

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Allan Sikk a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk and Alexa Stewart alexa.stewart@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:	Elza Novak
Dissertation title:	Economic Integration in the EU: Competitiveness and Convergence

	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	Charles Mark:	1	Marker:	Tomas Cahlik
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	June 3, 2013

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+): 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.

A = výborně = 1

B/C (UCL mark 60-69):

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.

B/C = velmi dobře = 2

D/E (UCL mark 50-59):

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.

D/E = dobře = 3

F (UCL mark less than 50):

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.

F = neprospěl = 4

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND
DETAILED FEEDBACK!

This is a high quality thesis in all parameters. Elza has found a nice research theme and gathered very good orientation in relevant economic theory and policy. She has applied some panel data methods on an adequate level. The main strength is how all those ingredients are put together in the analysis of dynamically conflicting targets: competitiveness and convergence.

She starts with showing the link between welfare and static and dynamic efficiency and – what is important – applies everything on the EU. In the 3rd chapter, she analyzes Europe 2020 strategy and Cohesion Policy as tools that the EU has for being both efficient and coherent. In the 4th chapter, she presents overview of economic growth models, endogenous growth model included. She does not use advanced technical presentation here but the mathematics she uses is adequate and the stylized facts are generally accepted. She presents here literature related to the impact of trade and integration on growth as well – topics related to economic geography.

I appreciate the use of econometric methodology in the next two chapters. She analyzes both beta and sigma convergence in a standard way; the contribution is that she uses the most recent data. She has gathered panel data for EU countries and estimates with different estimators a model that aims to determine factors both associated with high levels of GDP per capita and relevant for cohesion policy.

She presents logical conclusions in the final part and does not forget to specify what her own contribution is.

It has been a real pleasure to supervise this thesis because of the enthusiasm and competence of the author.

In my opinion, this thesis is a good candidate to be suggested for Dean's reward.

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

I have seen a lot of previous versions of this text (or some of its parts) and I had many comments that the author worked with in the due course. I do not have more comments on this final version.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 3 questions*):

1. Are there any clear advantages of some of the measures of sigma convergence, e.g. the Theil index?
2. Are there any clear advantages of some of the estimator used in the 6th chapter?
3. Is there a possibility that the importance of factors analyzed in the 6th chapter changes in time?