

Categorizing student performance levels

GEOL0036 – Advanced Biodiversity & Macroevolutionary Patterns

Excellent is the performance expected of students gaining a First class honours (MSci) or Distinction (MSc). Typical is the performance currently expected of students at the Lower/Upper Second class boundary (MSci) or 60% (MSc). Threshold is the minimum performance currently required to gain an honours degree (MSci) or masters degree (MSc).

Definitions	Excellent performance	Typical performance	Threshold performance
Intellectual skills -knowledge and understanding	In need of little guidance and supervision to carry out a full term of research into a palaeobiological question	In need of moderate guidance and supervision to carry out a full term of research into a palaeobiological question	In need of constant guidance and supervision to carry out a full term of research into a palaeobiological question
	Highly developed ability to tackle open-ended palaeobiological research questions, contributing to real research projects	Ability to tackle open-ended palaeobiological research questions, contributing to real research projects	Basic ability to tackle open-ended palaeobiological research questions, contributing to real research projects
	Highly developed ability to cope with problems arising during the research and adapt the methodology accordingly	Ability to cope with problems arising during the research and adapt the methodology accordingly	Basic ability to cope with problems arising during the research and adapt the methodology accordingly
	Thorough understanding of the resources (databases, analytical methods etc.) used during the research project, and a clear perception of the workings of the methods used	Understanding of the resources (databases, analytical methods etc.) used during the research project, and a clear perception of the workings of the methods used	Basic understanding of the resources (databases, analytical methods etc.) used during the research project, and a clear perception of the workings of the methods used
Practical skills	Strong familiarity with the use of museum collections, online and library databases and the use of the research literature.	Familiarity with the use of museum collections, online and library databases and the use of the research literature.	Basic familiarity with the use of museum collections, online and library databases and the use of the research literature.
Communication skills	Ability to write critically, efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write efficiently and effectively.	Ability to write effectively.
	Strong ability to work as an individual, and in groups	Ability to work as an individual and in groups	Basic ability to work as an individual and in groups
Numeracy and C & IT skills	Highly developed ability to carry out research analyses on their own without	Ability to carry out research analyses on their own without detailed guidance	Basic ability to carry out research analyses on their own without detailed

	detailed guidance from the supervisors	from the supervisors	guidance from the supervisors
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