

## Grading system for assessment of applications

### for FCDO-funded commonwealth scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom 2022

Grade	Academic merit	Quality of Research proposal (doctoral)	Quality of Study plans (Masters)	Development impact
<b>Grading criteria</b>	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination results.</li> <li>• Academic transcripts.</li> <li>• Tutors' and referees' reports.</li> </ul> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic prizes or awards.</li> <li>• Other relevant academic achievements.</li> </ul> <p>Publications, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear abstract of what the candidate wants to research</li> <li>• Extent to which the work programme has been well researched (including references to key literature); and the extent of engagement with the host supervisor</li> <li>• Quality of the research proposal, including innovation and relevance to current research in the chosen field and to development policy</li> </ul> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity of expression.</li> <li>• Feasibility of proposed research</li> <li>• Likelihood of completion within three years</li> </ul> <p><b>For Split-Site Awards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance of work in UK to PhD.</li> </ul>	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of what the candidate wants to learn and how it relates to their objectives</li> <li>• Extent to which the proposed course and institution of study have been well researched (including specific options and dissertation topics, where appropriate) and presented.</li> </ul> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing offer of admission to the course</li> <li>• Clarity of presentation</li> </ul>	<p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of the need: how the plan of study/research relates to development in the sector and country</li> <li>• Expected outcomes, the projected timeframe to achieve them and potential beneficiaries</li> <li>• The way and extent to which the candidate proposes to apply new skills and qualifications; how does this relate to development</li> </ul> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to a national development priority or capacity shortage</li> <li>• Reference to the selected CSC theme</li> <li>• Extent of the benefit: how the impact of the work might be measured</li> <li>• Past demonstrable commitment to</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evidence of strong research link with UK institution.</li></ul>		<p>'development' agendas through voluntary work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leading or participating in relevant projects or programmes</li></ul>
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