	Applicant	Project	Environment	Completion feasibility < 3.5 years
5	Grade profile is in top 5% of their cohort. Publications if appropriate for career stage. Academic prizes. Excellent references. Knowledge and competence of data analytic tools across quantitative and qualitative methods evidenced in the application. Relevant work experience.	Project is original, research design is robust. The proposal demonstrates scholarly excellence with a firm grounding in the relevant background research. All phases of the project and training requirements specified. Potential wider significance in terms of impact and or knowledge exchange. Potential to contribute to society and economy through high quality outputs	Supervisory team has track record of supporting doctoral students to completion **in the area in** which the proposal is located. Evidence of capacity building in relation to student publications and future development. Clearly articulated training plan and targeted training/placement activities demonstrating an understanding of the ESRC's guidelines	Highly likely
4	Grade profile is in top 10% of their cohort. Four of: 1. Publications if appropriate for career stage. 2. Academic prizes. 3. Excellent references. 4. Knowledge and competence of data analytic tools across quantitative and qualitative methods evidenced in the application. 5. Relevant work experience.	Project is original, research design is robust. The proposal demonstrates scholarly excellence with a firm grounding in the relevant background research. Potential wider significance in terms of impact and/or knowledge exchange.	Supervisory team has track record of supporting doctoral students to completion **in the area in** which the proposal is located. Evidence of capacity building in relation to student publications and future development. Detailed training plan and training/placement activities demonstrating an understanding of the ESRC's guidelines	Likely
3	Grade profile is in top 25% of their cohort. Three of: 1. Publications if appropriate for career stage. 2. Academic prizes. 3. Excellent references. 4. Knowledge and competence of data analytic tools across quantitative and qualitative methods evidenced in the application. 5. Relevant work experience.	Project is original, research design is robust. The proposal demonstrates scholarly excellence with a grounding in the relevant background research.	Team track record of supporting doctoral students to completion in the areas related to the proposal. Evidence of development of previous doctoral students. Outline training plan with reference to the ESRC guidelines.	Requires improvement
2	Three of: 1. Publications if appropriate for career stage. 2.Academic prizes. 3. Excellent references. 4.. Knowledge and competence of data analytic tools across quantitative and qualitative methods evidenced in the application. 5.. Relevant work experience.	The project is clearly presented, provides evidence of originality and methodological sophistication with an understanding of current literature in the field.	Some experience of doctoral supervision in the area. Training plan in place but details underspecified	Unclear
1	Two of: 1. Publications if appropriate for career stage. 2. Academic prizes. 3. Excellent references. 4. Knowledge and competence of data analytic tools across quantitative and qualitative methods evidenced in the application.5. Relevant work experience.	Project lacks originality and/or research design insufficiently specified	Some experience of doctoral supervision but not directly related to the topic. Training plan does not go much beyond generic. Underspecified research plan.	Not likely