IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	**Glasgow** 2573228 **DCU** 21109133 **Charles** 37553831
Dissertation Title	Digital Technologies in Promoting Peace: Integration, Impact, and Challenges

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

> **Word Count:** 20,118   **Suggested Penalty:** no penalty

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

> **Before Penalty:** D1 [11]   **After Penalty:** D1 [11]

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	
• *Originality of topic*	Very Good
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Good
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Satisfactory
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Satisfactory
• *Application of theory and/or concepts*	Satisfactory
B. Use of Source Material This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• *Evidence of reading and review of published literature*	Good
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Good
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Satisfactory
• *Accuracy of factual data*	Very Good
C. Academic Style This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• *Appropriate formal and clear writing style*	Good
• *Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation*	Good
• *Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)*	Very Good
• *Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?*	Yes
• *Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)*	Not required

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• *Appropriate word count*	Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

> **Reviewer 1**
>
> The dissertation investigates different roles digital technologies can play in peacekeeping/building operations. One of the key objectives was to find out how digital technologies change peacekeeping/building practices. This is an ambitious goal, which remained mostly unfulfilled. The dissertation seems to be divided into two parts. The first one focuses on the UN's strategic documents regarding digital technologies. An overview of the documents is offered, however, almost without any analysis. The second part deals with peacekeeping/building operations in DRC, attempting to show the use of technology on the ground. The selected case proved to be rather unhelpful in providing evidence for the conceptual debate. As a results, the dissertation does not deliver in full on its main goal. Overall, there are clear issues with the research design as well as with its execution, however, the dissertation satisfies all major requirements.
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> **Reviewer 2**
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> This thesis explores the role of digital technologies in peace operations. This is a very interesting topic and relevant to the aims of the IMSISS programme. While the dissertation meets the standards of academic research, it lacks conceptual innovation and analytical rigour.
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> The literature review chapter is comprehensive, but it would be good to divide it into sections, each one focusing on the different themes that emerge in relevant academic studies. In addition, even though the literature on the application of digital technologies in peacekeeping is limited, there is much literature in IR that discusses the role of digital technologies in security politics and practices. It would be worth engaging with some of this literature.
>
> Regarding the conceptual chapter, it is not entirely clear what the theoretical framework that informs the thesis is. In section 3.1 of the thesis, the student seems to provide some definitions of "peace operations" and "digital technology", without however elaborating a conceptual/theoretical framework.
>
> The analytical part of the thesis is divided into two chapters. The first one, which was very informative, introduces the reader to the UN's strategic considerations about the use of digital technologies in peace operations. However, the second chapter (case study of peacekeeping in DRC) does not say much about how digital technologies rendered obsolete traditional peace operation practices, which was the central hypothesis and argument of the thesis.