

# IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator  
(cc Allan Sikk [a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk) and Louise Wassell [l.wassell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.wassell@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>	Funmi Sotuminu
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	The role played by global forces in development of developing countries

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
<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 arguments 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>ECTS Mark:</b>	E	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	52	<b>Marker:</b>	Dr S. Makarova
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	Svetlana Makarova
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	16 June 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!

**Constructive comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (*at least 300 words*):**

The work is using literature review based approach to investigate the role of different types of global institutions in economic development of low income countries. In particular, the role of three types of organisations, namely multinational corporations (MNC), World Trade Organization (WTO) and financial institutions such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) are critically assessed.

The topic of the work is important and challenging. The dissertation includes numerous facts and details related to activities and policies of MNC, WTO, IMF and WB in low income countries that are not easy to obtain. The author shows good understanding of challenges that are faced by developing and low income countries in particular.

However I have reservations regarding the structure, methodology and results.

The Author is employing literature based approach. In this context having two separate sections on Literature review (Section 3) and Analysis (Sections 5) is inconsistent. There is also a separate Section 4 called 'Methodology' that in practice just says that literature review based approach is used. An introduction to the problem is given in Section 2 'History of Development' but it is quite general, not focused on any specific group(s) of countries and not used as a reference point in further analysis.

Section 5, which constitutes the main part of the dissertation, considers consecutively the role of each type of the organisations that is MNC, WTO, IMF and WB, in the economic development. However, sub-sections devoted to each of the above listed institutions and organisations are not clearly compared to each other or other parts of the dissertation, diversity of MNC is not investigated and the analysis addresses low income countries as a homogeneous aggregate without considering possible specifics of different groups (see for example table 1). This makes analysis unfocused and vague.

The analysis is lacking a theoretical framework, in particular, seminal references to neoclassical growth theory (e.g. A. Lewis, 1954, 1968, W. Easterly, 2001).

Pages are not numbered, which makes detailed commenting on the dissertation difficult. The fact that references are not organised alphabetically does not help either.

**Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 3 questions*):**

1. What is the principal-agent problem and what is its role in the efficiency of policies of MNC.
2. Explain table 1 and relevance of comparative analysis between Armenia and Georgia and other countries that are included in the table (Uganda, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Honduras, Ethiopia, Benin, Mozambique, Madagascar, Niger, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Ghana, Mali, Zambia, Vietnam, Bolivia).
3. In the light of role of international organisation's considered in the dissertation, critically evaluate Sir W. Arthur Lewis statements that '... the central fact of economic development is rapid capital accumulation', (1954), and '...since the second world war it has become quite clear that rapid economic growth is available to those countries with adequate natural resources which make the effort to achieve it', (1968).