

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2338202 DCU 17116384 Charles 93393701
Dissertation Title	Unwelcome Chinese Economic, Political, and Military Influence: How Australia Serves as an Example in Combating Chinese Influence

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade <i>For internal use only</i>	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade <i>For internal use only</i>	Late Submission Penalty <i>no penalty</i>
Word Count Penalty (1 UofG grade point per 500 words below/above the min/max word limit +/- 10%)		
Word Count: 21,992 Suggested Penalty: no penalty		

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).	
Before Penalty: C2 [13]	After Penalty: C2 [13]

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
A. Structure and Development of Answer	
This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• <i>Originality of topic</i>	Good
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Satisfactory
B. Use of Source Material	
This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• <i>Evidence of reading and review of published literature</i>	Good
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
C. Academic Style	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Good
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Yes

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The student addresses a topic of growing centrality for security studies. Namely, China's growing economic, political and military influence in Australia and one of its key geographical areas of strategic interest, the Pacific. The student undergoes a systematic review of existing primary and secondary sources, in order to assess China's attempts to grow its influence on these three realms. To do so, the student relies on a wide range of scholarly literature, and integrates this with reports from research institutes and Australian government sources. The student adopts a clear structure to organize the paper and present the analysis. The texts allows for flow in reading, it is spellchecked, and well-referenced, although minor inaccuracies are present. The student provides clear evidence to demonstrate China's growing ambitions over Australia in the last ten years.

In terms of methods, the student underwent a single-case study of Australia, adopting qualitative research methodologies, engaging in a document analysis of both primary and secondary sources with the aim to examine ways in which the Australian government is attempting to limit the interference of China in the sphere of the economy and politics, as well as geographical areas of strategic interests to Australia. A definition of key terms (e.g. influence) is provided, a clear research question is stated, and the limitations of this method are acknowledged, particularly with reference to the lack of inclusion of Chinese documents in the analysis, due to language barriers.

The student makes good use of supportive material, demonstrating to have read beyond academic sources, and structures the paper clearly.

In terms of areas where some further elaboration could have been helpful:

The research would have benefitted from the adoption of a stronger critical analysis and from a stronger engagement with the existing literature in security studies. In terms of analysis, for instance, is there any particular security studies theory that the student adopted to conduct the analysis of the documents reviewed? Is there anything that we can understand from the way Australia is countering the influence of China, in terms of existing debates in the security studies literature? Or, for instance, is there any reason to believe that there are other international factors that led to Australia shifting its position vis-à-vis China in the last ten years, other than China's growing economic and military ambitions? The paper is extremely informative, but leaves the readers wondering what lies beyond the extensive information provided in terms of the contribution to existing scholarly debates.

Reviewer 2

This is a very interesting dissertation, which explores a timely topic with possible practical relevance. The dissertation asks "[w]hat is Australia doing to limit negative Chinese influence in Australia that has resulted from Chinese investments, political donations, and China's activities in the Pacific" and answers with a long description of actions Australia undertook to counter China's influence in Australia's economy, domestic politics, and in broader Pacific region. You clearly demonstrate you know a lot about Australia's counter-Chinese policies.

Having said that, I think the dissertation would benefit from some changes. First, there is an

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extensive description of what China (sometimes allegedly) did and what actions Australia took. But the description could have been a bit deeper. Many Chinese and Australian actions are mentioned, but not much detail is provided about these actions. I think you could drop the background chapter and used the freed space to go deeper.

Second, the methodology section and literature review would benefit from some reworking. The methodology introduces what sources you use but not what data. Furthermore, I think the methodology section should also introduce the analytical procedures you use. Similarly, the literature review could better introduce how scholars analyzed topics similar to this dissertation.

Third, there is relatively little analysis. In fact, the analysis is what I missed most in the dissertation. This goes to the research question, which implies description but not analysis. I don't think writing (however insightful and informative) overview of Australia's policies to Chinese influence attempts is the most proper aim for the dissertation.

It's a pity the dissertation does not bring more analysis. It would be pertinent to know not only what policies Australia implemented but also how effective these policies are why Australia implemented these policies and not others etc. You describe Australia's policies and conclude saying that "the Australian case has the unique opportunity to serve as a lesson or a potential model for other countries that are facing similar problems with Chinese influence in other parts of the world". I don't think you can make such a strong conclusion unless you demonstrate that Australia's policies have been effective. Having said that, I still think this is an interesting dissertation, but I would love to see it taking one more analytical step.