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:	Yining Wang
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:	F	**Charles Mark:**	F	**Marker:**	Karel Svoboda
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	

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_):

Generally, I was unimpressed by the thesis, to say the least. The paper does not have clear methodology, theoretical background could not be identified, the structure is chaotic, and the argumentation is too general. On top of that, language is not the strongest point either.

The thesis is written in poor English, bearing in mind that this is not a coursework, but the result of author's homework. Proofreading would be necessary. Some sentences were hard to understand. Even if understandable, their logic could be only guessed: "President Zeman also suggested the direct flight between Shanghai and Prague, and the former city is one of the main economic centres in China." (35) or "It is essential to pinpoint that China has been one of the initial countries that supported the One China Policy within a post-Soviet surrounding. As such, the political behaviour of the country was highly valued in Beijing in addition to the non-acknowledgment of Tiber and Beijing." The thesis is full of sentences such as: 'Similarly, the Government for FDI ranks Czech Republic is the first among the CEE nations with regards to per capita inflows and FDI stock.' (16) or 'He tried to analyse the reasons for the high speed of companies form Asia.' (25) Chinese investment now almost equal in the V4 and the EaP (37)

The authoress uses references to sources such as "The data collected in the statement of Chinese embassy in Czech Republic." (18) without proper referencing, not to mention that a statement of any embassy is a questionable source. In other place, she provides to reference in the form "Sources are collected from National Bureau of Statics. http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/". On top of that, Wikipedia as a source (65) is irrelevant for an academic work.

Some of the arguments are simply too general for the purpose of an academic paper: "According to Elteto and Szunomar (2016), the Czech Republic also proposed agreements to avoid double-taxation." (33) This sentence is not followed by any additional information.

There are serious questions concerning the methodology employed. Half of the thesis analyses internet resources (using the "google it" method, the other part works with questionnaires. I do not see any link between the real estate environment and skilled workforce. How does the latter impact the former? (the discussion on the page 29). The authoress uses a lot of sub-chapters, sometimes even in one-paragraph form. The subchapter 2.3, which is further sub-divided to sub-sub-chapters 2.3.1-2.3.5 (pages 32-34) may serve as an example. Moreover, it is unclear, even after reading it why the parts of the subchapter are put together. Also critical evaluation of the information amassed is missing. The authoress speaks about 56 thousand km of paved roads, but does not mention that only small portion of them are high-speed roads. Also singling out the Daramis firm, which is one of the players in the Czech real estate market, instead of in-depth analysis of the competition environment, does not give any logic (48)

The questionnaire part seems to be rather intuitive. I am not a specialist on this type of research and its methodologies, but it seems to me that providing full identifiable names (pages 80 and 87). I also have some reservations to the logic of the questionnaires. Asking already established businesses (most of them operating six or more years) about easiness of setting business does not seem logical.

The authoress has also limited knowledge of the context. The Czech Republic and China did not establish their relations in 1949, since there was only Czechoslovakia then (35 and also 45). The Czech Republic did not break from the Soviet Union in 1991 (same page). She also praises activities of the infamous CEFC etc., which harmed the reputation of the Chinese investors not only in the Czech Republic, but also in Russia for instance.

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

1. How is the Czech Republic presented in China in terms of investment possibilities? Are there any promotion initiatives in China?

2. The thesis spoke about investment climate in general. However, what would you outline as specifics for the Chinese entrepreneurs?