Schedule 1: Research dissertation assessment criteria in disciplines with an empirical emphasis

H1: HD+ (90–100):
An outstanding dissertation in a challenging or difficult area; demonstrating:
• Excellence in terms of conceptualisation, theoretical framework or previous experimental research leading to derivation of hypotheses as described in the introduction
• the use of rigorous or innovative methodology
• A mastery of statistical methods and presentation of results
• The capacity to discuss the results in an analytic manner
• Skilful treatment of unexpected or inconsistent results, or a recognition of some limitation of the methodology, and integration of the findings within the theoretical framework or empirical background outlined in the introduction or an alternative framework if appropriate
• Outstanding written expression, organisation, format and documentation

H1: HD- (80–89):
As for HD+ but with some minor weakness, such as in the presentation or structure, or some minor inconsistency or oversight in the arguments, or a discussion that does not fully exploit the findings or links with theory or previous empirical research. Excellent written expression, organisation, format and documentation.

H2A: D+ (75–79):
For a dissertation showing excellence in one or two aspects of conceptualisation, methodology, statistical analysis or discussion, but no particular strengths elsewhere, or for a generally sound dissertation with some weaknesses or flaws which are offset by some excellent features. Very good written expression; correct format and documentation.

H2A: D- (70–74):
For a consistently sound dissertation with well-structured arguments leading to development of the hypothesis, appropriate methodology and statistical treatments and an accurate interpretation of the results, but with no particular strengths elsewhere. Good written expression; correct format and documentation.

H2B: CR (60–69):
For a dissertation with minor misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions in one or more areas, or poor organisation or incorrect interpretation of the results, or an inability to recognise the limitations of the methodology, but otherwise sound. The misconceptions are such that they do not affect the basic tenor of the dissertation or its conceptual impact. Coherent written expression and correct format and documentation.

H3: Pass (50–59):
For a dissertation containing major misconceptions, inconsistencies or omissions, and/or unrecognised deficiencies in methodology, and/or misinterpretation of the statistical analysis and/or lack of integration with theoretical or empirical framework.

Fail: (<50):
For a dissertation with decisive problems in conceptualisation or execution, or inability to present arguments coherently and with clarity.