

# IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator

(cc Julia Korosteleva [j.korosteleva@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.korosteleva@ucl.ac.uk) and Marta Kotwas [m.kotwas@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.kotwas@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>	Wenjie Li
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	China's outward FDI in Central and Eastern Europe

	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>	A	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	75/1	<b>Marker:</b>	Karel Svoboda
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	

## MARKING GUIDELINES

**A (UCL mark 70+; Charles University mark = 1):** 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; Charles University mark =2):**

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; Charles University mark = 3 ):**

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; Charles University mark = nepospělúa):**

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 thesis aims at the topic that is regarded as extremely important in today's Central and Eastern Europe. All of the countries in the region are trying to attract more investment from China in order to boost their economies. The topic is hard to grasp due to the fact of the statistical peculiarities. China, as well as the receiving countries, report the investment from China as FDI, despite the fact that they are mostly tied credits to the receiving countries. This creates a serious problem for an analysis of this topic.

The author exhibited excellent command of quantitative techniques as well as the knowledge of the theories of foreign direct investment. She concentrates on the question of motivation of Chinese firms. The author discusses not only economic reasoning of the investment of the Chinese firms into the CEE countries, but also the political motivation. This explains the prominent position of Hungary in Chinese investment.

The author presents conclusions about the influence of separate factors on the decision making in Chinese investments. Some of them do not support findings of the previous research conducted by other researchers. Among these, the absence of the influence of institutional factors or the size of the market, or on the other side, the impact of natural resources, should be named. What is important, the author provides an explanation with full awareness of the specifics of the region (Chinese investment goes to industries that are reasonably large, aiming not at the market of the country itself but of the EU market as a whole).

The thesis is clear and well structured. Probably the only weak part of the thesis lies in the presence of some misprints. Further editing would be helpful. I would, although I do not regard it as a mistake, exclude the suggestions part.

To sum up, Wenjie Li wrote an excellent thesis based on sound knowledge of the material and the methods for analysing it.

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

1. You mentioned the problem of FDI statistics such as reporting of the approved projects instead of actual flows. How are the non-executed projects recorded?
2. Some of the investment projects are in the form of tied credits, when the receiving country is obliged to buy Chinese products for the credits it receives. What is the share, according to your opinion, of this type of investment?