

## IMSIS Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	<b>Glasgow 2574634 DCU 20109628 Charles 36620494 Trento</b>
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Criminal Pandemic: A Critical Assessment of the Impact of Covid-19 on Italian Organized Crime Groups (OCGs)

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

<b>Reviewer 1 Initial Grade</b>	<b>Reviewer 2 Initial Grade</b>	<b>Late Submission Penalty</b> Select from drop down list
<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> Select from drop down list		

### 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                      **After Penalty:** A3

### 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>	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>	Excellent
• <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>	Excellent
• <i>Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence</i>	Very 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	

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• <i>Appropriate formal and clear writing style</i>	Very Good
• <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

### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

#### **Reviewer 1**

Overall, this dissertation is very good and I am very happy with it. You have chosen an important topic that needs much more research on. The structure of the work is very good and all the main ingredients are there. I am happy with the embedding in the literature, the design of the project and the empirical material. Your analysis is very good and improves our knowledge on the area.

I would recommend a bit more work on:

- (1) Introduction and conclusion could be a bit more substantial, outlining more clearly the puzzle of the research, the design, and, eventually, a summary of the findings.
- (2) The paragraphing and signposting could be improved at times.

Nonetheless, this is a very good dissertation.

#### **Reviewer 2**

I enjoyed reading this thesis very much. It is well-structured and the arguments are clearly developed. I have also appreciated the effort that the student put in situating their research in the literature on organised crime groups and reflecting upon the contributions that they make.

Having said that, here are some comments to consider:

- 1) The introduction of the thesis is underdeveloped. This is probably because elements that typically go into the introduction have been integrated in Chapter 2. Yet, I missed in the introduction:  
missed: 1) The core research questions. 2) The central arguments developed in the thesis. 3) The ways that these arguments are progressively unpacked in the different chapters. 4) A statement about the potential contribution of the thesis or at least a brief discussion of the literature that this thesis speaks to.
- 2) Chapter 2 is great and goes much beyond what is typically expected from a MA thesis. I loved the methodological reflections - well done. One thing that was not clear, nevertheless, is what the student calls a "critical" perspective. What is the object of critique here? Also, critical perspectives in social sciences (including criminology) typically eschew "objectivity" and theory building that leads to generalisations which are not always useful. In the chapter, however, the student seems to be suggesting that such generalisations are, indeed, useful while the object of critique is not clearly presented. These points could be clarified. The way the thesis structure is presented (pp.14-15) is also a bit underdeveloped. Instead of just mentioning the thesis chapters I think that it would be better to explain how the central arguments of the thesis are unpacked progressively in each chapter.

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- 3) Similarly to the the introduction, the conclusion of the thesis is very brief. Here the student missed an opportunity to zoom out a bit from the specific case study and perhaps say something about the contribution of this research to the literature. They could also think about potential avenues of future research