

STUDENT

TITLE:		SU NUMBER:	
INIT. & SURNAME:			
THESIS TITLE:			

GENERAL

The MEng/MEngSc (Research) is a 180 credit thesis only programme, requiring 1800 hours of thesis work. A Master's thesis need not show proof of original work, or make a substantial novel contribution to knowledge in the field of study. However, the thesis must clearly demonstrate that the candidate has mastered the relevant field of study.

Examiners are asked to evaluate the thesis in two ways: 1) by completing this form, and 2) by submitting a detailed discussion in terms of the assessment criteria in a separate written report. The grading is based purely on the submitted document, and not on any anticipated versions or outputs.

Stellenbosch University makes provision for the MEng/MEngSc (Research) to be upgraded to a PhD under very specific conditions. Examiners may be asked by the chair of the examination panel during the oral examination session, or via email, to express their opinion on whether an upgrade is recommended. If examiners choose to do so, they can also initiate such a discussion at the oral, or through comments in their reports. Note that this is not a requirement for the report. The pre-requisites for an upgrade are as follows:

- * At the time of application, the research work should already contain substantial original material, which is publishable. A conference or journal paper must already have been accepted for publication. Alternatively, the examiners must judge the work in the thesis as being publishable.
- * The work completed at the time of application for the upgrade, should be of such a high quality that a substantial part of it can form part of a PhD dissertation.
- * The scope of the work should be extendable to the expected levels for a PhD.
- * The additional work should be of such a nature that it can be completed within 18 months of full-time work.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND REPORT

I have evaluated the submitted thesis according to the assessment criteria, and deem the following criteria to have been met
(please select the relevant tick box):

- * The scope of the work is that which can be expected from an 1800h project. ☐
- * The complexity of the work, and the level to which the relevant field of study has been mastered, are sufficient. Note that for multi-disciplinary research, this criterion should be carefully judged. As a minimum requirement, the complexity of at least one field should be on par with the level of a final year BEng or HonsBSc module, while the other fields should be at least at second-year level in their respective disciplines. The integration of the different fields should be at Master's level. ☐
- * The thesis shows an acceptable level of familiarity with the relevant research literature. ☐
- * The thesis shows an acceptable command of the relevant research method. ☐
- * The thesis shows an acceptable ability to interpret research results. ☐
- * A clear and systematic presentation of the material and logical exposition of the argument are presented. Proper documentation and support of the results of independent research are provided. ☐

I have attached a detailed report in which the thesis is discussed in terms of the above assessment criteria. ☐

RECOMMENDATIONS

My evaluation of the thesis is as follows (please select the relevant tick box):

First submission of the thesis:

- (a) The thesis satisfies all the assessment requirements. I have indicated minor changes and/or corrections, which should be completed to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s) before the final copy can be submitted to the Stellenbosch University archive. ☐
- (b) The thesis fails to satisfy some or all of the assessment requirements. I have indicated major changes and/or improvements, which must be completed before a mark can be awarded. The thesis can be improved once only, after which it has to be resubmitted to this examiner. ☐
- (c) The thesis fails to satisfy some or all of the assessment requirements. The work is fundamentally flawed. No re-submission is recommended. ☐

Second submission of the thesis:

- (d) After one re-submission, the thesis satisfies all the assessment requirements. I have indicated minor changes and/or corrections, which should be completed to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s) before the final copy can be submitted to the Stellenbosch University archive. ☐
- (e) After one re-submission, the thesis still fails to satisfy some or all of the assessment requirements. ☐

Awarding of a mark

- * Please follow the guidelines for marking, as stipulated in Table 1 below.
- * If (a), a mark of between 50 and 100 must be awarded.
- * If (b), no mark is awarded.
- * If (c), a mark of 40 must be awarded.
- * If (d), a mark of between 50 and 70 must be awarded.
- * If (e), a mark of 40 must be awarded.

I award the following mark for this thesis:

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SIGNATURE

Please select only one of the following options:

- * **All** of my comments may be made available to the candidate. ☐
- * **Only part** of my comments may be made available to the candidate, as indicated in the report. ☐
- * **None** of my comments may be made available to the candidate. ☐

NAME & SURNAME:

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

Table 1: Marking scheme for MEng/MEngSc(Research) theses

Outcome	Description	Mark	International equivalent			
		SU	USA	UK	DE	NL
Outstanding Large scope and high complexity and originality, presented at expert level	The thesis presented is a truly outstanding piece of work, beyond what is expected of a distinction, and essentially flawlessly presented. There is an exceptionally clear explanation and development of the argument with excellent judgement and significant originality of approach. The work makes a reasonable contribution to the knowledge in the field and the extent of the work is far beyond adequate. Typically one or more peer-reviewed publications in international journals or similar level conference proceedings are expected from the work. The work shows that the candidate <u>has the potential to be considered for PhD studies</u> .	85±	4.0 (A+)	1	1.0	10
Distinction Large scope or high complexity or originality, presented at a well-informed level	The thesis presented is an excellent piece of work. There is a clear explanation and development of the argument with sound judgement and originality of work. The work makes or has the potential to make a contribution and the extent of the work is more than adequate. The work shows that the candidate <u>has the potential to be considered for PhD studies</u> .	75+	3.5 (A-)	1	1.3	8.0
Good	A solid piece of work and there is indisputable evidence that the candidate has mastered the field of study. The work is not necessarily original but the work is adequate for completion of the degree. The work shows that the candidate <u>has the potential to be considered for PhD studies</u> .	68+	2.9 (B)	2.1	2.0	7.2
Fair	A fair piece of work had been presented and shows that the candidate has mastered the topic. However, the work, in particular the interpretation thereof, is limited and generally does not show originality. The candidate would <u>normally not be considered for PhD studies</u> based on this work.	62+	2.3 (C+)	2.2	2.7	6.5
Marginal pass	The thesis is marginally passable. The candidate passes his/her degree, but has reached his/her limits and must not be considered for post-graduate studies. Typically this outcome is reached after resubmission of the thesis or major revision of the thesis, however, this outcome may also be reached with minor changes.	50	1.1 (D)	3.0	4.0	6.0
Not passed – resubmission required	There are major concerns and the candidate is allowed one last chance to improve the thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners. A maximum outcome of a fair pass will be allocated after resubmission.					
Fail	The candidate has not shown that he/she is able to master the topic. The candidate fails the degree.	40	F	F	5.0	F