

LISS DTP Open Competition – Assessment Criteria for the Full Review Stage

Student Research Potential

(weighted 60% for 1+3.5; 40% for +3.5)

As evidenced in the suitability statement, academic references; academic transcripts, degree results, and other credentials such as prizes, academic awards or publications; and, where appropriate, professional qualifications and/or relevant experience. Some candidates may have developed relevant and rounded expertise in research methods in other contexts, and panels may decide that this broadly equivalent background is sufficient.

Scientific Quality of Proposal

(weighted 40% for 1+3.5, 60% for +3.5)

Relevant questions to consider include:

- Does the proposal have a clear research question(s) and proposed methodologies/strategy to answer the question(s)?
- Is the proposal clear and well-written?
- Is the proposed work plan achievable in a 3.5-year PhD degree/1-year Masters + 3.5 year PhD?
- Does the proposed research fill a gap in existing literature and offer an individual contribution/potential for contribution to knowledge in its field?
- Does the proposal demonstrate the broader impact / social value of the research?
- Is the proposed research interdisciplinary?
- Is the proposed research data driven?
- Does the proposed research fit within the strategic priorities of the department and institution where the applicant will be based, the fit of the project with LISS DTP's remits, and the fit with the remit of the ESRC?

Please go to the next page for information about the criteria for our application grading.

Score	Student Research Potential	Scientific Quality of Proposal
6 Outstanding	Exceptional demonstration of progress through school and university education (1st in undergraduate degree, distinction in Masters if applicable); top-class relevant degree(s) from departments renowned in the student's field of study; awards/prizes for academic achievement; publication of student's research, additional research experience (professional or academic)	Proposed research is of exceptional merit and will make a very considerable scientific contribution and greatly enhance the research environment of the host department/research group.
5 Excellent	Excellent demonstration of progress through school and university education (1st in undergraduate degree, distinction in Masters if applicable); top-class relevant degree(s); awards/prizes for academic achievement OR additional research experience (professional or academic).	Proposed research is of significant merit and very likely to make an important scientific contribution and enhance the research environment of the host department/research group
4 Very Good	Very good demonstration of progress through school and university education (1st or 2:1 with evidence of first class work in undergrad, distinction or merit in Master's if applicable); relevant degree; possible, additional research experience (professional or academic)	Proposed research is of merit and likely to make an important scientific contribution and enhance the research environment of the host department/research group.
3 Good	Good performance through school and university education (1st or 2:1, merit in Master's if applicable); relevant degree from a department relevant to the student's field of study; possibly some evidence of additional research or relevant work experience.	Proposed research is of some merit and has potential to make a scientific contribution and enhance the research environment of the host department/research group
2 Marginal	Good performance through school and university education (1st or 2:1, merit in Master's if applicable); relevant degree from a department relevant to the student's field of study; possibly some evidence of additional research or relevant work experience.	Proposed research is of some merit and has potential to make a scientific contribution and enhance the research environment of the host department/research group.
1 Reject	Partially relevant degree (e.g. joint honours); no other redeeming indicators of academic achievement; experience limited to undergraduate projects; pass grades obtained.	Proposed research is not worthy of scarce funding and will not make a scientific contribution or enhance the research environment of the host department/research group