

STUDENT NAME:  SU NUMBER:

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

PROPOSED TOPIC:

PhD START DATE:   PART-TIME  FULL-TIME

**UPGRADE DETAILS (if applicable):**

M START DATE:

LATEST ALLOWED  
COMPLETION DATE:

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**A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Before a student can register successfully for a PhD, a full Research Proposal, and corresponding Executive Summary, have to be approved by a Candidature Panel. Students who qualify for this are those who already hold a Master's degree, as well as current Master's students who have been identified by their supervisor(s) as having the potential to be upgraded to a PhD.

As a member of the panel, you are requested to evaluate these documents in terms of the set of requirements below.

If the process is part of an application for an upgrade from a Master's degree to a PhD (indicated in the covering letter which accompanies the set of documents you received, as well as in the project details above), you are asked additionally to evaluate the upgrade in a separate section, according to the given set of requirements. An oral evaluation will be scheduled after receipt of your evaluation form.

In addition to completing the form, you are invited to provide free-form written comments, which you can submit together with this form. This is not mandatory, but is helpful in cases where the student needs to re-submit the proposal. Alternatively, a commented copy of the proposal may also be submitted.

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**B. EVALUATION: UPGRADE TO PhD (if applicable)**

After reading the motivation by the supervisor(s), the Research Proposal, the Executive Summary, and a copy of at least one submitted or published paper, I am of the opinion that: (please tick all the relevant boxes)

- The research work contains substantial original material, which has already been published, or is publishable.
  - The work is of such a high quality that a substantial part of it can form part of a PhD dissertation.
  - The scope of the work can be extended to the expected levels for a PhD.
  - The additional work can be completed within the allowed time (as stipulated above).
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### **C. EVALUATION: RESEARCH PROPOSAL AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

After reading the Research Proposal and Executive Summary, I am of the opinion that: *(please tick all relevant boxes)*:

- The student has satisfactorily demonstrated background knowledge appropriate for the study.
- The student has satisfactorily demonstrated research capabilities appropriate for the study.
- Satisfactory expected original contributions are explained in the research proposal.
- A satisfactory exposition of the literature relevant to the PhD studies, as well as a synthesis and evaluation of the most important themes found in the literature, are given in the research proposal.
- The research methodology is aligned with the study's objectives in the research proposal and is satisfactory.
- The research proposal gives a broad time schedule for the study (typically in terms of 4 to 10 activities, with a short description of the focus of each) that is reasonable.
- The research proposal gives a clear explanation of the infrastructure (software, equipment, laboratories, operating costs, etc.) necessary to complete the study, as well as reasonable arrangements to provide it.
- The critical self-evaluation by the student of progress made to date and of his/her research capabilities given in the research proposal is satisfactory.
- The supervisor and co-supervisor(s) (if applicable) have expertise appropriate for the study.
- The Executive Summary is an accurate summary of the Research Proposal.
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### **D. RECOMMENDATION**

(a) If an application is for an upgrade, I recommend that: *(please tick **only one** box)*:

- The Master's programme be upgraded to a PhD, the Research Proposal and Executive Summary be accepted, and that the student be allowed to register for a PhD with the proposed research topic and supervision. Small changes which I may have indicated, should be made to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s). (Only if all boxes in B and C were marked)
- The Master's programme be upgraded to a PhD, but that the Research Proposal and/or Executive Summary require major changes, and should be re-submitted (only if all boxes in B were marked).
- The Master's programme NOT be upgraded to a PhD.
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(b) If not an application for an upgrade, I recommend that: *(please tick **only one** box)*:

- The Research Proposal and Executive Summary be accepted, and that the student be allowed to register for a PhD with the proposed research topic and supervision. Small changes which I may have indicated, should be made to the satisfaction of the supervisor(s) (only if all boxes in C were marked).
- The Research Proposal and/or Executive Summary require major additional work, and should be re-submitted.
- The student NOT be allowed to continue with the PhD.
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### **SIGNATURE**

NAME:

DATE:

SIGNATURE: