

# 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>	Zihua Rao
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	The supply and demand shocks in Central and Eastern 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>	B	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	67	<b>Marker:</b>	Filipa Figueira
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	Filipa Figueira
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	31/8/2022

## 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):**Best aspects

The dissertation tackles an original and timely topic, looking at the impact of COVID-19 on the automotive industry from the perspective of supply and demand shocks. It has a clear research question, which is addressed effectively.

The analysis is thorough and detailed, and shows a very good understanding of the relevant literature, which is well described in the literature review.

The writing and structure are very clear and easy to follow. The work is well presented and shows effort and motivation.

Suggestions for Improvement

The value added of the work could be explained more directly and explicitly, from the start. Including how it adds value to the literature on supply and demand shocks, to the literature on COVID-19 and to the literature on the automotive industry.

Since the findings did not entirely meet the student's initial hypotheses, it could have made sense to, instead of fully admitting to this discrepancy, altering the hypotheses so that they fit better the results. For example, the assumption that all countries would be hit equally could be altered by hypothesising that they will be hit differently, and offering a theoretical explanation on why that is the case.

The way in which the work is presented to the reader could be further improved, in the following ways:

-The style and tone of the writing could be more formal, avoiding subjective thoughts and informal expressions. This is most notable in the section "Master Thesis Proposal" which is a little too informal and could be entirely removed from the work.

-The work could go more straight to its main question, avoiding irrelevant information. The introduction could be more focused on explaining the research question, methodology and value added, and less on information which is not directly relevant. In particular, the first four paragraphs of the introduction are not really relevant to the topic and could be removed. Similarly, section 1.1.1 of the Literature Review is a little too general and not relevant to the research question, so it could be removed.

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

-What are the main ways in which the dissertation adds value to existing literature, in other words what does it offer which was not yet offered by existing works?

-If you were asked to apply a similar analysis either to a different sector (other than automotive), or to a different region (other than Central and Eastern Europe), which sector or region would you chose? Would you expect your results to be broadly similar or quite different?

