

Annex C: Overall Excellence Score Definitions

	Score	Usual Indicators
Excellent quality proposal	10	The proposal is outstanding and represents world-leading standards. Highest priority for funding.
	9	The proposal is excellent and represents world-class standards. Very high priority for funding.
	8	The proposal is very good and contains aspects of excellence. High priority for funding.
Good quality proposal	7	The proposal is good and is internationally competitive. Should be funded if possible.
	6	The proposal is good and on the borderline between nationally and internationally competitive. Potentially fundable.
	5	The proposal is good and has some merit but is not at the leading edge. It is suitable for funding in principle but in a competitive context is not a priority.
Potentially useful proposal	4	The proposal is good and has some merit but has a number of weaknesses. Not recommended for funding.
	3	The proposal is satisfactory. It would provide something useful but fails to provide reasonable evidence and justification for funding. Not recommended for funding.
Unacceptable proposal	2	The proposal is weak and has only a few strengths. Not suitable for funding.
	1	The proposal is unsatisfactory and is unlikely to train students successfully. Not suitable for funding.
	0	For special cases, e.g. flawed in approach, subject to serious difficulties, does not address operational risks, sufficiently un-clearly written so it cannot be properly assessed, or outside of NERC remit.