

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

	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:		UCL Mark:	61	Marker:	Nauro F Campos
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	Sept 7 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):

This is a clearly organised dissertation on the important topic of foreign direct investment in the former transition economies of Central and East European. The topic is well-motivated with the data, but not with the literature. The student fails to cite a number of important authors and indeed argues that the literature is not sufficiently large or developed (I quote: "There is little literature on the CEE EU countries.") Authors such as Hanousek, Estrin, Bruno, and Kinoshita, to name a few important authors in the specialist literature on the topic, are not cited which is problematic. The dissertation raises an interesting question and motivates it well yet some of the important arguments presented in motivating the research question are not studied in detail later on (the global financial crisis seems to me the most serious aspect in this regard). I can see the student accounts for "time effects" but the concern I am raising is different, it is about the possibility of a structural break around 2009. The methodology chosen is adequate and the work is clearly organised. The presentation of the data and results, however, could have been much tighter and the text would have benefited from further polishing. Overall, it is a good piece of work on a very important topic that displays a lot of underlying work and potential.

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

How do you think the impact of the global financial crisis should be taken into account in your econometric results?

Do you think the dissertation work fully reflects the literature on FDI in transition? Or why does it do not cite papers by Hanousek, Estrin, Bruno, and Kinoshita, to name a few important authors in this literature?

