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 *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 arguments 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				

ECTS Mark:		**UCL Mark:**	72 (A)	**Marker:**	S. Makarova
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	Svetlana Makarova
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	07 June 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.

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.

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.

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.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND DETAILED FEEDBACK!

Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses

The topic is interesting and worth considering. The dissertation consists of seven chapters with chapters 1 to 4 giving introduction to the problem and theoretical background and chapters 5-7 giving empirical analysis and conclusions.

The structure of the dissertation is logical, the underlying theoretical concepts are well explained and empirical part is quite strongly and clearly linked to the theoretical background (thought importance of possible endogeneity of technology and how this could affect empirical results and conclusions could be better commented).

The use of literature is good, but some important reference related to some measures of social cohesion and their effect on institutional quality and growth, e.g. Easterly, Ritzen and Woolcock (2006), is missed.

An empirical part is well explained. However possible of non-stationarity of variables (e.g. logarithm of GDP per capita) and to what extend this might affect estimation result of the fixed effect panel model must be commented. Notations of control variables (see page 62) and use of subscript 't' for the component of the error term that does not change over time in fixed effect model must also be clarified.

However, the overall presentation is clear, empirical methods are correctly applied, conclusion are interesting and non-trivial.

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

1. Explain the research question and, in particular, how competitiveness is relevant to it.
2. What is the Theil index and what are its properties (e.g. minimum and maximum values)? Why is it appropriate to substitute the Theil index for simple standard deviation I the context of sigma convergence?
3. How the objectives of Cohesion policy could possibly be affected by current crisis?