

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MPhil IN PHILOSOPHY

Candidates for the MPhil degree are required to comply with any additional regulations prescribed by the College of registration.

1. Qualifications for Admission

1.1. The normal minimum entrance requirement for registration for the MPhil degree is:

(a) a second class honours degree of a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a course of study extending over not less than three years in a university (or educational institution of university rank), in a subject appropriate to that of the course to be followed; *or*

(b) a Postgraduate Taught degree of the University of London in an appropriate subject;

(c) a professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations and approved by the College as an appropriate entrance qualification for the MPhil degree.

1.2. Candidates possessing alternative qualifications may also be considered by a College.

1.3. An applicant for registration may be required to pass a qualifying examination (see Section 2) and may also be required to meet additional qualifications for admission as determined by the College.

1.4. English language and other tests may be prescribed by the College at which the course is to be pursued.

1.5. An applicant for registration must produce satisfactory evidence of the standard he/she has already attained and of his/her ability to profit by the course. An applicant who is not a graduate of the University of London must produce satisfactory evidence of having attained a standard equivalent to that demanded of graduates of the University.

2. Qualifying Examinations

2.1. A candidate who is required to satisfy qualifying conditions before being eligible to proceed to the MPhil degree may, at the discretion of the College, be permitted to register before these conditions are satisfied.

2.2. Except with the special permission of his/her College a candidate who fails to pass a qualifying examination prescribed for him/her will not be permitted to re-enter for the qualifying examination; if re-entry to the qualifying examination is permitted, a candidate will be limited to one re-entry.

3. Registration

3.1. Application for admission to a course of study for the degree of MPhil should be made to the relevant College.

3.2. Every applicant must make application to a College in accordance with the registration procedure prescribed by that College.

3.3. An applicant for registration is required to produce for inspection by the relevant College the original documentary evidence of his/her qualifications - ie. the original diploma or certificate of the awarding body.

3.4. A student will be registered by the College in the names as they appear on the documentary evidence of his/her qualifications. However, if the names shown on the documentary evidence of qualifications are in an abbreviated or incomplete form or if the names have subsequently been changed, in order to establish his/her identity, the applicant must produce for inspection one of the following documents: passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, certificate from the awarding body, statutory declaration or a deed poll and, provided that the document produced establishes beyond doubt that the names refer to the person named on the documentary evidence of qualifications and that the person is the applicant, the applicant will be registered in the names shown on the document produced in order to establish identity. Subsequent to registration a change of name on the College or University records will only be made after inspection by the College of a marriage certificate, statutory declaration or deed poll.

4. Transfer of Registration

4.1. A College may permit a student to transfer from a Postgraduate Taught degree to the MPhil degree, from the MPhil degree to the PhD degree or the PhD degree to the MPhil degree in accordance with the conditions specified by the College, provided that no transfer of registration is permitted after entry to the examination for any one of these degrees. Registration for the degree to which transfer has been made may date from initial registration for the degree from which transfer has been made.

4.2. On transfer of registration, the registration for the original degree will lapse.

5. Attendance and Course of Study

5.1. Every student is required to pursue a regular course of study at a College.

5.2. The course of study for the degree of MPhil may require attendance at lectures and coursework as prescribed by the College at which the student is registered.

5.3. A College shall have a code of practice for supervisors and research students and appoint a supervisor for each of its students registered for the MPhil degree in accordance therewith.

5.4. The length of course for the degree of MPhil shall be two academic years of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

5.5. A course must be pursued continuously except by special permission of the College.

5.6. A student is expected to centre his/her academic activities on the College at which he/she is registered and to attend personally for his/her studies at such time(s) as his/her supervisor may require.

5.7. A College may permit a student to spend part of his/her course in 'off-campus' study and prescribe the conditions which shall apply, and which shall include regular contact with his/her supervisor.

5.8. A student must apply to his/her College for permission to enter at a date later than one calendar year after completion of his/her course of study.

5.9. Before a candidate is admitted to the examination for the degree, the College shall report that he/she has completed the course in accordance with the regulations.

6. Fields of Study

6.1. There are three fields of study. The assessment for each comprises the submission of a thesis, an oral examination, and papers as follows:

I Philosophy

Three papers, of which one shall be from List 1, one from List 2 and the third from either List, provided that it does not overlap with either of the other two papers.

II Ancient Philosophy

Paper 1 Greek Philosophical Texts.

Paper 2 *Either* Greek Philosophy from the beginnings to Aristotle *or* Post-Aristotelian Philosophy.

Paper 3 One further paper from either List 1 or List 2, provided that it does not overlap with Paper 1 or Paper 2.

III Philosophy of Psychology

Paper 1 Philosophy of Psychology.

Paper 2 Philosophy of Mind.

Paper 3 One further paper from either List 1 or List 2, provided that it does not overlap with Paper 1 or Paper 2.

List 1

1 The pre-Socratics	20 Kant
2 Plato	21 Hegel
3 Aristotle	22 Frege
4 Greek philosophical	23 Marx
5 The Epicureans	24 Schopenhauer
6 The Stoics	25 J S Mill
7 Plotinus	26 Bradley
8 Aquinas	27 Existentialist philosophy from Kierkegaard
9 Mediaeval philosophy	28 Nietzsche
10 Renaissance philosophy	29 Phenomenology
11 Bacon	30 Heidegger
12 Descartes	31 The pragmatists
13 Leibniz	32 Russell
14 Spinoza	33 Wittgenstein
15 The rationalists	34 Quine
16 Locke	35 Davidson
17 Berkeley	36 Another philosopher or school or area of philosophy, with the approval of the Subject Panel in Philosophy
18 Hume	
19 The empiricists	

List 2

a Logic and metaphysics j Philosophy of science
b Epistemology and methodology k Philosophy of mathematics
c Philosophy of mind l The philosophical foundation of physics
d Ethics m Philosophy of education
e Aesthetics n Philosophy of social sciences
f Philosophy of religion o Philosophy of psychology
g Political philosophy p Philosophy of history
h Symbolic logic
i Philosophy of language

The occurrence of an area in either list does not imply that in any given year teaching in the area will be available. The choice of papers is subject to the approval of the candidate's College. If candidates submit themselves for examination in overlapping areas, they should avoid repeating material in any work they present.

6.2. Candidates may be allowed, with the approval of their College, to substitute three essays done in their own time, of up to 2,500 words each, in lieu of any *one* of the unseen written examination papers, on three different subjects from the field covered by that paper. Candidates wishing to offer either an unseen written paper or three essays on a topic not appearing on either list must seek the approval of the Subject Panel in Philosophy not later than 22 November of the final year.

7. Requirements of a Thesis for the MPhil degree in Philosophy

7.1. The scope of the thesis shall be what might reasonably be expected after two or at most three years of full-time study.

7.2. The thesis shall:

(a) consist of the candidate's own account of his/her investigations;

(b) be either a record of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and shall provide evidence that the field has been surveyed thoroughly;

(c) be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument;

[A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable as a thesis; work already published, either by the candidate or jointly with others, may be included only if it forms an integral part of the thesis and thereby makes a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis and is in the same format as the rest of the thesis; the part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated and certified by the supervisor; publications derived from the work in the thesis may be bound as supplementary material at the back of the thesis (see also paragraph 7.5. below).]

(d) give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, and include a discussion on those findings, and indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study of the subject;

(e) include a full bibliography and references;

(f) be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory;

(g) shall not exceed 30,000 words, including notes and appendices, but excluding bibliography.

7.3. The greater proportion of the work submitted in a thesis must have been done after the initial registration for the research degree.

7.4. A candidate will not be permitted to submit as his/her thesis one which has been submitted for a degree or comparable award of this or any other university or institution, but a candidate shall not be precluded from incorporating in a thesis covering a wider field work which he/she has already submitted for a degree or comparable award of this or any other university or institution provided that he/she shall indicate on his/her entry form and also on his/her thesis any work which has been so incorporated.

7.5. A candidate may submit the results of work done in conjunction with his/her supervisor and/or with fellow research workers provided that the candidate states clearly his/her own personal share in the investigation and that the statement is certified by the supervisor.

7.6. The decision to submit a thesis in any particular form rests with the candidate alone.

7.7. A candidate must include in each copy of his/her thesis a signed declaration that the work presented in the thesis is his/her own (see also paragraph 7.5 above).

7.8. A thesis must be presented for examination in a final form in typescript or print and be bound in accordance with the instructions issued by the Academic Registrar of the University.

7.9. After the examination has been completed and before the degree is awarded, successful candidates are required to submit to the Academic Registrar of the University, for lodging in the College and University libraries, two copies of their theses, one hard-bound and one soft-bound, in accordance with the said instructions, if the copies of the theses submitted for examination did not conform with this specification.

7.10. Every candidate is required to present a short abstract of his/her thesis of not more than 300 words and bound with each copy of the thesis submitted to the University. One additional loose copy of the abstract must also be provided (see paragraph 8.3. below)

8. Entry to Examination and Submission of Thesis

8.1. A College shall submit a completed entry form for each of its candidates to the Academic Registrar of the University.

8.2. A candidate shall be examined in accordance with the regulations in force at the time of his/her entry or re-entry to the examination.

8.3. A candidate is required to submit with his/her entry form a short description of the content of the thesis in about 300 words to assist in the appointment of suitable examiners (see also paragraph 7.10. above).

8.4. A candidate will be required to submit three copies of his/her thesis either typewritten or printed in accordance with instructions obtainable from the Academic Registrar (see paragraph 7.8. above).

8.5. A candidate is required to bring to the oral examination a copy of his/her thesis paginated in the same way as the copies submitted to the University.

8.6. The form of entry must be returned by **17 December** in the session of examination. A candidate permitted to re-enter for the examination who is not required to take a written examination may submit his/her entry form together with his/her thesis at any time, subject to the permission of the examiners. A candidate shall be examined in accordance with the regulations in force at the time of his/her entry or re-entry to the examination.

8.7. The thesis must be submitted not later than **1 April** in the year of examination. Paragraphs 8.4. and 8.5. above will apply.

8.8. A candidate offering three short essays in lieu of one written paper in Philosophy (*all fields*) must submit these through his/her College not later than **1 May**.

8.9. The unseen written papers will begin on the **second Monday in May**. A candidate may, at the discretion of the candidate's Department, take the examination in two parts: the candidate may sit the written papers in the year prior to that in which he/she submits the thesis, or *vice-versa*, provided that no part is taken earlier than the sixth term of the course of study. The further option of submitting three short essays for one paper will apply whether the whole examination is taken in one year or in two parts.

9. Availability of Theses

9.1. Subject to paragraph 9.2. below, candidates will at the time of entry to the examination be required to sign a declaration in the following terms:

(a) I authorise that the thesis presented by me in [year] for examination for the MPhil degree of the University of London shall, if a degree is awarded, be deposited in Senate House Library and in the library of the appropriate College and that, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 9.1(d) below, my thesis be made available for public reference, inter-library loan and copying.

(b) I authorise the University of London to supply a copy of the abstract of my thesis for inclusion in any published list of theses offered for higher degrees in British universities or in any supplement thereto, or for consultation in any central file of abstracts of such theses.

(c) I authorise the University of London to make a microform copy of my thesis for the purposes of inter-library loan and the supply of copies.

(d) I understand that before my thesis is made available for public reference, inter-library loan and copying, the following statement will have been included at the beginning of my thesis:

The copyright of this thesis rests with the author and no quotation from it or information derived from it may be published without the prior written consent of the author.

(e) I authorise the University of London to make a microform copy of my thesis in due course as the archival copy for permanent retention in substitution for the original copy.

(f) I warrant that this authorisation does not, to the best of my belief, infringe the rights of any third party.

(g) I understand that in the event of my thesis not being approved by the examiners, this declaration would become void.

9.2. A candidate may apply to his/her College for restriction of access, for a period not exceeding two years, to his/her thesis and/or the abstract of the thesis on the grounds of commercial exploitation or patenting or in very exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the procedure adopted by the College for consideration of such applications.

10. Conduct of Examination

10.1. The examination of the written papers will take place once in each year, commencing on the second Monday in May.

10.2. The timetable of the examination will be sent by the Academic Registrar to each candidate.

10.3. If the examiners consider that a candidate has not reached the standard in all of the written papers, they may, if they think fit, determine that the candidate be exempted on re-entry from resitting papers that have been passed. A candidate may, subject to the approval of his/her College when re-entry would involve further attendance at the College, re-enter *on one occasion only*. Unless the Subject Panel in Philosophy otherwise determines, such re-entry shall be to an examination to be held during the 12 months following the initial examination. *No further re-entries will be permitted.*

10.4. The examiners may determine that a candidate be given an oral examination on his/her answers to the three unseen written papers or on the two unseen written papers and the three essays.

10.5 Except as provided in paragraphs 10.6.(b), 10.6.(c) and 10.6.(d) below the examiners, after reading the thesis, shall examine the candidate orally on the subject of the thesis and, if they see fit, on subjects relevant thereto.

10.6. There are four options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination as follows:

(a) If the thesis fulfils the criteria (see paragraph 7.2. above) and the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners will report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the degree of MPhil.

[**NB.** If the thesis otherwise fulfils the criteria but requires minor amendments, the examiners may require the candidate to make within three months amendments specified by them. The amended thesis will be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.]

(b) If the examiners consider that a candidate's thesis fulfils the criteria but that he/she has not reached the required standard in the written papers prescribed for the examination they may, if they think fit, determine that the candidate be exempted on re-entry from presentation of the thesis. The examiners may at their discretion exempt the candidate on re-entry from a further oral examination. A candidate may, subject to the approval of his/her College, when re-entry would involve further attendance at the College, re-enter for the written papers on one occasion. Such re-entry shall be to an examination to be held during the 12 months following the initial examination (see also paragraph 10.3). No further re-entries will be permitted.

(c) If the examiners consider that the candidate has reached the required standard in the written papers prescribed for the examination but that his/her thesis does not fulfil the criteria, they may, if they think fit, determine that he/she be permitted to submit his/her thesis in a revised form by 1 April of the following year and be exempted on re-entry from the written papers prescribed for

the examination. The examiners may at their discretion exempt the candidate on re-entry from taking a further oral examination.

(d) The examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination. The examiners shall not, however, save in very exceptional circumstances, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to an oral examination.

10.7. A candidate whose thesis has failed to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to submit the same thesis for re-examination, but may apply to register *de novo* for a further period of study leading to the submission of a thesis on a different topic in the same field of study. Such a candidate will, however, be credited with the written papers if these were passed within a period not exceeding five years from the date of the examiners' report on the new thesis.

11. Notification of Results

11.1. After the examiners have reached a decision, every candidate will be notified by the Academic Registrar of the result of his/her examination. The degree shall not be awarded until two copies of the successful thesis, bound in the appropriate formats, have been lodged with the Academic Registrar.

11.2. A diploma under the seal of the University shall be subsequently delivered to each candidate who has been awarded a degree.

11.3. The diploma for the degree will bear the names of the candidate in the form in which they appear in the records of the College at the date of issue.

12. General

12.1. Communications sent from the University to an individual student must be regarded as applying to that student only.

12.2. Except insofar as paragraph 7.5. applies, the work in the thesis submitted by the candidate must be his/her own and submission of a thesis for examination for the MPhil degree will be regarded as a declaration of this fact.

12.3. All work submitted as part of the requirements for any examination of the University of London must be expressed in the candidate's own words and incorporate his/her own ideas and judgments. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as though they were the candidate's own and is an examination offence. Direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of another must always be clearly identified as such by being placed inside quotation marks, and a full reference to their source must be provided in the proper form. A series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism as much as does a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. Equally, if another person's ideas or judgments are summarised, the candidate must refer to that person in his/her text, and include the work to which reference is made in the bibliography.

12.4. Allegations of plagiarism will fall to be considered under the [Regulations for Proceedings in respect of Examination Offences by Candidates for University Awards](#), as will any other allegations of examination misconduct, including, but not limited to:

12.4.1. deliberate attempts to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others;

12.4.2. the invention or fabrication of data;

12.4.3. the submission of work commissioned from another person.

The Regulations for Proceedings in respect of Examination Offences by Candidates for University Awards are available from the Academic Registrar of the University.

12.5. If a candidate has entered the examination for the MPhil degree, but the authorities of a College, or of a central activity, or of the University Library, or the University Accountant notify the Academic Registrar of the University that he/she has not settled with them or made acceptable arrangements to settle any account outstanding, no report will be made on the result of the examination until the same authority certifies that payment has been made in full.

12.6. The University has approved a [Procedure for Consideration of Appeals by Candidates for Research Degrees](#), which is available from the Academic Registrar of the University. A candidate for the MPhil degree in Philosophy may only invoke the Procedure in respect of the thesis (not the written papers for which the decision of the examiners shall be final). An application under the Procedure must be made within two months of notification of the result of the examination to the candidate and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

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