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:	Xiangyi Kong
Dissertation title:	The Trade Effects of the EU-Turkey Customs Union: Based on the Gravity Model

	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:	B/67	**Charles Mark:**	B/85	**Marker:**	
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 Master thesis of Xiangyi Kong is focused on the topic connected with Trade Effects of the EU-Turkey Customs Union. The thesis is divided into seven main chapters. In the first chapter author deals with short introduction. The second chapter introduces basic data about development and structure of Customs Union between EU and Turkey. The third chapter provides theoretical background in form of literature review which enables to understand and get to know basic overview about previous and current research. The internal part of this chapter is also the description of used methodology. In this case author worked with Gravity model. The fourth chapter describes current state of trade between Turkey and the EU. In the fifth chapter author provides practical use of methodological concept in the case trade and economic relations between Turkey and the EU. Sixth chapter deals with the empirical research where author analyzes different data and statistics and evaluates their different effects on trade between the EU and Turkey. Last chapter is devoted to conclusions and suggestions.

Regarding the content processing author has proved theoretical and empirical knowledge of selected topic. He has worked with many different types of literature and has showed the ability to process and analyze. The theoretical and empirical part is balanced.

From the formal point of view I would propose the different structure of the thesis since the topic should starts with literature review and with the methodology description and hypothesis/research questions definition. I would also propose not mark Introduction and Conclusion as the first/seventh chapter. The aim of these parts is to introduce and sum up basic information about the content and structure of the thesis.

To conclude, the strengths of the thesis are analyses of the actual topic of the EU-Turkey Customs Union according to many data with using of Gravity model. The weaknesses are mostly in formal part of the thesis.

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

1) What are the most positive effects of the Customs Union in common trade between the EU and Turkey?

2) What are the main challenges of the Customs Union between the EU and Turkey for the future?