

## IMSISS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow 2680529 DCU 233431 Charles 31760047</b>
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	<b>Explaining European Military Integration: Theoretical Perspectives in Relation to the Building of a Common Defence</b>

<p><b>Word Count Penalty</b> (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)</p> <p><b>Word Count:</b> 24125 <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> no penalty</p>		

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

<b>Final Agreed Mark</b> : B1 [17]
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### DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	Rating
<b>A. Structure and Development of Answer</b>	
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>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Very Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Very Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Very Good
<b>B. Use of Source Material</b>	
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>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Very Good
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Good
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Very Good
<b>C. Academic Style</b>	
This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Excellent
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Excellent
• <i>Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?</i>	Yes
• <i>Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)</i>	Not required
• <i>Appropriate word count</i>	Yes

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### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

The dissertation investigates the evolution of the EU's defence policy using different theoretical lenses: Realism, Liberalism and Neo-functionalism. The thesis is well-written and well-articulated. The student demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of scholarly literature and uses in an original way insights derived from the three research traditions to answer the main research questions. By analysing three case-studies, the student is able to test several hypotheses about the factor that can explain some major turning points in the evolution of Eu's defence policy in the post-Cold War era.

The conclusions are very interesting: they demonstrate that, at least in the field of security, Realism offers a more comprehensive explanation of twist and turn in European defence policy. Some limitations regard mainly the comparative methodology: the selection of cases.

In the end, the thesis is a good piece of academic work, and the student demonstrates an excellent capacity to carry out scientific research work satisfying the standard required for an M.A. degree.

#### **Reviewer 2**

The dissertation explores the development of the European Union's (EU) defense policy, focusing on two key initiatives: PESCO, the European Intervention Initiative (EII) and the 2022 EU Strategic Compass. The author uses three theoretical lenses—realism, neofunctionalism, and liberal intergovernmentalism—to examine these initiatives and their implications for the EU's defense policy. The dissertation provides a comprehensive overview of each initiative, followed by an exploration through each theoretical lens. The author then summarizes the results of these analyses and offers conclusive remarks. Based on the findings, the dissertation concludes that the EU's defense policy is evolving, with the EII and the Strategic Compass playing significant roles. The author's analysis through the lenses of realism, neofunctionalism, and liberal intergovernmentalism provides a nuanced understanding of these developments.

While the dissertation presents a comprehensive exploration of the European Union's defense policy, there are several areas that could be improved. The introduction of the general topic could be more precise, clearly stating the research puzzle and specific research question. The dissertation tends to be overly descriptive, which, while providing detailed information, could benefit from more analytical depth. The literature review does not clearly identify a gap in the research or articulate how the dissertation contributes to existing knowledge. The theoretical sections, while providing a general overview of three theories, could do more to explain their specific application in the dissertation. The methodology chapter could be more detailed and specific, enhancing the transparency and rigor of the research process. Chapter II, which seems unnecessary, could be dropped, particularly considering the length of the dissertation. The empirical chapters on PESCO and the Strategic Compass provide three separate descriptions of events, but these are too descriptive and often unrelated to PESCO and the Strategic Compass. Lastly, there is no real attempt to analyze the explanatory power of the three theories; the dissertation merely provides three explanations followed by the author's intuitive statement about which one he/she finds better. Despite these areas for improvement, the dissertation remains a significant contribution to the field of European defense policy studies

In conclusion, this dissertation stands as a very good piece of academic work, offering a comprehensive exploration of the European Union's evolving defense policy. The author's use of three theoretical lenses to analyze the European Intervention Initiative and the 2022 EU Strategic Compass is commendable. The dissertation's strengths lie in its thorough overview of each

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initiative and its clear and comprehensive presentation of a complex topic. Despite major areas for improvement, such as refining the literature review and enhancing the connection between the theoretical framework and empirical analysis, the dissertation remains a significant contribution to the field of European defense policy studies. The author's ability to navigate the complexities of the topic and present a clear analysis is a testament to the quality of this work.