

CHANGES OF SUBJECT

Undergraduates are admitted to the College after a rigorous selection process in which an assessment is made of their aptitude and enthusiasm for study in particular areas by comparison with other applicants. It is not to be expected that students selected in this way will need or wish to move into different areas of study after their admission, but some do and one virtue of the Tripos system is that it allows changes of subject to be made. The notes that follow explain how changes may be arranged in suitable cases.

1. College Regulation 3 provides that 'a change of subject may be made only with the agreement of the Tutor and Directors of Studies concerned'. In practice no student will be enrolled for study and entered for examination in a new area unless his or her Tutor writes to the Senior Tutor's Assistant intimating that agreement has been reached among all those concerned.
2. Tutors and Directors of Studies will only agree that a change of subject should be made if they are convinced that it would be in the best educational interests of the student and would be consistent with College policy. In particular:
 - they will need to understand why the student has less aptitude and enthusiasm for study in the area originally chosen than was perceived during the admissions process;
 - they will need to be persuaded that the student has the aptitude and enthusiasm required to make success in the new area a realistic prospect;
 - they will need to make sure that the College has the resources necessary to teach an additional student in the new area;
 - they will need to consider whether the change would involve extending a course into a fourth year at the cost of a place in the College for another student; and
 - they will need to check that any funding received by the student on the basis of means assessment by his or her LEA would be continued, which may not be the case, especially where an additional year of study would be involved.
3. Students who believe that they may need to change subject should be aware that it takes time for agreements to be reached among Tutors and Directors of Studies and that changes of subject are not normally permitted after the end of the Michaelmas Term. Although it is important for students to think carefully and to consult widely before deciding whether they would like to change subjects, it is also important for them to raise their concerns with their Tutors and so to initiate the formal decision-making process as early as possible.

Approved by TCL, 17.xi.00