SGSSS-DTP Open Competition Award Marking Framework (2020/21) Assessment for 1+3 Awards

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Assessment for 1+3 Awards

	Candidate Record (OUT OF 10) **(Please note that the descriptors can be used with discretion where there is a good case to do so)**	**Research Proposal (OUT OF 10)** **(Please note that the descriptors can be used with discretion where there is a good case to do so)**	**Supervision & Training (OUT OF 5)**
Marking Criteria	**Candidate can demonstrate:** The achievement or expectation of a first class degree or equivalent AND/OR a Master's degree which does not meet the ESRC training requirements **Plus**	**Candidate can demonstrate:** An excellent proposal scoring well in terms of both cogency and originality. All components – overview, context, methodology, and impact – will be well thought out and clearly expressed. **Plus**	
10	Two exceptional references in which student is identified, for example, as amongst the very best ever encountered in terms of abilities and potential	Proposal is exceptionally good in all of its components and fulfils criteria 7-9 below	
9	As (8), but with one clearly exceptional reference in which student is identified, for example, as amongst best ever encountered in terms of abilities and potential	Proposal is highly original and innovative, at the cutting edge of developments substantively and methodologically and fulfils criteria 7 and 8 below	

8	Two very strong references in which student is, for example, singled out as amongst the best of a peer group encountered in terms of abilities and potential	Proposal contains clear awareness of the potential impact of the research and fulfils criterion 7 below	
7	Two strong references in which student potential is communicated with clear examples.	A well-defined proposal with researchable questions, appropriately identified sources, an awareness of the theoretical and empirical background to the research and an appropriate methodology cognisant of ethical issues. The proposal should display an awareness of the research of the economic and societal relevance feasible within 3 years of a funded PhD including appropriate risk assessment.	
	Candidate can demonstrate: The equivalent of a 2:1 degree AND/OR an already achieved Masters which does not meet the ESRC training requirements **Plus**	Candidate can demonstrate: A good and promising proposal but with identifiable weaknesses. Some, but not all, components of the proposal will be problematic, ill- expressed, or show a lack of knowledge. **Plus**	
6	Both references offer glimpses of strong potential but with little substance and few examples.	A good proposal with only minor but still identifiable weaknesses. The research question will be clear, the methodology appropriate and clearly presented, and most of the appropriate literature identified.	
5	Two minimally satisfactory references which make it clear student is capable of conducting research but little more.	A promising proposal that suffers from several weaknesses. The methodology is appropriate but ill-expressed. The proposal is only weakly grounded in relevant literature.	Supervision arrangements represent a near-perfect fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The supervisory team includes an experienced supervisor with recognised expertise in the field. The supervision combination meets directly the student's training needs. The destination HEI offers high-quality specialist training. The research fits well with the wider department/school/faculty.

4	A mixture of weak and satisfactory references which leave questions to student's suitability to conduct research.	A proposal with one serious weakness or several minor ones, which suggests gaps in knowledge and a weak grasp of the proposed methodology and its suitability.	Supervision arrangements represent a very good fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The lead supervisor is an experienced supervisor with a strong reputation for research in this field, and the combination of supervisors offers the student good training in the field. There is provision of advanced and specialist training and a broadly supportive research environment at the destination HEI.
3	Two weak references in which student potential is not communicated.	A proposal with significant weaknesses in multiple components, little appreciation of possible methodologies, and/or awareness of relevant literature.	Supervision arrangements represent a good fit with the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. The lead supervisor will be an expert in the field and the combination of supervisors will offer good support to the student. The HEI offers good general support and advanced training for the student.
2	The equivalent of EITHER a 2:2 degree AND an already achieved pass at Masters level (average mark of 50) which does not necessarily meet the ESRC training requirements **AND** clear evidence of additional experience or training that would bring the candidate up to the required level. DTP would be unlikely to consider applicants with academic scores below these levels.	A problematic proposal that would need considerable additional work before being fundable. All components of the proposal will require further work and/or demonstrate little or no background or interest in their subject.	Supervision arrangements are appropriate and the supervisor has experience in the area of the proposed research in relation to methods, substantive topic area and academic/policy networks. . The supervisory team offers good general support and the HEI offers some advanced training for the student.
1	The equivalent of EITHER a 2:2 degree **AND** an already achieved pass at Masters level (average mark of 50) which does not necessarily meet the ESRC training requirements **AND** clear evidence of additional experience or training that would bring the candidate up to the required level. DTP would be unlikely to consider applicants with academic scores below these levels.	A problematic proposal that would need considerable additional work before being fundable. All components of the proposal will require further work and/or demonstrate little or no background or interest in their subject.	Supervision arrangements and support offered by the HEI meet the threshold for ESRC recognised training on this pathway. Note: supervision arrangements below this threshold do not meet the ESRC training requirements and students should not be offered DTP funding on this basis.