

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2709058 DCU 21109613 Charles 97458945
Dissertation Title	Towards a 'more united Union' in security and defence: The case of EMILYO

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: 22341 Suggested Penalty: no penalty		

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

Final Agreed Mark B1 [17]

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>	Excellent
• <i>Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified</i>	Very Good
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Good
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Good
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Good
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>	Excellent
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Excellent
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	Excellent
C. Academic Style	
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>	Very Good
• <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>	Yes

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- *Appropriate word count*

No

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

This thesis examines the emergence of a common European identity through defence integration initiatives, specifically Officer exchange programmes. The theoretical and methodological chapters create a coherent argument for the importance of this question and for the approach. However, the full potential of this framework is not realised in the empirical section of the thesis. Although a small survey is used to good effect it doesn't have the scope to fully explore the complex identity dynamics at play. Some of the background literature review, particularly the section that explores theories of IR in more general terms, could have been omitted to allow a greater focus on sharpening the analytical toolkit required to deliver on the innovative premise of the thesis. In particular some interview data or further qualitative engagement with the subjects of the study would have provided a more robust measure of the impact. The thesis is innovative and interesting but doesn't quite get to the heart of the research question. There is also a missed opportunity to zoom back out from the focus on military exchange to the implications this has for the broader question of European integration.

Reviewer 2

In the reviewed MA dissertation, the exploration of European defence integration, specifically through the lens of the EMILYO (Military Erasmus) program, offers an insightful examination of a complex topic. While the dissertation exhibits commendable strengths in certain areas, it also faces notable weaknesses that impact its overall cohesion and empirical analysis.

Comprehensive Literature Review: The dissertation showcases a commendable depth of knowledge by providing an extensive literature review on various theoretical approaches to European defence integration.

On the theoretical level, the dissertation argues for including both material and ideational factors to the explanation of defence integration. This sounds like an artificial problem as no reasonable constructivist would claim otherwise.

Competent Theoretical Model: The proposed theoretical model that integrates material and ideational factors offers a promising avenue for understanding the dynamics of defence integration within the European context. This model presents a framework that could potentially contribute to the broader discussions surrounding integration processes.

Decoupling of Theoretical Model and Empirical Analysis: One of the primary weaknesses lies in the disconnect between the elaborated theoretical model and its application in the empirical analysis. Despite the promising theoretical framework, the empirical analysis focusing on the surveys conducted among EMILYO cadets does not sufficiently leverage the theoretical insights, resulting in a lack of coherence between theory and data.

Lack of Cohesion: The central concern of the dissertation revolves around its lack of cohesion.

The proposed theoretical model, the literature review, and the empirical analysis appear to exist in isolation rather than forming a coherent narrative. This disjointedness hampers the overall clarity and effectiveness of the dissertation's argumentation.

In Conclusion, the dissertation on European defence integration, with a specific focus on EMILYO, demonstrates a commendable engagement with the theoretical foundations of the subject. Its extensive literature review and articulation of a theoretical model that integrates material and ideational factors show promise. However, the dissertation faces significant shortcomings, including the potentially redundant nature of its theoretical argument and the disconnection between the theoretical framework and empirical analysis. The lack of cohesion



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further undermines the dissertation's impact.