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| **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. |