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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
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