

**GRADING SYSTEM FOR ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS FOR COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS
(FUNDED BY THE FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT - FCDO) 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"> • <i>Examination results.</i> • <i>Academic transcripts.</i> • <i>Tutors' and referees' reports.</i> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Academic prizes or awards.</i> • <i>Other relevant academic achievements.</i> • <i>Publications, where appropriate.</i> | <p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clear abstract of what the candidate wants to research</i> • <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> • <i>Quality of the research proposal, including innovation and relevance to current research in the chosen field and to development policy</i> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarity of expression.</i> • <i>Feasibility of proposed research</i> • <i>Likelihood of completion within three years</i> <p>For Split-Site Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relevance of work in UK to PhD.</i> • <i>Evidence of strong research link with UK institution.</i> | <p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Statement of what the candidate wants to learn and how it relates to their objectives</i> • <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> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Existing offer of admission to the course</i> • <i>Clarity of presentation</i> | <p>Primary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Extent of the need: how the plan of study/research relates to development in the sector and country</i> • <i>Expected outcomes, the projected timeframe to achieve them and potential beneficiaries</i> • <i>The way and extent to which the candidate proposes to apply new skills and qualifications; how does this relate to development</i> <p>Secondary Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reference to a national development priority or capacity shortage</i> • <i>Reference to the selected CSC theme</i> • <i>Extent of the benefit: how the impact of the work might be measured</i> • <i>Past demonstrable commitment to 'development' agendas through voluntary work.</i> • <i>Leading or participating in relevant projects or programmes</i> |