IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Allan Sikk a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk and Louise Wassell l.wassell@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:	Sevan Ghazaryan
Dissertation title:	Armenia's accession to the Customs Union: Gains of Losses?

	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:**	68	**Marker:**	Miriam Manchin
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	12/06/2014

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 (_at least 300 words_):

The dissertation has a clear objective, a well written abstract and generally clear structure. It provides a good overview of the question, and discusses the relevant literature showing a good understanding both of the issues involved and the methodology. The discussion on the methodology is also quite appropriate and shows understanding discussing both weaknesses and strengths of the different possible methods.

I have some major comments/suggestions:

-The topic of the dissertation has a clear policy relevance. However, it should have been discussed in more details what the academic value added of the dissertation and what general conclusions could be reached.

-Although the strength and the weaknesses of a partial equilibrium analysis are discussed, the result should have been discussed in light of those.

-The author discussed the partial equilibrium analysis and its weaknesses and strengths referring to studies undertaking partial equilibrium analysis with most of these studies undertaking a sector level partial equilibrium analysis. Then the author undertakes a partial equilibrium analysis at the aggregate level. There are further weaknesses to this, and becomes a very simple back-of-the-envelop calculation potentially missing some important effects.

And some minor comments/suggestions:

-The title would not be clear for those not familiar with the region. The title should specify which custom union.

-There are typos in the table of contents.

Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (_at least 3 questions_):
-**What would be the general conclusions for other countries in the region**
-**Would you draw the same conclusions in the light of the current events in Ukraine?**
-**What would be the potential drawback from undertaking the partial equilibrium analysis at the aggregate level?**