

MSc Project Marking Criteria Guidance

1. Project Marking Criteria

The marking criterial and their descriptors are summarised in the following table.

Range		TYPICAL DESCRIPTORS AND ATTRIBUTES				
		Technical Approach: Design and Knowledge	Testing, Evaluation and Understanding	Main Report and presentation	Project management, Professionalism and Reflection	Results and achievement
Distinction	91% - 100%	QUITE EXCEPTIONAL				
		Outstanding analysis (requirements, costs, benefits, constraints); design (simulation, modelling); implementation; use of an extensive range of tools and techniques;	Outstanding testing; critical and comparative evaluation; complete understanding of subject and relevance	Extremely well written, structured and formatted, no spelling or grammatical errors; Extensive review of related work and references as in a typical research paper; Abstract can be read independently	Outstanding planning, progress, time management, and contingency planning.	Outstanding: new, publishable results; Deployable, innovative product
	80% - 89%	ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION				
		Excellent analysis (requirements, cost, benefits, constraints), design (simulation, modelling); implementation; use of a wide range of tools and techniques	Excellent testing, critical and comparative evaluation; considerable understanding of subject	Very well written, structured and formatted, few spelling or grammatical errors; Review of related work, range of references including journal articles; Abstract can be read independently	Excellent planning, progress, time management, and contingency planning	Excellent results; innovation and creativity; probably publishable; usable product
	70% - 79%	EXCEPTIONAL FEATURES				
		Detailed analysis of requirements, costs and benefits; very well designed and implemented; use of simulation/modelling/prototyping and a range of tools and techniques	Very good testing, critical and comparative evaluation; Good understanding of subject and relevance.	Very well written, structured and formatted, review of related work including research papers	Very good planning, progress, time management, and contingency planning	Significant results; some innovation and; possibly publishable or worthy of utilisation
Merit	60% - 69%	A SOLID PRODUCT				
		Good technical skills, well designed and implemented, with adequate analysis/modelling	Well tested, good evaluation; fair understanding of the subject.	Well written, structured and formatted, review of related work, references to material used	Student worked well, planning and managing the work	All major goals achieved, possibly worth of utilisation
Pass	50% - 59%	CLOSE TO BRIEF				
		Adequate technical skills, adequately designed and implemented, some analysis and modelling	Adequate testing and evaluation; some understanding of subject.	Adequately written, structured and formatted, some background reading and references	Student worked steadily, needing guidance, the occasional lapse	Most major goals have been achieved
Fail	35% - 49%	SOME EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS				
		Adequate technical skills, but weaknesses in one of analysis, design, or implementation	Partial testing and evaluation; little understanding of subject	Adequately written but significant errors structure/format, some background reading.	Student worked sporadically, loss of morale and initiative	Some major goals have been achieved
	0% - 34%	LITTLE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS				
		Poor technical skills, weakness in or absence of analysis, design and implementation	Little testing or evaluation; no, or hardly any understanding	Poorly written and structured report, little evidence of background reading, poor or missing references.	Needed considerable supervision. Poor or no evidence of planning,	Little progress towards achieving project goals

2. Overall Project Mark

The purpose of this section is to provide general guidance on how to determine the range of the overall mark of the project based on the marking criteria above.

1. The project is normally awarded a Fail mark if it is awarded a failing mark in two or more of the criteria above.
2. The project is normally awarded a Pass mark if it is awarded a Pass mark or more in at least four of the criteria above.
3. The project is normally awarded a Merit mark if it is awarded a merit mark in three or more of the criteria above and has no fail marks in any of the remaining criteria.
4. The project is normally awarded a distinction mark if it is awarded a distinction mark in at least three or more of the criteria above and has no fail marks in any of the remaining criteria.