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| **Grading system for assessment of applications**  **for FCDO-funded commonwealth scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom** | | | | |
| **Grade** | **Academic merit** | **Quality of**  **Research** **proposal**  **(doctoral)** | **Quality of**  **Study** **plans**  **(Masters*)*** | **Development impact** |
| **Grading criteria** | **Primary Indicators**   * Examination results * Academic transcripts * Tutors’ and referees’ reports   **Secondary Indicators**   * Academic prizes or awards * Other relevant academic achievements * Publications, where appropriate | **Primary Indicators**   * 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   **Secondary Indicators**   * Clarity of expression. * Feasibility of proposed research * Likelihood of completion within three years   **For Split-Site Awards:**   * Relevance of work in UK to PhD * Evidence of strong research link with UK institution | **Primary Indicators**   * 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   **Secondary Indicators**   * Existing offer of admission to the course * Clarity of presentation | **Primary Indicators**   * 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   **Secondary Indicators**   * 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 |