

MSc Project Report Marking Criteria

Grade category	Specification and design	Implementation or execution of research	Testing, results, analysis, and critical evaluation	Presentation and completeness of report
Distinction (70-100)	The specification and design of the system/software clearly demonstrates how to meet the requirements, and all components fit together in a coherent way.	The key stages of the implementation or research are clearly explained. The implementation or research for a challenging problem is carried out to a high standard.	The solution demonstrates deep insight into the problem/research question. Reflections on the contribution and its limitations are fully justified. Key results are accurately and critically analysed. Relevant conclusions are drawn.	The report is self-contained, providing background and context. It is well-organised and demonstrates the concepts presented. Complex issues are explained clearly. The solution is well-justified. The report cites relevant resources using consistent style and is of professional quality.
Merit (60-69)	A good attempt has been made in the specification and design of the system/software.	The implementation or research for a challenging problem has been partially successful or has been carried out to a high standard for a less ambitious project.	The report has a clear and logical argument to support the contribution and its limitations. It discusses how the software meets the requirements and is well reinforced by evidence.	Relevant background research and context are presented. Material is generally well-organised and clearly presented. The solution is justified. The report cites relevant resources using an appropriate consistent referencing style.
Pass (50-59)	Before starting the implementation, a specification and design of the system/software is laid out.	The key stages of the implementation or research are explained. The implementation or research is sound.	The report attempts to provide a clear and justified reflection upon the contribution and its limitations. It discusses how	The report is coherent in style and structure and includes citations. It communicates the main project outcomes.

			the software meets the specified requirements.	
Borderline fail (40-49)	Some attempt has been made in the specification and design of the system/software but not in sufficient detail or too much irrelevant information has been included.	Some attempt to explain the key stages of the implementation or research. The implementation or research has been only partially successful.	Some attempt at reflection upon the contribution and its limitations but the argument may be difficult to identify or follow. Some attempt to discuss how the software meets the specified requirements.	Some aspects of the material may be poorly presented and badly-organised. Outcomes are not clearly communicated. Referencing is limited or incomplete.
Fail (0-39)	Very little or no attempt has been made in the specification and design of the system/software.	Little or no attempt to explain the key stages of the implementation or research. The implementation or research only addressed simple aspects of the problem.	Little or no attempt at reflection upon the contribution and its limitations. Little or no attempt to discuss how the software meets the specified requirements.	Material is poorly presented and badly-organised. The student's contribution is unclear. Referencing is limited or incomplete.