**Schedule 1: Research dissertation assessment criteria in disciplines with an empirical emphasis**

# H1: HD+ (90–100):

An outstanding dissertation in a challenging or difficult area; demonstrating:

* Excellence in terms of conceptualisation, theoretical framework or previous experimental research leading to derivation of hypotheses as described in the introduction
* the use of rigorous or innovative methodology
* A mastery of statistical methods and presentation of results
* The capacity to discuss the results in an analytic manner
* Skillful treatment of unexpected or inconsistent results, or a recognition of some limitation of the methodology, and integration of the findings within the theoretical framework or empirical background outlined in the introduction or an alternative framework if appropriate
* Outstanding written expression, organisation, format and documentation

# H1: HD- (80–89):

As for HD+ but with some minor weakness, such as in the presentation or structure, or some minor inconsistency or oversight in the arguments, or a discussion that does not fully exploit the findings or links with theory or previous empirical research. Excellent written expression, organisation, format and documentation.

# H2A: D+ (75–79):

For a dissertation showing excellence in one or two aspects of conceptualisation, methodology, statistical analysis or discussion, but no particular strengths elsewhere, or for a generally sound dissertation with some weaknesses or flaws which are offset by some excellent features. Very good written expression; correct format and documentation.

# H2A: D- (70–74):

For a consistently sound dissertation with well-structured arguments leading to development of the hypothesis, appropriate methodology and statistical treatments and an accurate interpretation of the results, but with no particular strengths elsewhere. Good written expression; correct format and documentation.

# H2B: CR (60–69):

For a dissertation with minor misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions in one or more areas, or poor organisation or incorrect interpretation of the results, or an inability to recognise the limitations of the methodology, but otherwise sound. The misconceptions are such that they do not affect the basic tenor of the dissertation or its conceptual impact. Coherent written expression and correct format and documentation.

# H3: Pass (50–59):

For a dissertation containing major misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions, and/or unrecognised deficiencies in methodology, and/or misinterpretation of the statistical analysis and/or lack of integration with theoretical or empirical framework.

# Fail: (<50):

For a dissertation with decisive problems in conceptualisation or execution, or inability to present arguments coherently and with clarity.

# Schedule 2: Research dissertation assessment criteria in disciplines with a qualitative emphasis

**H1: HD+ (90–100):**

An outstanding dissertation, demonstrating:

* Impressively original thought
* Intellectual sophistication
* Excellence in terms of conceptualisation, theoretical framework and/or research design
* Superior skills in the development of a clear, compelling and critical argument
* Outstanding knowledge of relevant literatures
* Outstanding written expression, organisation, format and documentation

# H1: HD- (80–89):

As for HD+ but to a lesser degree; for example, the dissertation must still show independent and critical analysis, but need not be strikingly original; must still demonstrate superior skills in conceptualisation and development of theoretical frameworks, but need not be at such a sophisticated level. The dissertation will demonstrate excellent knowledge of relevant literatures, excellent skills in the development of a clear, compelling and critical argument, and excellent written expression, organisation, format and documentation.

# H2A: D+ (75–79):

For a dissertation demonstrating very good conceptualisation and research planning; very good skills of critical analysis as well as synthesis; capacity for independent thought; appreciation of methodological issues; good knowledge of relevant literature; ability to marshal a good, coherent and consistent argument; very good written expression; correct format and documentation.

# H2A: D- (70–74):

For a dissertation demonstrating sound research planning; sound skills in analysis as well as synthesis; some capacity for independent thought; fair knowledge of relevant literature; ability to marshal a coherent and consistent argument. May show some weaknesses in methodological or theoretical understandings. Good written expression; correct format and documentation.

# H2B: CR (60–69):

For a dissertation providing a coherent narrative or descriptive account, with serious attempt at analysis, and a competent synthesis of relevant literature and source material. Coherent written expression and correct format and documentation. The dissertation will display minor weaknesses or limitations, such as insufficiently clarified research design, narrowness of scholarship, failure to properly incorporate critical concepts, or derivative conclusions.

# H3: Pass (50–59):

For a dissertation containing major limitations in methodology, and/or research quality and/or argumentation and/or knowledge of relevant literature, and/or written presentation and documentation.

# Fail: (<50):

For a dissertation with decisive problems in conceptualisation, execution of research, knowledge of relevant literature, independence of thought, written expression and documentation.

# Schedule 3: Research dissertation assessment criteria in disciplines with a creative emphasis

**H1: HD+ (90–100):**

An outstanding dissertation, demonstrating:

* Originality and excellence in terms of conceptualisation, imagination or theoretical framework
* The use of innovative methodology and the testing of its limits
* Thorough knowledge of the field
* Outstanding mastery of relevant technique
* The capacity to marshal, analyse and extend ideas

# H1: HD- (80–89):

As for HD+ but with some minor weakness, such as in the presentation or structure, or a work that does not fully exploit the ideas or analysis or methodology of the dissertation. Excellent mastery of relevant technique.

# H2A: D+ (75–79):

For a dissertation showing excellence in one or two aspects of conceptualisation and methodology, but no particular strengths elsewhere, or for a generally sound well-presented dissertation with some weaknesses or flaws which are offset by some excellent features. Very good mastery of relevant technique.

# H2A: D- (70–74):

For a consistently sound well-presented dissertation with appropriate methodology and consistent analysis, but with no particular strengths elsewhere. Good mastery of relevant technique.

# H2B: CR (60–69):

For a dissertation with critical misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions in one or more areas, or poor organization or expression or an inability to recognise the limitations of the methodology, but otherwise sound. The misconceptions are such that they do not affect the conceptual integrity of the dissertation. Coherent mastery of relevant technique.

# H3: Pass (50–59):

For a dissertation containing a number of misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions, and/or unrecognised deficiencies in methodology, and/or poor analysis and/or lack of integration with theoretical or empirical framework

# Fail: (<50):

For a dissertation with major problems in conceptualisation or execution.