

GENERIC POSTGRADUATE MARKING CRITERIA

- 85-100%** Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:
- Publishable quality
 - Outstanding research potential
 - Ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project to the highest professional standards
 - Exceptional degree of creativity, originality and independence of thought
 - Ability to make informed judgements, develop original insights, and construct productive hypotheses in the absence of complete data
 - Highest professional standards of competence, expression and presentation (written, oral, visual)
 - Ability to assemble information from different sources to produce exceptionally well-organised and original answers
 - Ability to analyse data critically and formulate questions which lead to original lines of enquiry
 - Ability to evaluate critically existing methodologies and suggest new approaches to current research or professional practice
 - Flexibility of thought, and the ability to employ different approaches to the solution of highly complex and novel problems
 - Ability to evaluate published or publicly-presented work critically and to the highest professional standards
 - Penetrating analysis of primary sources of literature and information
 - A exceptionally high level of understanding of current research techniques and how they can be applied most effectively to investigate challenging new problems
 - Outstanding levels of accuracy and technical competence

- 70-85%** Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:
- Excellent research potential
 - Ability to plan, organise and execute independently a research project to a very high professional standard
 - Very high professional standards of competence, expression and presentation (written, oral, visual)
 - High degree of creativity, originality and independence of thought
 - Ability to assemble information from different sources to produce very well-organised and original answers
 - Ability to analyse data critically and formulate questions which may lead to productive lines of enquiry
 - Flexibility of thought, and the ability to employ different approaches to the solution of complex and novel problems
 - Ability to evaluate published or publicly-presented work critically and to a high professional standard
 - Ability to analyse primary sources of literature and information critically
 - Very high levels of accuracy and technical competence

N.B. Candidates who have achieved an overall average mark of not less than 70%, with at least 60% in each taught element/course-unit and the dissertation, may be eligible for the award of a distinction. Full details of the award regulations for individual postgraduate programmes are given in the College Regulations Handbook.

- 60-70%** Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:
- Very good professional standard of competence, expression and presentation (written, oral, visual)
 - Clear evidence of the potential to undertake original research given appropriate guidance and support
 - Evidence of some creativity, originality and independence of thought
 - Ability to assemble information from different sources to produce well-organised and insightful answers
 - Ability to analyse data critically
 - Flexibility of thought, and the ability to solve complex, though not entirely original problems
 - Some ability to evaluate published or publicly-presented work
 - Some ability critically to analyse primary sources of literature and information
 - Good degree of accuracy and technical competence

N.B. Candidates who have achieved an overall average mark of not less than 65%, with at least 55% in each taught element/course-unit and the dissertation, may be eligible for the award of a pass with merit. Full details of the award regulations for individual postgraduate programmes are given in the College Regulations Handbook.

- 50-60%** Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:
- Sound knowledge and understanding of the relevant literature and other key sources of information
 - Ability to produce satisfactory answers to problems and questions
 - Ability to construct coherent and relevant answer to questions, though with few signs of originality

- A competent professional standard of organisation and expression
- Ability to engage in research involving a moderate degree of originality, when provided with close supervision and support
- Satisfactory degree of competence and technical accuracy

40-50%

Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:

- Basic knowledge and understanding of some of the essential literature and other key sources of information, but answers are either incomplete or not entirely coherent
- Shows some grasp of the problem or topic but lacks clarity in written or oral presentation
- Little evidence of independent thought
- Little or no evidence of originality in answers
- Work which is just below an acceptable basic professional standard

N.B. The new College regulations prescribing the minimum requirements for a postgraduate award specify that, for the overall assessment of a postgraduate course-unit (or equivalent element), a mark in this category (i.e. 40-50%) indicates a 'marginal fail', which may be condonable subject to compensating strength of performance in other course units. Individual programmes may choose to impose requirements above this minimum and therefore treat this category as an outright 'fail'.

20-40%

Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:

- Fragmentary knowledge and understanding of the essential literature and other key sources of information, yielding answers which show only a limited degree of understanding
- Shows little grasp of the problem or topic, and lacks clarity in written or oral presentation
- Almost no evidence of independent or original thought
- Work that is clearly below an acceptable basic professional standard

0-20%

Work displaying some or all of the following features, depending on the nature of the assignment or task:

- Almost entirely lacking in evidence of knowledge and understanding of the essential literature and other key sources of information, yielding answers which, at best, show only the most rudimentary understanding of the question
- Shows almost no insight into the problem or topic
- Confused and incoherent written or oral presentation
- Totally devoid of independent or original thought
- Work that is far below an acceptable basic professional standard