

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	Glasgow 2481810 DCU	Charles	Trento
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	CRYPTOCRIME, BLOCKCHAIN, AND BEYOND: INVESTIGATING CRIMINALS' ILLICIT USE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY AND EXPLORING LAW ENFORCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES		

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

<b>Reviewer 1 Initial Grade</b> C1 [14]	<b>Reviewer 2 Initial Grade</b> C1 [14]	<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> no penalty
<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)		
<b>Word Count:</b> <b>Suggested Penalty:</b> no penalty		

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

<b>Final Agreed Mark.</b> (Following correspondence reviewers should list the agreed final internal grade taking before and after any penalties to be applied).
<b>Before Penalty:</b> C1 [14] <b>After Penalty:</b> C1 [14]

### 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>	Satisfactory
• <i>Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work</i>	Weak
• <i>Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions</i>	-Select from list-
• <i>Application of theory and/or concepts</i>	-Select from list-
<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>	Satisfactory
• <i>Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument</i>	Satisfactory
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Weak
• <i>Accuracy of factual data</i>	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>	Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Good

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• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Good
• <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

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

This dissertation considers a highly current and emergent topic of cryptocurrency and offers significant evidence of independent and current research into recent practice. However as a piece of academic work the dissertation could be improved in several respects. The dissertation does not have a clearly stated or developed methodology, despite claiming to be mixed methods in its approach. Instead it offers a broad qualitative account of a range of crypto contexts.

Chapter 2 provides a broad literature review on the emergent contexts and concepts related to cryptocurrency but would benefit from situating this more firmly within academic literature concerning law enforcement challenges in online contexts to frame the particular challenges facing crypto. In addition while acknowledging the very recent nature of the topic necessitating a significant use of news and online sources, it would have been useful to situate the topic within peer reviewed research to the greatest extent possible.

Chapter 3 considers a number of case studies concerning illegal uses of crypto. In doing so, it offers a detailed research and analysis of each case that is to be commended. It would benefit the dissertation structurally however to more explicitly link the cases to an overall research question throughout each section of the analysis. The same concern permeates the analysis in Chapters 4 and 5 that offer again detailed research of new contexts for cryptocurrencies, but without significant theoretical or methodological engagement with a more general or overall theme or research question based analysis. The conclusion again would benefit from identifying whether and how the methods employed in the dissertation have addressed the research question.

#### **Reviewer 2**

The candidate presents an interesting dissertation on a highly topical issue. After analysing the most recent studies on the subject, he offers a series of case studies to develop the theme. Unfortunately, the topic is very broad and it might have been preferable to narrow the scope of the research to avoid being vague. The conclusions can be strengthened and developed more broadly.