

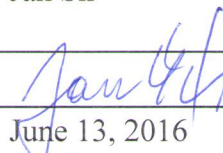
IMESS DISSERTATION

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:	Mikhail Gorodilov
Dissertation title:	Economic Development of Crimea after March 2014

	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:	D	UCL Mark:		Marker:	Jan Šír
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	June 13, 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 = neprospělúa):

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 thesis is a study of the economic development of Crimea after 2014. It seeks to examine how the peninsula's integration into Russia's economic and legal spaces has influenced the region's economy in the period of the first two years following Russia's illegal annexation of this sovereign Ukrainian territory.

The thesis is an original piece of work that deals with a highly important and relevant, yet comparatively understudied topic. As such, it promises to provide a still rather rare economic perspective of events that have turned out to be the center of perhaps the worst crisis in the relations between Russia and the West since the end of the Cold War. Moreover, as such, it does bear a potential to cover, in depth, a material that has not yet been thoroughly analyzed in the academic literature and, accordingly, to come up with some new findings, and to make a contribution to the field and move the current state of art forward. In its present form, however, the text leaves much to be desired.

As for the overall research design, the thesis makes use of some theoretical concepts, such as non-recognized states (disputed territories) or small island economies, the application of which on the case of Crimea looks inspiring and appealing. However, their application is rather random and selective in the further course of the narration, and it is not entirely clear how they have actually helped the author grasp the gathered empirical evidence.

Furthermore the thesis suffers from too broad, and sometimes unclear, delineation of the topic. The core of the work offers an overview of Crimea's economic developments from 1991 to 2014 and after 2014 (Chapters 2 and 3, respectively), along with partial comparisons of Crimea with Russia's neighboring Krasnodar region, and numerous digressions into other parts of the world as far as Israel and India. As a result, the thesis tends to be losing a clear focus and a strong argument that could be forcefully presented throughout the text.

The author has made an effort to keep the structure of these two main chapters the same so as to allow for an analysis and comparison of the changes that have taken place in each of his identified sectors of the Crimean economy. Given the aforesaid, nonetheless, the main body reads more like an extensive fact-sheet, rather than as a narrative account of the main studied developments. A more condensed synthesis of data and findings, possibly also through effective use of charts and tables, would be desirable and would help the reader follow the author's train of thoughts.

It is difficult for me as a non-native speaker to assess the level of academic English. Still, the interferences from Russian seem numerous, both in grammar and style, and the thesis is no easy read and contains some awkward phrases which may be incomprehensible in the given context or may not exist in English (repeatedly, for instance, "ascension [of Crimea] to Russia" for presumed "accession"; "constructional factors" for "domestic/structural factors"; "energy/water supply/food safety" for "security," etc.). The text would have certainly benefited from a careful proof-reading and editing.

The main contributions of the thesis lie perhaps in the subject matter and the data the author has gathered, rather than in the very manner the topic has been handled.

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

Please discuss the impact of international sanctions targeted against Crimea on the economic development of the annexed peninsula as a de-facto part of Russia.

Please discuss the impact of the continuing militarization of Crimea on the economic development of the peninsula.