**MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION**

**Confirmation of DPhil status form and guidance for assessors**

The purpose of confirmation of status is to enable research students to receive an assessment of their work by two assessors, other than their supervisor(s). It is intended to provide an important indication that if work on the thesis continues to develop satisfactorily, then consideration of submission of the thesis within the student’s funded period/

four years (for DPhil) would appear to be reasonable. It therefore provides a second stage of formal progress review in the four years of the student’s overall research programme**. *It should be noted that successful completion of confirmation of status provides an indicator only for readiness for submission, not for the final outcome of the examination of the thesis.***

The University’s guidelines state that:

*“The purpose of confirmation is to confirm that you are continuing to work at the appropriate doctoral level and to provide assurance that if the work on the thesis continues to develop satisfactorily, then consideration of submission within the course of three further terms would appear to be reasonable..”*

**Confirmation of DPhil Status (1st Attempt)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Student name: |  | Start Date: |  |
| Research Title: |  | | |
| Date report received: |  | Date Assessed: |  |
| Planned Sub. Date: |  | Max submission: |  |

Assessors are reminded that this is a formal assessment of the University of Oxford. In order for confirmation of status to be conferred, assessors must be satisfied that:

1. The student’s DPhil project is following a trajectory that will lead to completion and submission within the remaining timeframe (and not exceeding 12 terms).

2. The work undertaken to date provides a sufficient background and a platform for completion/submission.

3. The student’s work/research has the potential to make a ‘significant and substantial contribution’ to their field of study

4. The student has developed critical knowledge and understanding of the relevant literature.

5. The student understands, can justify and defend their research project, its objectives and rationale.

6. The student has a clear plan for the future direction of the project.

7. The student has taken intellectual ownership of the project.

In making your assessments (and in judging the level of the presentation/interview) it is important that your expectations of the student are moderated by the nature of the project on which the student is engaged. The primary focus should be on the quality of the work completed, that it is at the right level, and that a sufficient volume has been completed to be confident in your confirmation that the student is following the correct trajectory. The assessment panel should complete this report form, the contents of which will be communicated to the student and his/her supervisors. If confirmation is not recommended, then it is critical that detailed reasons for this are given along with instructions for any specific work that must be done prior to reassessment. A timescale for a subsequent meeting with the assessment panel (usually 3 months later) should also be given.

On the basis of the student’s confirmation report/supporting evidence and the confirmation interview/presentation, please indicate your evaluation of the following, ticking as appropriate:

| **Assessment of verbal and written work** | **Excellent** | **Good** | | **Adequate** | | | **Not Satisfactory** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sufficient familiarity with and in depth knowledge of the relevant background literature |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Amount of work completed |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Quality of work completed |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Potential to make a ‘Significant and substantial contribution’ to field of work/study |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Coherence and organization of work (proposed structure of the final thesis) |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Content of presentation/interview |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Delivery of presentation/interview |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Ability to defend work, and its significance |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Ideas and plans for future work including a timescale for writing up |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Ability to work independently |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Student’s research competency |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
| Student’s competence in written and spoken English |  |  | |  | | |  | | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Likelihood of timely submission** | **Very likely** | **Probably** | **Possible** | | **Unlikely** | | | **None** | |
| Prospect of the student submitting a satisfactory thesis by their current maximum submission date |  |  |  | |  | | |  | |
|  | | | | | | | | | |
| **Training and professional development** | Yes – very well | Yes – but some areas requiring attention | | | | Yes – but inadequately | | | No |
| Has the student appropriately engaged with academic skills training? |  |  | | | |  | | |  |
| Has the student considered their career post DPhil, and undertaken any activities in support of them e.g. professional development? |  |  | | | |  | | |  |

Would the student benefit from additional supervision to facilitate his/her studies? Yes / No

Please tick to confirm that you, the assessors, have received and reviewed the candidates signed GSO.14 Application for Confirmation of Status form and the Supervisors report: GSO.14 signed by DGS 🞎 Supervisor’s Report 🞎

Assessors are required to provide further comments in the box below on the student’s work and assessment. Assessors should particularly focus on areas of excellent or unsatisfactory work. Assessors should also comment on the student’s acquisition of career skills (and plans to develop such skills) as outlined in the GSO.14/ departmental template form. This information will be reviewed by the DGS and students will receive the report once agreed.

If some additional work is required e.g. further results, but the above evaluation of statements is satisfactory, confirmation can be recommended with conditions.

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| **Overall Recommendation:**  ** Confirmation to DPhil status without reservations** |
| ** Confirmation to DPhil status if a satisfactory written response to this report is obtained, signed by both**  **the student and supervisor (to be returned within 2 weeks)**  ** Confirmation to DPhil status with conditions (please state conditions above with timeframe)**  ** Student should make a 2nd attempt to confirm DPhil status in 1 term** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Signed:**  (Assessor 1) | **Signed:**  (Assessor 2) |
| **Print Name:** | **Print Name:** |
| **Date:** | **Date:** |
|  | |
| **DGS Signature:** | **Date:** |