

Appendix C: Assessment 3 Thesis Marking Guideline

Components	Item	Grading Reference ¹
Specification and design (20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the project • Aims and objectives • Literature review • Risk analysis 	Is the problem stated both in a general and in a specific way? Are the purpose and rationale of the project stated clearly? Are the advantages of the proposed work justified? Are the project aims and objectives clearly stated? Does it show knowledge of the research, theory, concepts and opinion related to the topic? Has the literature review been selective and are the criteria for selection and relevance explained? Is there any critical assessment of the reviewed literature? Is the relationship between what others have done and what proposed in this project explained? Is the original work clearly differentiated from others? Has risk been evaluated and are any risks identified?	≥ 50% is a pass ≥ 60% is Merit ≥ 70% is Distinction ≥ 80% is High Distinction
Design and Implementation (40) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design • Implementation • Testing • Evaluation • Critical analysis 	Does it explain what was investigated on in this study? Is the setting of the study specified? Are any tools / equipment / software used in the design methodology indicated and explained? Are variables / parameters in the study / experiment identified and described? Is the experimental design appropriate? If materials/apparatus are involved, are they described and illustrated? Are the design / lab experiments suitable to account for any significant economic, environmental, social, ethical, health & safety, manufacturing and sustainability issues? Is there sufficient detail in the report such that another person could replicate the study? Has any critical analysis of the methodology, experimental design, initial results been conducted? Is the analysis presented clearly and interpretation of results covered to sufficient details? What are the problems during implementation, what is the impact of the problems and how they were addressed?	
Conclusion (20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion • Critical reflection (scope, contribution etc.) • Future work • Professional and personal development 	Do discussions of the results and any conclusions drawn address all of the research questions or hypotheses? Are the meaning and importance of the results described? Does the design perform as expected? Are alternative explanations for the findings identified and discussed? Is the scope of the study defined and are any limitations on conclusions specified? Does the student clearly understand the area of study and significance of the results? Are the areas suggested for future work properly justified? Has there been appropriate reflection on professional issues and personal development?	
Quality of report (20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • References and citations • Structure • Coverage • Coherence, fluency, succinctness • Presentation 	Is material properly referenced? Is the layout appropriate and does it follow a logical sequence? Are the diagrams clearly labelled and referred to in the text? Is there proper use of English including grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, paragraphs and tenses? Does each table/figures/chart stand on its own, clear and self-explanatory? Is any data presented appropriately?	
Total		100

¹ Please see the University document “Marking descriptors for Master’s programmes.pdf”, available through the quick reference section of ebridge.