

**GRADING SYSTEM FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS  
(FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - DFID) TENABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2020**

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