

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:	Zita Csoka
Dissertation title:	Hungary - Russia - EU. Multilaterally versus bilaterally defined interests in Hungarian natural gas policy

	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:	B	Charles Mark:	2	Marker:	Karel Svoboda
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	June 17 th , 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!**

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

The main strength of the work lies in sound understanding of the energy problems. The author does not use the expressions such as "political weapon" etc. when writing about the topic, explains the 2006 and 2009 crises as an instance of mutual blackmailing between Russia and Ukraine. This is extremely positive and not very typical for the topic, especially when it is seen from the political science view. Some of the statements might be challenged – the long term contracts with oil linkage are not only post-Soviet specifics, they exist, although combined with the LNG supplies. Some of the conclusions are also predictable – asymmetry in the relations between Russia and Hungary, the fact, that the relations with Russia represents higher priority than the EU influence (however, here, I must also add that the author mentions the immaturity of the EU market and the problem of division in views among the European states). As the analysis revealed the member states retain their bilateral ties to their main supplier even when they become members of the European Union.

The author uses several methods from quantitative approach based on investigation of the parliamentary speeches. Everything is well documented and therefore does not cause any This should reveal the attitude of the leading party and the opposition party towards securitization of the energy topic. In this sense, the conclusions are interesting and persuasive.

Nevertheless, the South Stream and Nabucco projects got under pressure by the oversupply of gas due to increased capacities of supplies from Qatar etc. This gave a different meaning to the Nabucco and the South Stream projects. While they were regarded as means of a adding of necessary capacity, now they became sort of alternative transit routes, both with relatively unclear future (note, Ukraine imports gas from the West, although in limited volumes so far). As a result, shaping of the future reality lies to some extent outside the reach of Hungarian government.

The main weakness of the paper therefore lies in the fact that it does not reflect the last dynamics in full. Setting and clearly defining the initial, but also the final point of observation would help in this case. It is not clear, why the examination of the parliamentary debates is led to the year 2013, while the latest data from BP and IEA are for the year 2011.

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

1. The world financial crisis brought an oversupply of gas in Europe. Do you see any effects of the changed situation on the gas market on the parliamentary debate in the last years?
2. What is Hungarian approach to the shale gas extraction? Is it seen as an economic, ecological or security case?
3. What is the position of Jobbik party in the energy affairs?