory performance in required courses as a precursor to Transfer of Status. Students may be exempted from courses following the procedure outlined in the Course Handbook.

1.8 DPhil Management students [~~For students admitted before MT 2019: Management Research pathway (DPhil Management Studies students only)~~]

1.9(a) During their first year, Probationer Research Students will be required to attend the following three core modules, and in consultation with their supervisor, will additionally attend either one or two Advanced Research Methods courses and two or three specialist electives as set out in the Course Handbook.

1.10(i) Introduction to Management Research Methods

1.11(ii) Statistical Research Methods

1.12(iii) Management and Organisation Theory

1.13(b) All students shall satisfactorily complete the courses, examinations and coursework as determined by the supervisor and/or DPhil Committee, unless granted a dispensation by the DPhil Committee based on completion of a similar course prior to commencement of the DPhil.

[For students admitted before Michaelmas term 2025:

1.14 DPhil Finance students [~~For students admitted before MT 2019: Financial Economics pathway (DPhil Management Studies students only)~~]

1.15(a) During their first year, Probationer Research Students will be required to attend the following four core modules from the MSc in Financial Economics programme, and in consultation with their supervisor, will attend four options offered for the second year of the MPhil in Economics, one of which must be either Financial Economics I or Financial Economics II. In special circumstances, where a student has taken a substantially similar course prior to enrolment, they may substitute MPhil in Economics courses for the required MSc in Financial Economics core courses. Any substitution must be agreed to by both the Programme Director and the student's supervisor.

1.16(i) Asset Pricing

1.17(ii) Corporate Finance

1.18(iii) Economics

1.19(iv) Financial Econometrics

1.20(b) All students shall satisfactorily complete the courses, examinations and coursework as determined by the supervisor and/or DPhil Committee, unless granted a dispensation by the DPhil Committee based on completion of a similar course prior to commencement of the DPhil.]

[For students admitted from Michaelmas term 2025:

DPhil Finance students

(a) During their first year, Probationer Research Students will be required to attend the following six core modules from the MPhil in Economics and Saïd Business School doctoral courses and will additionally attend two electives as set out in the Course Handbook. In special circumstances, where a student has taken a substantially similar course prior to enrolment, they may apply for exemptions from MPhil in Economics core courses. Any exemptions must be agreed to by both the Programme Director and the student's supervisor.

MPhil in Economics

- (i) Microeconomics
- (ii) Advanced Econometrics 1
- (iii) Financial Economics 1
- (iv) Financial Economics 2

Saïd Business School doctoral courses

- (v) Empirical Finance
- (vi) DPhil Finance Professional Development Course

(b) All students shall satisfactorily complete the courses, examinations and coursework as determined by the supervisor and/or DPhil Committee.]

1.21 **4. Transfer of Status**

1.22 Students will normally be expected to achieve Transfer of Status in their fourth term after admission.

1.23 Applications should be submitted to the DPhil Committee and will comprise the following:

1.24 (a) a completed transfer of status form;

1.25 (b) a completed Training Needs Analysis form;

1.26 (c) a substantial piece of written work relevant to the proposed thesis as specified for each stream in the Course Handbook.

1.27 To successfully achieve Transfer of Status, students must have satisfactorily passed the appropriate assessment requirements as set out in section 3 above. In cases where a student is required to re-sit/resubmit an assessment item, a deferral of Transfer of Status will be granted automatically.

1.28 Full details of requirements can be found in the Course Handbook.

1.29 The DPhil Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The DPhil Committee will then decide whether Transfer of Status will be approved.

1.30 A student whose first application for Transfer of Status is not approved (including where the outcome is a recommendation to transfer to the MLitt) is permitted to make one further application and will be granted an extension of one term to Probationer Research Student status if necessary. If after a second attempt, the DPhil Committee can neither approve transfer to the DPhil or to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

1.31 **5. Confirmation of DPhil status**

1.32 Students will normally be expected to achieve Confirmation of Status by the end of their ninth term after admission.

1.33 Applications should be submitted to the DPhil Committee and will comprise the following:

1.34 (a) a completed Confirmation of Status form;

1.35 (b) two draft chapters, which include material particularly central to the thesis;

1.36 (c) a substantial thesis outline and list of contents indicating where the submitted material is located in the thesis, a draft abstract and a glossary of key terms;

1.37 (d) details of progress made together with a timetable for completion;

1.38 a completed Training Needs Analysis form.

1.39 (e) Sections (b) and (c) together should not exceed 35,000 words.

1.40 Full details of requirements can be found in the Course Handbook.

1.41 The DPhil Committee will appoint two assessors who will read the work, interview the student and submit a recommendation to the committee in a written report. The DPhil Committee will then decide whether Confirmation of Status will be approved.

1.42 A student whose first application for Confirmation of Status is not approved is permitted to make one further application, normally within one term of the original application, and will be granted an extension of one term if necessary. If after the second attempt the DPhil Committee can neither approve the application nor approve transfer to the MLitt, the student will be removed from the Register of Graduate Students.

1.43 **6. Integrated Thesis (Three paper route)**

1.44 A DPhil thesis may be accepted for examination if comprised of a minimum of three academic papers of publishable quality. Such a body of work shall be deemed acceptable provided it represents a coherent and focused body of research. It should include an Introduction, a Survey of Literature, and a Conclusion. Current word limits and conditions are detailed in the Course Handbook.

^{1.45}A DPhil thesis submitted under this rubric may include joint publications. Where a joint publication with another student is included, the candidate must certify that the paper has not been used as part of the co-author's thesis submission. Where joint publications are included, the supervisor must certify and all co-authors must certify in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies of the School that the majority of that work represents the work of the candidate.

^{1.46}A candidate wishing to proceed in this manner must obtain permission from their supervisor and the DPhil Committee and must be approved at the time of Confirmation of DPhil status. The three academic papers submitted should have been written for publication, been submitted for publication and/or been published.

^{1.47}If, after permission is granted, a candidate wishes to revert to a standard DPhil thesis format the candidate must seek the approval of their supervisor and the DPhil Committee showing good cause for the change.

^{1.48}**7. Thesis**

^{1.49}Theses for the Degree of MLitt which exceed 50,000 words and those for the Degree of DPhil which exceed 100,000 words, excluding the bibliography, are liable to be rejected unless candidates have, with the support of their supervisors, secured the prior dispensation of the DPhil Committee to exceed this limit.

Explanatory Notes

DPhil Finance students currently take 8 courses in their first year, 4 core and 4 electives. The changes to the PRS courses for the DPhil in Finance remove the 4 MSc in Financial Economics core courses and replace them with 6 core courses (4 from the MPhil in Economics) and introduces 2 new bespoke SBS run core courses (Empirical Finance and a Professional Development Course). Students will also take 2 electives.