IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk and fiona.rushworth@ucl.ac.uk)

Please note that IMESS students are <u>not</u> required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Chuanli Xun
Dissertation title:	Research on the transformation of Russian industrial structure

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Knowledge *Knowledge of problems involved, e.g. historical and social context, specialist literature on the topic. Evidence of capacity to gather information through a wide and appropriate range of reading, and to digest and process knowledge.*	x					
Analysis & Interpretation *Demonstrates a clear grasp of concepts. Application of appropriate methodology and understanding; willingness to apply an independent approach or interpretation recognition of alternative interpretations; Use of precise terminology and avoidance of ambiguity; avoidance of excessive generalisations or gross oversimplifications.*			x			
Structure & Argument *Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of an argument´s limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.*			x			
Presentation & Documentation *Accurate and consistently presented footnotes and bibliographic references; accuracy of grammar and spelling; correct and clear presentation of charts/graphs/tables or other data. Appropriate and correct referencing throughout. Correct and contextually correct handling of quotations.*			x			
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*			x			

ECTS Mark:	75	Charles Mark:	C	Marker:	Karel Svoboda
Deducted for late submission:	*No*			**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark 91-100 - excellent): *Note: marks of over 80 are given rarely and only for truly exceptional pieces of work.*
Distinctively sophisticated and focused analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.

B (UCL mark 69-65) = B (Charles mark 81-90– very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark 71-80 – good): A high level of analysis, critical use of sources and insightful interpretation. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

D (UCL mark 59-55) = D (Charles mark 61-70 – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark 51-60 – sufficient):
Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work, demonstrating methodological awareness. 55 or over equates to a D grade.

F (UCL mark less than 50) = F (Charles mark 0-50 - insufficient):
Demonstrates failure to use sources and an inadequate ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Inadequate evidence of ability to engage in sustained research work and poor understanding of appropriate research techniques.

Please provide substantive and detailed feedback!

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (*at least 300 words*):

The thesis offers a sound overview of the changes in Russia's industrial structure over the last 30 years. The author proves a very good knowledge of Russia's industrial policies, their aims, designs and, last but not least, their effects. Therefore, the 'knowledge' side of the paper belongs to its strengths.

However, too much of concentration on the descriptive side is also a weakness. The analysis itself represents only a lesser part of the thesis, starting on the page 42. Even after this page, the analysis looks more like an obligation than like an integral part of the thesis. Clearer tying of all the parts together would be helpful.

Some of the conclusions are hardly surprising and innovative. Especially the fact that when an employment in agriculture decreases, other sectors rise sounds more than self-understanding. The author could have gone deeper into the analysis of the sectors, not only thee-sectors data. On the other hand, I must confess, this would go far beyond of what is expected from a diploma thesis.

The language side of the thesis is appropriate to the needs of an academic paper, without serious grammatical mistakes that would prevent reading it (to the extent I can judge). This does not mean that it is without any remarks, but the language is understandable. I just didn't get some of the expressions, such as "During the duration from 2015 to 2035". Also, mixing agriculture with a primary sector is confusing – not all primary sector industries are ranked to the agriculture. Although the author speaks about mining as a part of agriculture, his data and analysis places it rightly into industry.

There are some weaknesses in the formal part – paging starting from the title page is a minor remark. However, the form of the title page is not ideal, most of the paragraphs are formed to the block, while some align to the left, abstract is way too long. More importantly, graphs lack a description of data sources in their description.

To sum up, the thesis could have been better. It addresses an interesting problem with possible effects for a real economy. However, it remains only partly covered, dealing with the division between the sectors of agriculture, industry and services, leaving intra-sectoral changes aside.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 2 questions*):

1. **Russia, among other policies, pursues programs defending employment in socially sensitive industries, environments (typically, cities that depend on a single industry). How do these policies impact the industrial change?**

2. **Did Russia undergo also intra-sectoral changes (inside industry, for instance)?**