

UNIGIS: MSc in Geographical Information Systems
Grade Descriptors for MSc Dissertation

	Structure and Layout	Methods, Techniques, Research Design and Originality	Analysis, critical thinking, scientific content and Application
DISTINCTION (70% +)	Excellent and appropriate structure. Good use and design of visual elements. Clean and intuitive layout and readable narrative. Effective use of graphical aids, tables and screenshots (where applicable). Well documented programme code or design of interface (GUI)	Excellent, well designed, appropriate and justified methods. Well considered and efficient experimental design. Strong level of originality with a critical assessment that makes full use of appropriate literature. Excellent programming code/software implementation skills	Excellent discussion of the data and results – considered in relation to a wider body of peer review literature. A full and extensive exploration of the data yielding critical appraisal of the findings and where new knowledge in the field is acquired. Effective implementation of IT or programming tools developed. Fully working systems.
MERIT (60 – 69%)	Very good and appropriate structure. Appropriate use and design of visual elements. Clean and intuitive layout and readable narrative. Effective use of graphical aids, tables and screenshots (where applicable). Documented programme code with effective interface design (GUI)	Very good, well designed, and appropriate methods. Strong and appropriate experimental design. Evidence of some originality with a critical assessment of the methods used throughout. Good programming code/software design with attempt to implement.	Very good discussion of the data and results – with some effective use of peer review literature. A full exploration of the data yielding a critical appraisal of the findings. Evidence of advanced understanding of the material and its implications. Partial implementation of IT or programming tools developed. Partial system operation
PASS (50 – 59%)	Appropriate structure. Fair use and design of visual elements. Adequate layout and structure. Some use of graphical aids, tables and screenshots (where applicable). Evidence or having written programme code and/or basic interface (GUI) system	Appropriate methods. Adequate experimental design. Some critical assessment of the methods used but with limited use of literature. Adequate programming code/software design with potential for a working model.	An adequate discussion of the data and results – with some limited use of peer review literature. An exploration of the data yielding a fair appraisal of the findings. Potential implementation of IT or programme code although without a partially operating model.
MARGINAL FAIL (45 – 49%)	Poor structure. Limited use and design of visual elements. Poor layout and structure. Limited use of graphical aids, tables and screenshots (where applicable). Poor program code with limited potential functionality and no indicative GUI/interface	Some inappropriate methods. Limited experimental design. Only little critical assessment of the methods used but with very limited use of literature. Poor programming code/software design unsuitable for implementation	Poor discussion of the data and results – with very limited use of peer review literature. A poor exploration of the data yielding a limited appraisal of the findings. Programming code or IT system not operational at all with little chance of even partial success
FAIL (Less than 45%)	Inappropriate structure. Very limited and inappropriate use and design of visual elements. Incorrect layout and structure. Little or no use of graphical aids, tables and screenshots (where applicable). No program code or GUI design	Entirely inappropriate methods. Seriously flawed experimental design. No critical assessment of the methods used and no use of literature. Lack of programming code or software design plans.	Little discussion of the data and results – with little or no use of peer review literature. A poor exploration of the data yielding a limited appraisal of the findings. A lack of understanding of the data and findings. To attempt at even partial implementation of IT system or computer model