

IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator (cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk and 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.

Student:	Qihao Su
Dissertation title:	FDI, Economic Growth and Institutional Quality: Evidence from Countries with Different Income Levels

	70+	69-65	64-60	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>			x			
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>				x		
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 limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>				x		
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>			x			
Methodology <i>Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.</i>			x			

ECTS Mark:	C	UCL Mark:	C/60	Marker:	Chiara amini
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	Chiara amini
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	06.09.2021

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):

The dissertation examines the moderating impact of institutions on FDI on economic growth. The introduction clearly states the research question, but I feel that a better effort should have been place in explaining the gap in the literature and the reason for investigating this issue. Overall, the dissertation is well structured, starting with a literature review and then moving on to an empirical analysis.

The literature review shows good knowledge of relevant theories, however some of the content here is somehow redundant. It would have been better focusing on only the theory relevant to the analysis carried out in the dissertation. The section covers many theories such as the OLI paradigm, Solow model, transaction costs. While all these theories are explained correctly the discussion remains descriptive. Given the focus on institutions in section 2.3, I feel that this part could have focused on transaction costs and/or OLI and then you could have explained the role of institutions using those framework. So overall, although you show good knowledge of the relevant literature there should have been a greater link between theory and subsequent section. Section 2.3 discusses institutions. You correctly refer to North but then you mention that six institutions matter for FDI, although you only analyse 4 of those. You should pay attention to develop a more coherent argument. Some thing that has not been discussed and it would have been important to acknowledge in section two is the role of sector and the type of FDI and it's impact on growth. It is not just about the absorptive capacity but also about the type of FDI and why they locate in a specific country that determines the overall growth effect.

The empirical section shows adequate knowledge of relevant econometric techniques but there are some minor mistakes, so instance the estimated model is dynamic and not static. The results are correctly interpreted and the tables are clearly presented. It is not clear why human capital is analysed separately from institutions. There is a good effort in exploring various interaction effect.

The research question is clearly stated, and the discussion shows good knowledge of the relevant literature but the topic has been widely explored and the contribution of this work to the existing literature is limited.

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

Out of all the theoretical framework discussed in the literature review, which one is most relevant for your analysis and why?

How do you think FDI motive can affect their impact on growth?

