

**GRADING SYSTEM FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR FCDO-FUNDED COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS
TENABLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM 2021**

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