Degree Committee for the Faculty of Mathematics

Change in Standing Practice (to take effect for Ph.D. students admitted from Michaelmas 2011)

Registration for the Ph.D. and Confirmation of Progress

Registration:

Assessment for registration for the Ph.D. shall be carried out not later than the end of the vacation following the second term after the term of the student’s admission as a candidate for the Ph.D. (i.e. effectively by the end of the student’s first year). The assessment will be carried out by at least two assessors appointed by the Department, one of whom should be a University Officer, and neither of whom is normally the Principal Supervisor. Where the norm is for students to be embedded in research groups, at least one assessor should be from outside the candidate’s immediate group.

The form the assessment takes will be determined by the format of the first year of the student’s Ph.D. course. The student will prepare a written description (of 1500 words or less) of progress towards the Ph.D. and of plans for the future. Where the first year mainly involves taught courses, or where deemed appropriate by the Department, the assessment will be based on the mathematical understanding acquired by the student by virtue of the student’s attendance at graduate courses or advanced Part III courses.

A report will be made by the assessors on the outcome of the assessment and their recommendation on registration, and any feedback they wish to provide for the student and Supervisor, and submitted to the Degree Committee. The Supervisor should comment on the candidate’s progress in the light of the assessors’ feedback and make his or her own recommendation on the outcome.

The Degree Committee will consider the assessors’ reports together with the Supervisor’s recommendation and, on the strength of these, recommend the outcome to the Student Registry. In the case of a negative report, the Degree Committee will consider future action in consultation with the Department.

Confirmation of Progress:

Assessment for confirmation of progress shall be carried out by the end of the Ph.D. student’s fifth (full) term. The assessment will be carried out by at least two assessors appointed by the Department, one of whom should be a University Officer, and neither of whom is normally the Principal Supervisor. The student will present a written account of his or her progress in the area of the Ph.D. and this will form the basis of a discussion with the assessors. A report will be made by the assessors on the outcome of the assessment and their recommendation on progression, and any feedback they wish to provide for the student and Supervisor, and submitted to the Degree Committee.

The Degree Committee will consider future action, in consultation with the Department, in the case of a negative report.