

GRADING GUIDE FOR EXAMINATION OF MASTER OF SCIENCE THESES

	Distinction (A+)	Excellence (A)	Merit (A-)	Adequate (B+, B, B-)	Pass (C+, C, C-)	Fail (D)
Knowledge	Fresh contribution to the field	Excellent range, secure grasp of appropriate field	Good range, familiarity with key sources in appropriate field	Adequate range, reasonable grasp of appropriate sources	Limited range, partial grasp of narrow sources	Highly restricted range, failure to grasp or demonstrate understanding
Analysis	Consistently excellent & convincing	Consistently excellent & productive	Generally good level of analysis	Adequate level of analysis, might lapse into description	Limited, mostly descriptive or incomplete	Highly limited, descriptive or incomplete
Independent thought	Convincing demonstration of original, well-evidenced & cohesive insights	Demonstration of well-evidenced & cohesive insights	Evidence of insight beyond available materials	Limited evidence of independent thought	Derivative	Highly derivative
Argument	Self-aware, conscious & reflexive intervention	Consistent, coherent, intelligent	Coherent & intelligible	Largely coherent but predictable and/or superficial in some areas	Lacks coherence, unclear or invalid	Totally incoherent, unclear or invalid
Evidence	Outstanding level of research &/or practice; new sources or new approach to sources	Excellent range of sources beyond materials expounded in taught sessions, integrated well	Good range of reading and sources beyond materials expounded in taught sessions	Adequate coverage, utilising materials expounded in taught sessions	Poor, limited or inaccurate use of sources	Highly limited or inaccurate use of sources
Creativity	Outstanding or innovative imaginative work	Highly imaginative with evidence of original thinking.	Highly accomplished technically and well structured but interpretative or derivative	Competent but showing limited imagination and compositional skills	Lacking in imagination, uninspiring, though may show adequate compositional skills	Lacking in imagination with inadequate compositional skills
Presentation	Publishable, capable of being exhibited &/or 'performable'. Of a professional standard.	Excellent level of presentation e.g. spelling, punctuation, syntax, style, etc. appropriate to format of delivery. Approaching a professional standard.	Good level of presentation e.g. spelling, punctuation, syntax, style, etc. appropriate to format of delivery. Shows a strong awareness of professional standards.	Adequate level of presentation e.g. spelling, punctuation, syntax, style, etc. appropriate to format of delivery. Shows some awareness of professional standards.	Poor level of presentation e.g. spelling, punctuation, syntax, style, etc. appropriate to format of delivery. Shows very limited awareness of professional standards.	Very poor level of presentation e.g. spelling, punctuation, syntax, style, etc. appropriate to format of delivery. Shows no awareness of professional standards
Research methods and methodology	Outstanding level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.	Excellent level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.	Good level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.	Adequate level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.	Poor level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.	Very poor level of research methodology, e.g. choice & application of relevant methods, data-gathering, reflexivity, ethical dimensions, etc.
Bibliography & referencing	Full, complete & correct in every detail	Full, complete & correct in every detail	Full, complete & correct	Full, complete & correct	Incomplete, incorrect or invalid	Incomplete, incorrect or invalid