

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:	Ling Zhang
Dissertation title:	Exploring the Interaction between Foreign Direct Investment and International trade with a Focus on CEECs

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Knowledge <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>	70					
Analysis & Interpretation <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>		69				
Structure & Argument <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's limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>	72					
Presentation & Documentation <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>		67				
Methodology <i>Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.</i>	70					

ECTS Mark:	B/69	Charles Mark:	B/88	Marker:	Pavel Szobi
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>			No	Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	9/13/2021

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):

In the introduction, the author provides readers with a profound review of the existing research and literature on the topic. One of the main and probably the most provocative questions, the author aimed to answer, was whether the commercial integration within CEECS shows more substantial results than the one with old EU members. The countries tested in the sample include Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Estonia.

The author makes a convincing argument about the fact that the economic size of Slovenia and Slovakia may be smaller than the one of Czechia or Hungary. However, they still attracted considerable value of FDI concerning the per capita basis during the transition period due to the stable political environment in Slovenia, which was up to 70% in terms of country risk index, and a higher share of the private market (75% of GDP) in Slovakia in 1999. The choice of Estonia among the Baltic countries in the author's study is well-argued too – the Estonian economy has a better performance thanks to the accelerated economic liberalisation and more favourable conditions for foreign investments. I agree that an essential element of the FDI differences between the CEE and SEE regions consist of different paths during the transition and their institutional environment.

The author uses the gravity model in order to explain the international trade pattern of the countries in question. I appreciate that for each country, she discusses the empirical findings and the FDI-trade pattern individually. It is imperative that the author pointed out the significance of other Baltic economies concerning the performance of Estonia to get a better picture in the regional context.

Overall, the provided text is evidence for the author's ability to fully understand and interpret the relationship between foreign direct investments and international trade on the example of the chosen countries of the CEE and Baltic regions. I have only some minor issues regarding typing errors in the text and the bibliography list, which could be structured based on the source type.

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

One of the most significant aspects of FDI movements to the Central Eastern European region is the automotive industry. How do you estimate the stability and growth of future investments in this industrial segment based on your expertise?

In your conclusion, you state that the Visegrad countries might provide more favourable conditions for the FDI to support the commercial integration of the CEE region. Would you please express your opinion about which conditions should be applied to achieve a more efficient commercial integration of the region?