

IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2033888 DCU 19108605 Charles 70934623
Dissertation Title	Fully Autonomous Weapons System (AWS): Analysis of AWS with regard to IHL and Martens Clause

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Reviewer 1 Initial Grade <i>Select from drop down list</i>	Reviewer 2 Initial Grade <i>Select from drop down list</i>	Late Submission Penalty <i>no penalty</i>
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: 21995 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: A3 [20] **After Penalty:** A3 [20]

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>	Excellent
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Excellent
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	Excellent
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	Excellent
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>	Very Good
• <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>	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

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- *Appropriate word count*

Yes

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

The dissertation intends to investigate the question of whether it is possible to align the state-of-the-art machine learning models with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Martens Clause. Broadly speaking, such a question is crucial for assessing the existing regulation and its preparedness for the increasing use of machine learning outside of civilian applications. Rather counterintuitively, to provide an answer the dissertation relies on three cases, some of which are civilian, however, immensely useful for assessing the general state of the technology that is fully applicable to the military deployments as well. By this maneuver, the dissertation can speak clearly about issues for which there is a very limited primary source base. On top of that, the presented research is heavily inter-scientific, which means that the answer to the question about alignment provides a much deeper understanding than the usual social scientific works on international regimes. Thus, the finding that IHL and Martens Clause cannot be observed in full by the state-of-the-art machine learning tools is anchored by robust knowledge of technological as well as IHL matters. The only minor shortcoming is that the dissertation could have better connected the findings derived from the individual case studies to provide an even clearer picture of the dangers involved in careless machine learning deployments.

Reviewer 2

This is an excellent piece of work. The dissertation presents an interesting, state-of-the-art question and the decision to align IHL with machine learning problematic displays genuine knowledge and ambition. To my mind, this should be rewarded. The dissertation benefits from a very strong structure and the student should be commended on their level of care throughout--it is clear that the topic has been deeply researched and ruminated upon. The dissertation provides sufficient complexity of depth, without alienating non-experts in the field; to this end, the literature review is particularly effective. The empirical chapter to follow is truly excellent and the student mixes their depth of knowledge with very efficient use of pictures--taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by an MA dissertation to full effect. The individual case studies add up to a convincing narrative--and each is excellent on its own--but this synthesis could have been outlined in a little more detail thereafter--that bit more explicitly. All in all, this is an excellent piece of work and I really enjoyed reading it. The student should be sufficiently proud of what they've produced.