

2.3B GRADE DESCRIPTORS

GRADE DESCRIPTORS FOR MA BY RESEARCH

Examiners are invited to consider a dissertation submitted for the award of **MA by Research** according to the following criteria, and to grade work in the following classifications according to their judgement as to whether the candidate has demonstrated:

70%+	D I S T I N C T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detailed familiarity with, and systematic understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities, • sophisticated analysis which is at the forefront of the academic discipline, or field of study • precise critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities • full capacity to deal with their subject in a highly professional and scholarly manner that evidences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research ○ advanced ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses ○ consistent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic • notable ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings persuasively to specialist and non-specialist audiences • fully coherent and organized presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)
60%+	M E R I T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broad familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities, • analysis which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, or field of study • sound critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities • capacity deal with their subject in a near-professional and scholarly manner that evidences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ very good/good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research ○ very good/good ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses ○ frequent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic • clear ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings well to specialist and non-specialist audiences • coherent and well organized presentation of material, at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

50%+	P A S S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities, that is satisfactory though not always comprehensive • analysis which is informed by, if not consistently aware of, the latest developments in the academic discipline, or field of study • a degree of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities • capacity to deal with their subject in a competent if not always professional manner that evidences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fair understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research ○ ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses ○ occasional originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic • fair ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences • reasonably coherent and organized presentation of material, usually at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)
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<50%	F A I L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited familiarity and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities • analysis which is seldom at or informed by the latest developments in the academic discipline, or field of study • lack of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities • limited capacity to deal with their subject in a competent professional manner, that evidences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ occasional misunderstandings of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research ○ reluctance or inability to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses when appropriate ○ little or no originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic • difficulties in carrying out independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and in communicating their findings clearly to specialist or non-specialist audiences • organization of material that is not consistently coherent, or presented at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by because of inconsistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)
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GRADE DESCRIPTORS FOR MSc BY RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

All students for the degree of MSc by research will have a viva with the internal and external examiners. Examiners are asked to grade dissertations submitted for the award of **MSc by Research** according to the following criteria. It is not necessary for the candidate to meet each criterion at the appropriate level in order to achieve the corresponding grade – slight weakness in one area may be balanced by strength in another. However, examiners should allow little flexibility regarding standards for understanding of the research subject, design of experiments, and analysis and interpretation of data.

70%+	D I S T I N C T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detailed familiarity with, and understanding of the chosen research subject • precise critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study • sophisticated analysis of current research issues in the field of study • excellent formulation of an hypothesis to address an important research issue • excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research • design and conduct of experiments that, if the chosen hypothesis were correct, would generate sufficient data to form the core of a publication/presentation in/at a good quality journal or conference • production of such data • excellent analysis of data, including appropriate statistics • excellent interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field • excellent analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work • notable ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings persuasively to specialist and non-specialist audiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully coherent and organized presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)
60%+	M E R I T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broad familiarity with, and understanding of the chosen research subject • sound critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study • sound analysis of current research issues in the field of study • very good/good formulation of an hypothesis to address a research issue • very good/good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research • design and conduct of experiments that, if the chosen hypothesis were correct, would generate sufficient data to contribute to a publication/presentation in/at a good quality journal or conference • production of such data • very good/good analysis of data, including appropriate statistics • very good/good interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field • very good/good analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work • clear ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings well to specialist and non-specialist audiences • coherent and well-organized presentation of material throughout, at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)

50%+	P A S S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiarity with, and understanding of the chosen research subject • a degree of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study • analysis of research issues in the field of study, which is informed by but not consistently aware of current knowledge • formulation of a reasonable hypothesis to address a research issue • fair understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research • design and conduct of experiments that, if the chosen hypothesis were correct, would generate data upon which others could build for a publications or conference presentations • fair analysis of data • fair interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field • fair analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work • fair ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings clearly • reasonably coherent and organized presentation of material, usually at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)
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<50%	F A I L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited familiarity with, and understanding of the chosen research subject • lack of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study • analysis of research issues in the field of study, which is seldom informed by current knowledge • failure to formulate a reasonable hypothesis to address a research issue • poor understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research • inability to design and conduct of experiments that, if the chosen hypothesis were correct, would generate data upon which others could build for a publications • poor analysis of data • poor interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field • poor analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work • difficulties in conducting research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and in communicating findings clearly • organization of material that is not consistently coherent, or presented at a near-professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)
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GRADE DESCRIPTORS FOR THE LLM BY RESEARCH

Examiners are invited to consider dissertations submitted for the award of LLM by Research according to the following criteria, and to grade work in the following classifications according to their judgement as to whether the candidate has demonstrated:

70%+	D I S T I N C T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed knowledge and sophisticated understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas. • High level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations. • Deep understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context. • Detailed familiarity with, and in-depth systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic. • Strong critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities. • Notable ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them. • High degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and a sophisticated articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed. • Notable ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences, as necessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research B. Advanced ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses C. Consistent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic. • Notable ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • Fully coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style).
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60%+	M E R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good knowledge and broad understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas. • Good level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations. • Good understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context. • Broad familiarity with, and good systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic. • Competent critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities. • Clear ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them. • A good degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and a good articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed. • Good ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences,
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	I T	<p>as necessary:</p> <p>A. Good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research</p> <p>B. Good ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses</p> <p>C. A good measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • A coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style).
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50%+	P A S S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and general understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas. • Some ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations. • Some understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context. • General familiarity with, and adequate systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic. • Some critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities. • Some ability to produce a fairly accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them. • A fair degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and some articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed. • Some ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences, as necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research B. Some ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses C. A small measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic. • Some ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • A coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style).
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<50%	F A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited knowledge and little understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas. • Poor level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations. • Limited to no understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context. • Little familiarity with, and poor systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic. • Little to no critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities.
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	<p>I</p> <p>L</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them. • A poor level of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and poor articulation of the reason for, and merit of, the research question addressed. • Little ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Little understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research B. Little to no ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses C. Little to no measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic. • Limited ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences. • A poorly organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional or equivalent level (e.g. a failure to consistently adhere to an established style guide or scholarly house style).
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