IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator

(cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk **and**   fiona.rushworth@ucl.ac.uk**)**

Please note that IMESS students are <u>not</u> required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Wang Yining
Dissertation title:	Analysis of the Investment Environment of Chinese Commercial Properties in Czech Republic

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
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 argument´s 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	
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*			x			

ECTS Mark:		**Charles Mark:**	D		**Marker:**	PhDr. Pavel Vacek, Ph.D.
Deducted for late submission:					**Signed:**	*Vaah Pan*
Deducted for inadequate referencing:					**Date:**	June 4, 2019

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark- excellent): *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 (UCL mark 69-65) = B (Charles mark – very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark – good): 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 (UCL mark 59-55) = D (Charles mark – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark – sufficient):
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) = F (Charles mark - insufficient):
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.

Please provide substantive and detailed feedback!

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (_at least 300 words_):

I am persuaded that Wang Yining has learnt a lot about the Czech business climate and Chinese commercial properties in the Czech Republic. The author conducted her own survey and collected some feedback from Chinese investors residing especially in Prague.

I have been an advisor for other IMESS students. If I had to compare this thesis with the others I have seen, I would have to say that the quality of Wang Yining's thesis is somewhat lower. The author, despite investing lots of energy into writing of her thesis, produced a thesis that suffers from many weaknesses:

- It is sometimes very difficult to read the thesis since it is written in bad English. There are also many typos throughout the text and the author uses incorrect grammar and incorrect vocabulary (e.g. the present Xi instead of President Xi on page 88 to name just one of many). However, I have some understanding for these weaknesses since the author is of Chinese origin and she clearly struggles with English grammar, spelling and clear presentation of facts and ideas in foreign language.

- There are so many parts of the text that are entirely superfluous and could be (and should be) omitted. Just one example, p. 51: _"Secondly, the questionnnaire method was used for the study. Here the process involved structuring questions followed by issuing out the questions to relevant respondents."_ Well, this is straightforward to everybody that one needs first to prepare questions and then ask people these questions. The thesis contains a plethora of similar deadwood sentences.

- The author claims that she uses two different methodologies in her study (e.g. p. 50-51) – a) a review and analysis of the available data from official data websites and b) the questionnnaire method. The first "method" is not a method in a usual sense of the word. It is nothing more than a compilation of mostly general macroeconomic data of the Czech Republic that the author was able to find through google search. I do not see much value added of this part. A little bit more interesting is the author's effort to compare the Czech Republic with some other European countries regarding the investment climate. However, the comparisons is very superficial and the author also uses sources of data which are not standard in academic work (e.g. Wikipedia on p. 65). In a standard academic study, a research question is stated, its motivation explained, summary of the existing relevant literature presented and then the main part follows, containing author's own work, which contributes to our existing knowledge. Wang Yining interprets a literature review as a type of a research methodology.

However, I believe that Wang Yining exerted a tremendous amount of effort to write her thesis and despite my several negative comments above, I do appreciate her hard work involved in writing of the thesis. For a potential Chinese investor in the Czech Republic, it may be beneficial to read Wang Yining's writing.

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

1. What benefits and what negatives do Chinese investments in commercial properties in Prague bring to residents of Prague?
2. Do you believe that corporate tax relief and other incentives granted to investors into commercial properties are reasonable/beneficial policy?