**MASTER BY RESEARCH PROGRAMME PRELIMINARY REPORT FORM**

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| Name of Candidate |  |
| ID number |  |
| Title of Dissertation |  |
| Name of Supervisor |  |
| Name of co-Supervisor/s  (if applicable) |  |

*Note: Please note that upon approval of the examiners’ joint recommendation, a compiled report will be made available to the candidate. It is therefore essential that the form is completed as fully and clearly as possible as it provides important feedback to the candidate on his/her dissertation and performance in the oral examination and overall degree.*

**SECTION 1: REPORT ON DISSERTATION**

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| **Name of Chair** |  |
| **Name of Examiner 1** |  |
| **Name of Examiner 2** |  |

*1.1 Dissertation Mark*

**Complete Document 382 ‘Academic Research Grading Rubric’.** The below table provides the grading categories.

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| ***Grading of Dissertation*** | |
| % Mark | Classification |
| 49% or less | Unclassified |
| 50% to 64% | Pass |
| 65% to 79% | Merit |
| 80% and over | Distinction |

*1.2 Comments about Dissertation*

The parts in blue are for examiners’ guidance purposes.

*LO1: Identify and argue the main area of study and theme being researched*

In this section, the Student is expected to state clearly, if applicable:

* Introduction (introduction to the research topic and themes)
* Description of Theme and Topic Rationale
* Positioning and background to this research theme
* Clarifying the research topic and strong justification for your particular study
* Rationale of the study
* Aims and objectives of this study
* Dissertation structure

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| **Examiner comments:** |

*LO2: Critically evaluate literature review on the selected research topic*

In this section, the Student is expected to state clearly, if applicable:

* Introduction section
* Literature from peer reviewed journals, possible reference books according to the subject chosen (Distinguish between academic and non-academic material)
* Identify literature gaps, if any
* Contextualised literature and research material or the gap thereof
* Develop the critical literature review (not just previewing and annotating but also comparing and contrasting)
* Construct a Literature Map

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| **Examiner comments:** |

*LO3: Justify the adoption of the chosen research methodology and propose correct methods of data enquiry by outlining the data creation/collection plan, and draw up a Research Project Plan*

In this section, the Student is expected to state clearly, if applicable:

* Introduction section
  + Brief paragraph on what the chapter will present
* Study design
  + Research philosophy of the study (e.g. positivist, interpretivist, etc) – include research onion, methodology (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, mixed-methods)
* Data collection tools
  + Selection of data collection instrument
  + Description of data collection instrument
  + Design of data collection instrument
* Setting
  + The setting where the study was conducted
* Participant recruitment and data collection
  + How were participants chosen?
* Study population
  + The type of participants that were chosen
  + Inclusion and Exclusion criteria
* Participant sampling and sample size
  + Sampling technique (e.g. random sample and how, convenience, purposive, etc), how was bias minimised.
* Sample size
  + How was the sample size calculated?
* Pilot study
  + How was the pilot study conducted, on how many participants and why?
* Data collection
  + How was data collected?
* Data handling and analysis
  + The type of analysis carried out, the software use, support of a statistician, etc
* Quality assessment
  + Validity, reliability, trustworthiness

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| **Examiner comments:** |

*LO4: Analyse data and interpret findings from the data collected, draw up tangible conclusions*

In this section, the Student is expected to state clearly, if applicable:

* An excellent evaluation, analysis and interpretation of results. Such analysis, interpretation and evaluation are rigorously proven. Excellent investigation between existing results and literature presented in previous sections.
* Analysis of results (Response rate, Demographic Data, Results related to the data collection tool)
* E.g. of Quantitative results:
  + Descriptive statistics, e.g. frequencies, mean, median, etc
  + Internal consistency
  + Factor analysis
  + Associations
  + Regression
  + Content analysis
  + Etc
* E.g. of Qualitative results:
  + Themes
  + Sub-themes
  + Direct anonymous quotes
  + Comments
  + Etc
* This section also includes critical discussion about the Student’s findings and shows how these findings support the original objectives laid out for the dissertation, which may be partially or fully achieved, or even exceeded. The Student may also include new areas of an investigation prompted by developments in the research dissertation. Above all, it is required to present strong arguments which show how findings may offer a valid contribution to the development of the subject of the selected research area or issues related to it.
  + Key findings
  + Critical analysis of key findings and comparison with key literature
* An excellent good final research/artefact was developed. Creativity and rigorousness was observed throughout implementation phase. The final artefact was presented in a workshop and write up journal article.
* An impeccable discussion of results with very concise and clear arguments.
  + Impact of key findings

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| **Examiner comments:** |

*LO5: Evaluate main ethical & implementation research issues encountered, key limitations, and recommendations for further research*

* Ethical considerations and approval
  + Ethical requirements, approval (and copy included as appendix)
* Applicability of the findings
* Recommendations (e.g. for national stakeholders and policymakers, academia, other researchers, etc)
* Limitations of the study
* Future research
* References
* A very good to excellent understanding and application of approved referencing framework (ie Harvard style). Very few evident mistakes were found.
* Bibliography
* Appendix

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| **Examiner comments:** |

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| **Examiner** | **Full Name** | **Mark** | **Signature** | **Date** |
| Examiner |  |  |  |  |