

Appendix D

Rubric (Department guideline extract and annotated exemplar template) Example condensed rubric (short form):

Criterion	Excellent (16–20)	Satisfactory (12–15)	Revision required (10–11)
Research questions & objectives	Clear, novel, well-justified	Clear but limited in novelty	Absent or vague
Theoretical framework	Sophisticated integration, critical engagement	Present but descriptive	Absent or superficial
Methodology & analytic transparency	Appropriate, fully documented (appendices/coding logs)	Adequate description but some gaps	Major omissions, unclear procedures
Data & evidence	Robustly presented (tables/figures), logically connected to claims	Sufficient evidence, occasional gaps	Weak or missing evidence
Argument & contribution	Coherent, persuasive, clearly situated in literature	Reasonable argument, limited contribution	Fragmented, descriptive
Writing & presentation	Excellent academic writing, accurate referencing	Acceptable, minor language issues	Major language/presentation issues