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 not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Yongyan Zhu
Dissertation title:	The Effect of the 2007-2008 Financial Crisis on Stock Market Performance: Evidence from Eastern and Central European Countries

	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:	64	**Charles Mark:**	C/64	**Marker:**	Mgr. Michal Paulus
Deducted for late submission:			*No*	**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:			*No*	**Date:**	September 17th, 2021

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark 91-100 - 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 81-90– very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark 71-80 – 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 61-70 – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark 51-60 – 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 0-50 - 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__*):

The paper is analysing the impacts of the 2007-9 financial crisis on financial markets of the Central and Eastern European Countries (CEE). The author examines the impacts on the stock market performance.

The strengths of the thesis rely on literature review and its methodological part. At first, the study is based on a profound analysis of existing literature. The chapter Literature Review is itself extensive and covers all important parts which are relevant for the further analysis. Secondly, the methodological section of the thesis (Chapter III) offers quite extensive set of estimates and methods related to time series analysis.

I have no critical comments on both parts. I would only add one discussion note for the author. The paper is (in my understanding) regarding the financial crisis as an external shock to the economy. However, there is also relevant stream of literature explaining that financial crises are inseparable features of the financial capitalism (see e.g. the Financial Instability Hypothesis of H. Minsky).

However, the paper suffers from several weaknesses:

Firstly, the paper presents results on 25 pages while the discussion of those outcomes can be found just within few paragraphs in the Discussion section (page 78). I miss more extensive explanation of what the results of several estimated models (focused also on specific CEE markets) are telling us about the impacts of the crisis on the CEE financial markets or their economic performance. To open this debate in conclusion seems to me unsatisfactory.

Secondly, the thesis needs profound proof reading. The text suffers from typos or even missing words which makes the resulting text hard to understand.

Thirdly, the described equations within the text are missing on several pages. For example, I cannot see the equation on page 39 (3.4 Calculation of the return of the financial market), page 43 (3.9 Vector Autoregression) or page 59 (4.4 Stationarity test). I would also recommend to number all the equations.

Another problem can be found once the results of the vector autoregression are being presented (starting on page 61). The related tables are hard to read (sometimes it is even impossible to do so) – see pages 62, 64, 66 or 68. Those tables shall be divided into several pages or just the main results could be presented (while the rest can be moved into the appendix).

Different issue can be seen on page 77. The author simply copy-pasted results from the statistical software (very likely Stata) without any effort to transform that output into user-friendly table for a reader. That problem is replicated on other pages within the text.

Given the state of the manuscript and the other weaknesses mentioned above I propose to grade the thesis with mark C on its upper bound (64 points).

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

- In the conclusion you claim that as a result of the financial crisis the European markets have been more integrated. Do you have any explanation for that development?

- Your literature review is mainly focused on literature interpreting financial crises as an external shock (in my understanding). Do you agree with this perspective or would you agree more with interpretation presented e.g. by H. Minsky claiming that financial crises are inherited features of financial capitalism?