

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator

(cc Julia Korosteleva j.korosteleva@ucl.ac.uk and Marta Kotwas m.kotwas@ucl.ac.uk)

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

Student:	Andres Morales Interiano
Dissertation title:	The Czech Republic's Participation in the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America and its Policy Implications

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
Knowledge <i>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.</i>	x		
Analysis & Interpretation <i>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.</i>	x		
Structure & Argument <i>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 arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>	x		
Presentation & Documentation <i>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.</i>	x		

ECTS Mark:	A	UCL Mark:	72	Marker:	Dr Filipa Figueira
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>			0	Signed:	Filipa Figueira
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>			0	Date:	12.6.2016

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+; Charles University mark = 1): 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/C (UCL mark 60-69; Charles University mark =2):

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/E (UCL mark 50-59; Charles University mark = 3):

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; Charles University mark = nepospělúa):

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.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
**PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND
 DETAILED FEEDBACK!**

Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (at least 300 words):

Best features:

This excellent dissertation adds value to the literature by offering a comprehensive exploration of the role of one small country (Czech Republic) in the creation of an EU external trade agreement. The dissertation therefore tackles a clear research question, and remains focused on that question throughout.

In particular, the dissertation provides valuable insights on the Czech approach as a small EU country. This addresses a gap in the European studies literature, and contributes towards forming the basis for future research on small country strategies in the EU, both in relation to trade, and in general. The lack of previous literature on this topic was well compensated by qualitative data, including interviews enlightening the Czech approach during its council presidency.

The student shows an excellent command of the theoretical literature in a complex area of research. The section entitled "theoretical framework" is excellent, and some parts are even outstanding; for example, section (a), in which the student provides an outstanding overview of International Political Economy and its different meanings. The dissertation also justifies and explains very well the methodological approach adopted.

The dissertation is also very well-written, well-structured, clear and well presented.

Suggestions for improvement:

It could be argued that this case-study was not ideal to research the impact of small countries' interests in the EU, as Czech interests in this trade deal were very minor and largely in line with those of other member states, so the results obtained were to some extent predictable.

The topic of this dissertation was very challenging, due to its breadth. Whilst on the one hand this is positive as it provides a very comprehensive analysis, on the other hand it has the disadvantage that it reduces the focus of the dissertation and deprives the author from analysing each aspect in more detail.

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

Your dissertation adds value to the existing literature in different ways – how would you describe each of them?

One of the objectives of your research was to study the role of a small country within the EU. Based on your findings, what conclusions would you extract regarding, not just the Czech Republic, but in general all small countries in the EU?