



Postgraduate Grade Descriptors

Documentation Management

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| 1.4 | Documentation Management table updated; amendment to formatting. | Head of Quality Assurance | July 2018 | N/A |
| 1.5 | Removed references to any level other than FHEQ | Head of Quality Assurance | August 2019 | N/A |

Generic Postgraduate Grade Descriptors (FHEQ Level 7)

These generic grade descriptors are intended to be used as a tool throughout the assessment process (in assessment design, marking/grading, moderation, feedback) for any assessment set at Masters level in the University. They are designed to show no disciplinary bias and are not intended to act as surrogate award or award classification descriptors. The grade descriptors should be read in conjunction with the learning outcomes associated with the assessment.

Presented work will demonstrate:

Grade A* (EXCEPTIONAL)

- work of exceptionally high quality, where appropriate, commensurate with publication or dissemination in an appropriate public domain.
- an advanced, critical and comprehensive understanding of the topic
- clear evidence of originality and development of an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation
- an exceptional ability to use appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis
- an exceptional ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely

Grade Band A (A+, A, A-) (EXCELLENT)

- an advanced, critical and comprehensive understanding of the topic
- evidence of originality and development of an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation
- an excellent ability to use appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis
- an excellent ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely

Grade Band B (B+, B, B-) (GOOD/VERY GOOD)

- a well-developed, critical and thorough understanding of the topic
- an ability to develop an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation
- a high standard of competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis
- an ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely

Grade Band C (C+, C, C-) (ACCEPTABLE)

- a critical and considerable understanding of the topic
- an ability to develop a logical or insightful argument or evaluation
- an acceptable standard of competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis at Masters-level
- an ability to communicate clearly and concisely

Grade Band D (D+, D, D-) (BELOW MASTERS THRESHOLD)

- some understanding of the topic
- some ability to develop a structured argument or evaluation
- some competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis, but not at Masters-level
- an ability to communicate clearly

Grade Band E (E+, E, E-) (UNSATISFACTORY)

- limited understanding of the topic with significant weaknesses or omissions
- limited ability to develop a structured argument or evaluation
- limited competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis
- some ability to communicate clearly

Grade F (UNACCEPTABLE)

- Work that is academically unacceptable and/or demonstrates no comprehension of the subject and is factually inaccurate or fails to meet key learning objectives/assessment specifications.

Grade NS (Non-Submission)

No work has been submitted for assessment.

Brunel University London Generic Postgraduate Grade Descriptors (FHEQ Level 7)

These generic grade descriptors are intended to be used as a tool throughout the assessment process (in assessment design, marking/grading, moderation, feedback) for any assessment set at Masters level in the University. They are designed to show no disciplinary bias and are not intended to act as surrogate award or award classification descriptors. The grade descriptors should be read in conjunction with the learning outcomes associated with the assessment.

| | A* EXCEPTIONAL | A+, A, A- EXCELLENT | B+, B, B- GOOD/VERY GOOD | C+, C, C- ACCEPTABLE | D+, D, D- BELOW THRESHOLD | E+, E, E- UNSATISFACTORY |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | <i>Work of exceptionally high quality; where relevant, commensurate with publication/dissemination in an appropriate public domain.</i> | | | | | |
| Understanding | a highly advanced, critical and comprehensive understanding of the topic | an advanced, critical and comprehensive understanding of the topic | a well-developed, critical and thorough understanding of the topic | a critical and considerable understanding of the topic | some of understanding of the topic | limited understanding of the topic with significant weaknesses or omissions |
| Originality (in development of an argument or evaluation) | clear evidence of originality and development of an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation | evidence of originality and development of an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation | an ability to develop an independent and logical or insightful argument or evaluation | an ability to develop a logical or insightful argument or evaluation | some ability to develop a structured argument or evaluation | limited ability to develop a structured argument or evaluation |
| Use of methodologies (incl relevant practices, tools, literature etc) | an exceptional ability to use appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis | an excellent ability to use appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis | a high standard of competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis | an acceptable standard of competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis at Masters- level | some competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis, but not at Masters-level | limited competence in the use of appropriate methodologies for analysis and synthesis |
| Communication | an exceptional ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely | an excellent ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely | an ability to communicate complex topics clearly and concisely | an ability to communicate clearly and concisely | an ability to communicate clearly | some ability to communicate clearly |

Grade F (UNACCEPTABLE) Work that is academically unacceptable and/or demonstrates no comprehension of the subject and is factually inaccurate or fails to meet key learning objectives/assessment specifications.

Grade NS (Non-Submission) No work has been submitted for assessment.