

# 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 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.

<b>Student:</b>	Jinli Yao
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	Inward FDI and Industrial Structure Optimization and Upgrading: Empirical Evidence from Central and East European EU Countries

	70+	69-65	60-61	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's 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>Charles Mark:</b>	A	<b>Marker:</b>	Karel Svoboda
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>			No	<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	

## 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 thesis deals with a vividly debated, and not only in academic circles, topic of influence of foreign direct investment (FDI) on target economies. It chose the topic of influencing the industrial structure of these economies based on combined methodology of qualitative and quantitative analysis. It uses an example of the impacts of FDI on Central European countries. The division into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors may seem too rough, but it serves well for the purposes of the diploma thesis.

The book review serves well to its purpose – identifying the research gap the thesis aims to fill within extensive research on various aspects of FDI. This, although it may sound like a self-understanding characteristic, is not that common and I highly appreciate it. It also demonstrates a very good knowledge of the existing literature, although some titles (Myant and Drahokoupil etc.) are missing.

I have a remark to the conclusion. It seems excessively long, repeating what was already written in the text. Instead of repeating what was already said, the author should underline the main outcomes of the analysis. I am also not a great fan of “policy recommendations” in the diploma thesis, since policy papers have different structure and mission than an analysis of the existing situation. As a result, policy recommendations do not have the convincing power as in the policy papers. Nevertheless, this is only a minor remark, which does not constitute any sort of obstacle for generally very positive evaluation of the thesis itself.

True, the thesis is not without mistakes. It contains typos and other irregularities (“chapter also summarizes and analyses”). However, none of them represent a serious obstacle for understanding the main argument. Another minor remark goes to the bibliography, where the publication year should follow the name of the author. Nevertheless, from the formal point of view, there are no significant problems in the thesis.

In my opinion, this is a very good thesis with coherent structure, well defined research question and a sound knowledge of theories and methodologies.

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

1. The countries in the region differ in their economic structure significantly. Do the effects of FDI differ as well?
2. The role of FDI is vividly debated in the Czech Republic with an obvious slide towards a reserved opinion on the positive effects of FDI: it contributed to the growth of the economy, but it also cemented the industrial structure of the country and contributed to the outflow of dividends to abroad. How would you address these reservations?