Descriptor	Grade Band	Mark Range	Typical Mark	Description
Outstanding (85-100)	Distinction – Highest	93-100	93 or 100	Outstanding attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category clearly and consistently surpasses normal expectations, in terms of scholarship, for the relevant level of study. Work in this category typically meets the expectations of 'excellent' work and also: introduces original ideas and insights, based on in-depth research from the placement and the literature, or uses first-hand research to formulate a particularly insightful or critical analytical point; is comprehensive (relative to the level of study) in its identification of relevant (in terms of breadth or depth) literature; is uniquely perceptive at evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; draws on an exceptional range (or depth) of detailed examples or case studies from the placement or the research; integrates the student's own approach within wider scholarly frameworks; is exceptionally well written; is referenced to a professional standard.
	Distinction – Outstanding	85-92	88	
Excellent (70-84)	Distinction – High	80-84	82	Excellent attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: has excellent direct focus on the question; engages directly and in-depth with relevant themes from the module/course; has excellent structure and organisation of material; reflects superior analytical and reasoning skills; makes a clear and convincing argument of the student's own, based on research from the placement and the literature, or uses first-hand research to formulate an insightful or critical analytical point; identifies and accurately discusses the most relevant literature; convincingly evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; makes excellent use of appropriate, fully referenced and detailed examples or case studies from the placement or the research; contains very few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is clearly and fluently written.
	Distinction – Mid	75-79	77	
	Distinction – Low	70-74	72	
Good to Very Good (60-69)	Merit – High	67-69	68	Good to very good attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: has good direct focus on the question; engages directly with relevant themes from the module/course; has good structure and organisation of material; reflects good analytical and reasoning skills; makes a clear argument of the student's own, based on research carried out during the placement, or uses first-hand research to formulate an analytical point; identifies and accurately discusses a good range of relevant literature; successfully evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of its sources; arguments are illustrated with reference to well documented, detailed and relevant examples or case studies from the placement or the research; contains few referencing errors; follows all presentation requirements; is written clearly in a comprehensible way.
	Merit – Mid	64-66	65	
	Merit – Low	60-63	62	
Satisfactory (50-59)	Pass – High	57-59	58	Satisfactory attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: engages directly with the question; reflects knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; makes an attempt to structure and organise the material (which may be more effective at the higher end of the grade band and less effective at the lower end); directly or indirectly suggests an argument, with some reference to research carried out during the placement, or uses some first-hand research to formulate an analytical point; contains satisfactory analysis and reasoning; contains accurate discussion of some relevant sources, which may or may not include reflection on strengths and weaknesses; identifies some appropriate examples or case studies from the placement or the research, but these may not be fully documented or detailed; shows knowledge of appropriate referencing practice but this may be inconsistently applied; follows most presentation requirements; is written in a generally comprehensible way, though may contain writing errors.
	Pass – Mid	54-56	55	
	Pass – Low	50-53	52	

Weak (45-49)	Fail – Borderline	45-49	47	Weak attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: engages directly or indirectly with the question; reflects limited knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; has weak structure and organisation of material; does not build a clear argument in a successful way; does not adequately draw on research carried out during the placement and/or first-hand research; contains weak analysis and reasoning; identifies some relevant literature/sources, though there may be errors in accuracy; is limited in its evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of sources; identifies examples or case studies from the placement or research, which may have limited relevance and/or be weakly developed; shows some knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; follows some presentation requirements; may be unclearly written.

Poor (20-44)	Fail – High	40-44	42	Poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: does not engage with the question, though it may attempt to answer a different question; reflects very limited knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; is poorly structured and organised; does not build a clear argument; does not draw on research carried out during the placement and/or first-hand research; contains poor (or little) analysis and reasoning; shows little awareness of relevant examples; identifies and discusses few relevant sources (and/or contains significant errors in accuracy and understanding); may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material or does not draw on material from the placement or research; may show limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that noticeably undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
	Fail – Mid	30-39	35	
	Fail – Low	20-29	25	
Very Poor (1-19)	Bad Fail	1-19	15	Very poor attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: does not engage with a clear question; reflects almost no knowledge of relevant themes from the module/course; is very poorly structured and organised; contains no argumentation, analysis or reasoning; does not draw on any research carried out during the placement and/or first-hand research; shows very poor awareness of relevant examples; identifies and discusses no relevant sources (and/or contains no significant evidence of accuracy and understanding); may contain a significant amount of irrelevant material or fail to draw on any material from the placement or research; may show very limited knowledge of appropriate referencing practice; may be deficient in length against the word count to an extent that significantly undermines its scholarly quality; may be extremely unclearly written and/or presented.
Absence of Positive Qualities (0)	Zero	0	0	No demonstrable attainment of module and/or course learning outcomes. A dissertation in this category typically: has not been submitted; is not the coursework that has been assigned; has been submitted after the late-penalty period has elapsed; and/or has had a penalty applied for major academic misconduct.