

# IMESS DISSERTATION



**Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator (cc Chiara Amini [chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk) and [ssees-imess@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ssees-imess@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.

<b>Student:</b>	YONGYAN ZHU
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	THE EFFECT OF THE 2007-2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS ON STOCK MARKET PERFORMANCE: EVIDENCE FROM EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

	70+	69-65	64-60	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Knowledge</b> <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			
<b>Analysis &amp; Interpretation</b> <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		
<b>Structure &amp; Argument</b> <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 argument limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>			X			
<b>Presentation &amp; Documentation</b> <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		
<b>Methodology</b> <i>Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.</i>			x			

<b>ECTS Mark:</b>	C	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	C/60	<b>Marker:</b>	Idil Uz Akdogan
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	4.9.2021

## 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.

**B(UCL mark 65-69):**

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.

**C (UCL mark 60-61):**

Some evidence of critical analysis, knowledgeable interpretation. Wide range of sources used to develop a logic and coherent argument. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, the extent of independent research could have improved.

**D (UCL mark 59-55):**

Employ relevant sources and show ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Little critical analysis of the material. It demonstrate methodological awareness but the standard and rigor of the analysis can improve.

**E (UCL mark 54-50):**

Mostly descriptive argument. Employ relevant but limited sources. The structure, logic and overall quality of the argument needs improvement.

**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.

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

Dissertation provides a good knowledge of the relevant theories and methodology. Literature review is very broad including all aspects of economic and social impact of the crises, providing extensive information on the contagion effect.

There has been an ambiguity about the link between the goods market and the financial market and the impact of crisis on these markets. The study focuses on the impact of recession on the financial market (see p.34), which relates the impact of slow growth of the goods market on the financial sector. The impact of economic crisis is difficult to manage as it has many angles depending on the focus of analysis so that it will have different impacts in the short run and the long run. Thus, the variables of interest would be different if the focus is on the short run or the long run. This is not clear in this study, particularly in the empirical section.

The benchmark of June 2009 for the post crisis period may be misleading as it coincides with the European sovereign debt crisis in 2008 through 2012. This is important as the empirical section that is presented to examine the post crisis period is actually including information regarding the reaction of the financial markets to another crisis during that period.

Good analysis for the descriptive statistics and interpretation of the general movement of the stock markets. There should be more emphasis on the interpretation of the empirical tests results. Since the objective is to understand the behaviour of the stock markets, many important issues that are included in discussion (in section 4.7), such as exchange rate movements, stock market liquidity, capital account volatility, monetary and fiscal policy, are considered as important elements of the contagion effect but they are completely ignored in the empirical analysis.

The dissertation presents a good structure. It meets the general requirements for academic writing style. It requires some minor corrections such as the sentences are incomplete on p.20, paragraph 3; on page 30, paragraph 3; and on page 31, paragraph 2 and 3. There are some missing citations see on p.21 paragraph 2 and 4, on p.32, paragraph 3, and incorrect citation see Engel on p. 24, paragraph 2. The equations are missing on pages 39, 43 and 59.

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

1. How would the dissertation distinguish the impact of the 2007-2009 financial crisis on the selected countries in the empirical section if and when the post-recession period was selected after 2009, as these countries were already exposed to another crisis, the European Sovereign debt crisis, that lasted through 2012?
2. What is the role of CB policy on the performance of financial markets?
  - a. How would the financial markets react to expansionary policies during the post-crisis period such as record low interest rates in all countries and quantitative easing policies particularly in Hungary and Poland?
  - b. How would the policy implications contribute to the findings in this study?

