

## SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

<b>Student Matriculation No.</b>	Glasgow 2226812	Charles 36656515
<b>Dissertation Title</b>	Water Markets and Water Security	

### INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

<b>Glasgow Marker</b> <i>Office Use</i>	<b>Charles Marker</b> <i>Office Use</i>	<b>Grade Conversion</b> UoG-CU    CU-UoG	<b>Charles Additional Info</b> <i>Please advise ranking</i>
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### JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

<b>Final Agreed Mark</b> C3 [12]    3 [Satisfactory]
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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>	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>	Satisfactory
<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>	Good
• <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>	Very Good
• <i>Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation</i>	Good
• <i>Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)</i>	Very 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

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### ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

**Glasgow Marker**

The dissertation poses an interesting question about the extent to which markets and market - based policies can effectively provide water security. The author defines the central concept of water security reasonably well and engages with relevant work from environmental economics. They also offer an interesting discussion of a water market that ahs been created in Australia and is often seen as a success. Finally the author does attempt to tease out some lessons from the case about the conditions under which markets can enhance water security. Despite these strengths, certain parts of the dissertation needed further development. The study is under-theorized and under-conceptualized. The author largely relies on environmental economics literature and does not engage with politics and security literatures necessary to address the question. They also tend to mix up practitioner literature and descriptive studies with academic literature and theory. For example the main analytical framework is drawn from a consultant and while perhaps relevant and helpful, its main concepts, theoretical assumptions and interpretive framework are not clear and not discussed. It is a shame that the author did not engage with politics literature on the topic as there is a wealth of good work on the topic of how to manage common pool goods as well as the dynamics behind environmental policy more broadly. As a result key concepts are left undefined and conflated. For example the author at times confuses market regulation with free markets, private and public goods, effectiveness and efficiency, security and resource management. The conclusions that they draw are also not as clear as they could be. The author seems to conclude both that free markets can help address the problem of water security while at the same noting how important (presumably) government oversight and regulation are for making these markets function properly and to meet public goals. Finally the short section in the conclusion on how these findings relate to water security more broadly or how applicable the findings from this single successful case are to the issue is not developed fully or to the extent necessary to address the stated research question.

**Charles Marker**

This is an interesting thesis with a big potential as it inquires into a topic that has usually been overlooked by security studies. While "water as a resource" and "water wars" have been staples of this field for some time, the topic craving a niche at the intersection of political economy, security studies, and public administration literature has not. Its current strength lies in the quality of empirical analysis (a single case study), as well as its practical focus. In doing so, it has successfully attempted to link the topic to international environmental policy-making approaches and principles (the Dublin Principles, ABCDEF etc) and has largely succeeded. At the moment, the work, however, displays a few problematic features too. First, it reads as an IGO report, intellectually dependent and too close on policy-making visions. The research puzzle is thus not set independently of it but has rather reinforced such a perspective. The connected issue is rather thin research design, an outline of methodology (with a really bizzare explanation why the student has ended up with a single case - as a matter of fact, another, contrasting - ie unsuccessful - case would benefit the research for more interesting conclusions). Second, a more robust introduction of institutionalist approaches to the national/international issue (including the related analysis of environmental/economic/political policy transfers and institutional learning) would further reinforced the thesis.

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Please note that this grade is recorded as the provisional final grade for the University of Glasgow

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degree. All grades remain provisional until confirmed at the joint examination board.

The Czech State Exam/Oral Defense may make a difference to the final grade for the Charles University degree.

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**Notes for Markers:** When grading the SECINTEL Dissertation markers are asked to reflect upon the aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation. Each dissertation should also adopt a clear security focus reflecting the relevant programme pathway

**Aims:** The course aims to provide students with independent research opportunities. It will include engagement with research methods training leading up to a period of independent research and the production of a substantial dissertation that builds upon themes and issues covered within the MSc International Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and demonstrate their capacity for original thought and independent research. The dissertation element aims to enable students to identify and research particular issues or problems, linked to security, intelligence and strategy, at a deeper level than is possible within assessed essays and to develop a critical analysis of the existing body of academic work relating to their topic of choice. Students taking this course will be prepared for further research, study or professional careers through the development of their skills in data collection and analysis, use of original and secondary sources and the conducting and writing up of a detailed research project.

**Intended Learning outcomes:** By the end of the dissertation, students will be able to:

- > Devise a realistic programme of research on a topic reflecting the main themes of the programme;
- > Collect, select and critically analyse relevant background literature and arguments of a range of scholars;
- > Understand and select the appropriate methodology for dealing with information sources and data;
- > Apply these methods to gather and interrogate data in an open-minded, rigorous and undogmatic manner;
- > Be able to critically evaluate competing theories and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to guide the study
- > Organise the data collected and analyse the findings in a competent manner that allows for a fluid and logical argument to be presented;
- > Be reflexive and self-critical about findings and the limitations of analysis;
- > Work independently, organising and maintaining own programme of study to meet academic deadlines so as to produce work containing a substantial element of originality.

**Word Count:**

Dissertations should be 20,000 words in length for students undertaking work-placement as part of the independent study portfolio and 22,000 words in length for standard dissertation students. Word counts exclude the title page, abstract, contents, bibliography and appendices). All dissertations must display an accurate word-count including the citations, footnotes/endnotes and chapter/section titles.

**Language:**

The dissertation **must** be written in British English. A Czech Language cover page / abstract may be included

**Late Submission Penalty:**

Dissertations that do not have an extension or are submitted after an extension deadline are subject to a penalty of 2 secondary bands per day (this includes weekends and holidays) on the Glasgow grading Scale.

**Plagiarism:**

Dissertations which suffer from excessive (e.g. serious and/or deliberate) plagiarism will be subject to a grade of 0/Fail and be referred to the appropriate authorities at both universities. Dissertations that contain some elements of plagiarism, but which are deemed not to be excessive (e.g. minor instances that are not considered deliberate) based on consultation of both internal markers, should be graded accordingly and will be subject to scrutiny from the external examiner and could still result in a mark of 0 as well as referral to appropriate authorities for disciplinary action.

**Consultation prior to final grading:**

First marking by both institutions should be completed blind with no prior consultation. Once both markers have graded the dissertation and provided written comments, they should consult on the grading and come to a joint final grade, taking into consideration any late submission or excessive word count penalty. It is the responsibility of the Glasgow marker to oversee this. Where markers cannot come to a joint agreement then the dissertation should be referred to the Programme Convenors at Glasgow and Charles (Dr. Eamonn Butler & Dr Vít Střítecký). The external examiner will be used to moderate any dissertation in this position and the comments referred back to the internal markers for confirmation.