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: Ting Ting

Dissertation title: Public debt and growth: the delicate relationship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>x</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis &amp; Interpretation</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<tr>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Structure &amp; Argument</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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 arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</td>
<td>x</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation &amp; Documentation</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Satisfactory</th>
<th>Poor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
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ECTS Mark: |

UCL Mark: B

Marker: 65

Deducted for late submission: |

Signed: D. Athanasouli

Date: 18/06/2014

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/C (UCL mark 60-69):
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. 65 or over equates to a B grade.

D/E (UCL mark 50-59):
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):
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.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF

PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND DETAILED FEEDBACK!
Interesting dissertation showing strong background research and prior reading, as well as an interest on the topic. Overall the dissertation is informative, and well researched, showing a good effort to analyze the relationship between public debt and economic growth.

-I would like to see a more clear and analytical expression in the abstract. More accurate and technical expressions that can provide a clear understanding of the findings that derived from the study are recommended. The time period of the study should have been made clear. This only becomes clear in section 2.4. Also some details on the methodology would be appropriate in the abstract and the potential originality of the study could have been mentioned, eg. when you mention the second finding in the abstract you refer to “Cutting debt to return to economic prosperity is a long term plan. Short-term fiscal austerity is appropriate (avoid general statements—any findings that you can include?) in an economic recession for the countries with high debt”. This statement could have been better explained.

-Avoid generalizations and write accurately, eg. What do you mean the effect of debt on growth is not as serious? Is there not conclusive evidence in the study or could you provide some numerical evidence?

-Should also avoid informal expressions and strong statements in academic writing (eg. “dangerous levels of debt’, “extinguished the hope of economic recovery”, “a thorny problem badly in need for solvency”).

-Some grammar and expression mistakes could also have been avoided.

-References were sometimes missing. You need to include references throughout the dissertation.

-The methodological framework could have been more clearly explained and justified to strengthen the analysis that followed. Some parts are unclear and the sections that follow should have been stated, explained and justified.

-The structure could be more clear, avoid too short paragraphs of 1-2 sentences. A brief discussion of the analysis to follow at the beginning of each section and key facts would be helpful and improve clarity.

-Well researched theoretical part that could at parts be more concise. Overall good description of data and findings. However I would have liked to see an explanation and justification of the tests performed, eg. polynomial regression, simulation model. This could strengthen your analysis and improve coherence in the dissertation.

-The limitations of the study should have been further discussed in the concluding section.
Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 3 questions*):

- Explain and justify the methodological framework of the study. Discuss the links between the different sections in the dissertation.
- Discuss the contribution of the study with respect to the existing literature.
- Discuss the limitations of the study.