|  |
| --- |
|  **Grading system for assessment of applications**  **for DfE-funded Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom** |
|  **Grade** | **Academic merit** | **Quality of****research** **proposal** | **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.
 |  **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.
 |