

Project Assessment Scheme

Degree	%	Criteria
First Class	70-100	Extensively involved in the planning and execution of the research project. Excellent level of commitment shown. Very good laboratory practice and technical skills. Student requires little day-to-day supervision in the laboratory and works safely. Excellent literature review. Superior understanding of the subject area. Very well written and logical thesis with only very minor errors. Readable and interesting, even for the non-specialist. Concepts well thought out and data discussed critically. Recognises the limitations of the data. Shows an awareness of methodological problems. Conclusions are novel and often propose practical, specific actions to be taken in further studies. The written thesis is wholly the work of the student.
Upper Second Class	60-69	Has a good input into the planning of the project and is well organised in its execution. Good laboratory practice. Requires some help in the laboratory. Good literature review with a well-written thesis. Not necessarily original, but brings together existing information in an informed and often novel way. The student receives minor help during the write-up stages of the thesis and some guidance in the explanation of the results. Usually aware of the limitations of the project, with some ideas on how it might have been taken further. Good understanding of concepts. Project may potentially have been first class, but let down by weak conclusions or unwillingness to follow through on original plans. Very good level of commitment to project work.
Lower Second Class	50-59	Has limited input into the planning of the project and performs adequately in its execution. Requires substantial help in the laboratory and takes some time to grasp techniques and concepts. The student relies greatly on the literature provided by the supervisor. Competent written thesis with input from the supervisor. Literature review may be wide ranging, but the material is selected uncritically and key texts are sometimes ignored. Basic level of understanding. Good level of commitment to project work.
Third Class	40-49	Required extensive help in the planning and execution of the project. Literature review poor, utilising few recent publications. May try to exaggerate the bibliography by citing many papers from a single edited collection. Few results obtained because of bad organisation in the laboratory, or in the field. Thesis report shows limited grasp of concepts. The student is unable to explain the results adequately without extensive input from the supervisor. Report may contain many minor errors and irrelevant arguments. Weak or non-existent conclusions. Adequate level of commitment to project work.
Fail	<40	Little attempt to plan and execute the project. Poor record of attendance. Very poor literature collection, which is inadequately utilised in the thesis. Very few experiments completed. Thesis requires to be rewritten to fulfil requirements for a pass. Very poor commitment to project work and report writing.