**MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION**

**Confirmation of DPhil status form to be completed by the Supervisor(s)**

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**

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

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 their assessment (and in judging the level of the presentation/interview) the assessors’ will moderate their expectations of the student by the nature of the project on which the student is engaged. Their primary focus will be on the quality of the work completed, that it is at the right level, and that a sufficient volume has been completed to enable them to be confident in their confirmation that the student is following the correct trajectory. Please complete this report form giving your own assessment of the student’s work/progress to date, the contents will then be reviewed by the assessors and DGS. If you have any concerns about the progress of the student and their readiness for confirmation then please provide detailed reasons of this in the box below along with any information about specific work that you think should be completed before confirmation of status is recommended. **Note:** All information and comments provided should be consistent with what you have previously reported to the student on GSS.

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

| **Assessment of 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) |  |  |  |  |

| **Assessment of written work** | **Excellent** | **Good** | **Adequate** | **Not Satisfactory** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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? |  |  |  |  |

Do you think the student would benefit from additional supervision to facilitate his/her studies? Yes / No

Please provide further comments in the box below on the student’s work/research and progress to date, particularly focusing on areas of excellent or unsatisfactory work. Please also provide comments on the student’s acquisition of career skills (and plans to develop such skills) as outlined in the GSO.14. Following the assessment the student will then receive a final report once agreed by the DGS.

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| --- |
| **Supervisor(s) Name (print in full):** |
| **Supervisor Signature:** |
| **Date:** |
|  |
| **DGS Signature:** | **Date:** |