Computer Science MSc Dissertation Assessment Grading Guidelines

The below criteria are indicative of what is expected for different grades. Markers will use these criteria as a guide while also using their subject expertise and academic judgement regarding the overall quality of the work.

Grade	Guidance Notes
A+: ≥80%	Aims and objectives of project are stated and motivated both clearly and convincingly relative to state-of-the-art. The project demonstrates clear ability to formulate/construct hypotheses. A very thorough understanding and description of the subject, background material and context. Clear evidence of independent ability to find and use references and good citing and referencing. A high degree of critical appraisal and analysis. An excellent understanding and application of research methods. Quality and description of programming/implementation and/or use of data show mastery of the chosen subject (if applicable). Conclusions are clear and well supported by the content. Clear evidence of originality of thought and reasoning. Very well structured and presented. Good use of well chosen examples. In addition, displaying an outstanding ability to comprehend the subject matter within the wider context. There should also be clear evidence of originality of thought and reasoning. Excellent presentation of the subject and background and very clear and well-considered conclusions. The highest level of structure and presentation.
A: Normally ≥70% <80%	Aims and objectives of project are stated and motivated both clearly and convincingly relative to state-of-the-art. The project demonstrates clear ability to formulate/construct hypotheses. A very thorough understanding and description of the subject, background material and context. Clear evidence of independent ability to find and use references and good citing and referencing. A high degree of critical appraisal and analysis. An excellent understanding and application of research methods. Quality and description of programming/implementation and/or use of data show mastery of the chosen subject (if applicable). Conclusions are clear and well supported by the content. Clear evidence of originality of thought and reasoning. Very well structured and presented. Good use of well chosen examples.
B: Normally ≥60%, <70%	Aims and objectives of project are clearly stated and motivated. Project demonstrates the ability to ask the right questions and formulate/construct hypotheses to address the issues. An increasing understanding of the subject, background material and context. Some evidence of independent ability to find and use references and good level of citing and referencing. Critical appraisal and analysis is demonstrated. Good understanding and application of research methods. Quality and description of programming/implementation and/or use of data is above the basic standard (if applicable). Appropriate conclusions and recommendations based on the presented work. Good structure and presentation, and good choices and use of examples.
C: Normally ≥50%, <60%	Aims and objectives of project are reasonably stated and motivated. The student shows the ability to ask questions and find answers. A reasonable understanding of the subject, background material and context, suitable level of citing and referencing. A reasonable degree of analysis and critique of state-of-the-art in the context of the project's goals.

	Acceptable consideration of research methods. Quality and description of programming/implementation and/or use of data is adequate to good (if applicable). Conclusions are reasonably formed and recommendations are generally supported by the work undertaken. Reasonable structure and presentation, appropriate choice and use of examples.
D: Normally ≥ 40%, <50%	Does not meet MSc standard. A basic piece of work which demonstrates: Limited clarity and motivation behind the project's aims and objectives. Limited knowledge/understanding of the subject, background material and context, inadequate citing and referencing. Supported by only little analysis and critique. Poor or non-existent consideration of research methods. Only basic or incomplete implementation (if applicable). Identifies the basic issues, but conclusions are not supported. Meets the basic requirement for structure and presentation.
E: Normally ≥ 30%, < 40%	Poorly stated, explained, or motivated aims and objectives. Very limited knowledge of the background material and context, inadequate citing and referencing. Little critical analysis of state-of-the-art in the context of the project's goals. Very poor consideration of research methods. Implementation is incomplete or absent (if applicable). Inadequate discussion of the results with very poorly or unsupported conclusions Very poorly structured and presented.
F: Normally <30%	As above, but one or more of the above listed components is missing, i.e. the dissertation shows: No evidence of knowledge of the background material and context, no proper citing and referencing or No critical analysis of state-of-the-art in the context of the project's goals or No consideration of research methods or No implementation (if applicable) or No discussion of the results with supported conclusions.

All Dissertations must be conducted in an ethical manner and be ethically approved, and must cover Legal, Ethical, Professional and Social Issues arising in the project.