

Assessment Item	FAIL / insufficient	PASS/fair	PASS/good	PASS/excellent
<b>Motivation and Background</b>	No attempt is made at the work or, a cursory attempt is made that fails to cover the literature provided by the proposer or does not demonstrate even superficial understanding of the relevant literature to the extent that the understanding of the project is doubtful.	A title, brief relevant motivation statement and technically correct summary of the essential literature are provided. Some aspects of the literature review may be vague, incorrect in details or demonstrate limited understanding but there is sufficient understanding to make a start.	As fair but the depth of understanding of the literature is more extensive and correct in detail OR there has been a significant effort to extend the literature beyond that initially provided by the proposer	As good but BOTH the depth and extent of the literature review are excellent.
<b>Method / Approach</b>	It is not clear to the reader what the research methodology to be used will be	The methodology is described in sufficient detail to understand what the research approach will be and why it is relevant to the topic. It may be fairly high level and lack a wider appreciation of alternative methods. A basic evaluation plan is in place.	As fair but the evaluation criteria will be more convincing and the expected outcomes clearly defined.	As good but the methodology will be more robustly described with consideration of alternative approaches and a convincing argument provided for the best approach for the research. Otherwise all aspects will be convincing.
<b>Research Plan</b>	The research plan does not describe a coherent plan of work for the projects or ignores any obvious risks.	The workplan contains a breakdown of the project into three or more tasks with an approximate timeline, at least one milestone and a Gantt chart. The plan will be broadly sound but may contain minor inconsistencies. The risk analysis is present but likely not fully developed.	As fair but the workplan is more fully developed with no major inconsistencies and the risk/mitigation plan, dependencies and needed resources are more mature	The implementation plan is comprehensive in every respect and very convincing.
<b>Responsible Research</b>	The assessment of the ethical implications of the research is missing or is not sufficient.	Ethics at a minimum have been considered appropriately for the project. There is a wider consideration of some other aspects of responsible research such as a data management plan or software license scheme.	As fair but the wider aspects of responsible research have been comprehensively addressed with all relevant aspects described competently.	As good but the the analysis of responsible research shows a more impressive depth of understanding with potentially new areas identified by the student.
<b>References</b>	Citations and/or references are incorrect or missing	Citations and literature are mostly cited correctly	Literature and citations are correct	n/a

To pass, all 5 aspects should achieve a PASS/fair mark.

A good or excellent in any section can compensate for a single fail/insufficient