IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	**Glasgow** 2314194 **DCU** 21108978 **Charles** 74996284
Dissertation Title	Obstacles To Security Cooperation: The Problem of Maritime Piracy in Soth-East Asia

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Word Count Penalty *(1-15% over/under = 1gr point; 15-20% over/under = 2 gr points; 20-25% over/under = 3 gr points; more than 25% over/under = 0 fail)*

Word Count: 21906 **Suggested Penalty:** *no penalty*

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

Final Agreed Mark: A5 [18]

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*	Excellent
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Very Good
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Very Good
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Excellent
• *Application of theory and/or concepts*	Very Good
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*	Excellent
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Very Good
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Excellent
• *Accuracy of factual data*	Excellent
C. Academic Style This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• *Appropriate formal and clear writing style*	Excellent
• *Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation*	Excellent
• *Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)*	Excellent
• *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**
>
> Generally, the text is very original and interesting piece of academic work. What should be specially appreciated is wide range of used sources, excellent theoretical framework and used methodology for the analytical part of work. Work is very well and logically structered. The outcomes of the thesis are practical and logically suported by proper data and information.
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> **Reviewer 2**
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> A detailed and descriptive dissertation. The author is to be commended for identifying an interesting empirical question. Furthermore, the thesis draws upon an innovative range of sources to demonstrate and depict how piracy in South East Asia has not received the same attention and scrutiny as other regions in the world. To explain this, the author relies heavily on the concept of sovereignty which it is argued acts as the obstacle to more efficient cooperation amongst South East Asian states. However, while a thick description is offered of different regions (piracy and anti-piracy operations), and a core concept is identified, there would have been a need for a theoretical framework to demonstrate how sovereignty translates into an obstacle to security cooperation. Instead, the term sovereignty is used throughout the dissertation, appearing at times in rather opaque sentences such as the following:
>
> "We can therefore surmise the main preventer of further cooperation is the variance between transnationalism and sovereignty" (p.74).
>
> "Whilst this helped to bring levels piracy down to remove the war-risk designation, piracy has remained at a steady, and until recently, violent level as concerns sovereignty prevents effective counter-piracy operations in the congested political spaces of the straits" (p.78).