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:	Andrés Morales Interiano
Dissertation title:	The Czech Republic's Participation in the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America and its Policy Implications

	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:	B	**UCL Mark:**		**Marker:**	PhDr. Pavel Vacek, Ph.D.
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	Vacek Pavel
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	12 June 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 = neprospěl): 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*):

I really appreciate the work of Andrés Morales Interiano. There are several aspects of the dissertation, that I like:

- The author chose a very important topic that just a few studies have explored. The author's work has important policy implications.
- Research questions are clearly stated (pages 7 and 8).
- The author has a broad knowledge of relevant literature.
- Dissertation provides appropriate theoretical framework that includes conceptualization of International Political Economy and International Trade Theory.
- The author provides a detailed description of individual rounds of negotiation process. Reader can find very comprehensive information about the EU-CA negotiation process.
- The author has interviewed people that probably know the most about internal processes during negotiation in the Czech Republic (Ms. Chvátalová).

I have just a few remarks to the text:

- The text is overburdened with abbreviations. It is sometimes difficult to read and understand the text, e.g. on page 60: *"In order to find these answers, it was also essential to review concepts of IPE and PER and focus on liberalisation of trade through PTAs."*
- The author should use a spell checker to correct typos, e.g. on page 5: (typos: "dude" instead of "due", or "always" instead of "always" etc.).

I have one suggestion to the author.

It would be beneficial for the dissertation if the author visited a few Czech firms that have some trade relationship with CA countries. He may conduct a few interviews with managers to learn their opinions and ideas about what would help their firms to do more business with the CA countries. What obstacles for trade between the EU and CA countries do managers see?

Overall, I consider dissertation of Mr. Morales to be insightful and adding value to the existing studies. The author has clearly shown that he is able to engage in sustained independent research.

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

1. What could/should Czech representatives improve during the negotiation process?

2. What products are imported and exported between the Czech Republic and CA countries? Which Czech industries may benefit most from the trade agreement in the long run?