IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Julia Korosteleva j.korosteleva@ucl.ac.uk and Marta Kotwas m.kotwas@ucl.ac.uk

Please note that IMESS students are <u>not</u> required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Lei Tan
Dissertation title:	FINANCIAL GLOBALIZATION AND HOST COUNTRY EFFECT -- An Empirical Analysis of EU Countries

	Excellent		Satisfactory		Poor
Knowledge *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.*	x				
Analysis & Interpretation *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.*		x			
Structure & Argument *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.*		x			
Presentation & Documentation *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.*		x			

ECTS Mark:	B	**UCL Mark:**	68	**Marker:**	Mitchell Young
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	

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

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (_at least 300 words_):

The thesis brings together the areas of financial globalization and economic growth and attempts to understand their relationship both in different time periods and with different groupings of countries. Using European Union's member states in the pre- and post- crisis periods, it compares the relationship between economic growth and globalization in the 'core' countries and two sets of 'peripheral' countries: southwestern and central eastern. The study uses a quantitative methodology and comes up with a number of statistically valid findings.

The structure of the thesis is appropriate to the topic. The work is original in that it addresses a relationship that is less commonly explored in the literature. At the outset, the author had also intended to include a third theoretical area, that of the Varieties of Capitalism, but removed it in the final version as it became too complex to merge three theories. The literature review that had been written for that section was well done and comprehensive. The literature review that is now in the thesis is very good for those theories that I am familiar with. As the final version of the thesis went in a quantitative direction that I am not expert in, I cannot fully evaluate the methodology nor the calculations therein.

The formal aspects of the thesis are all in good order. The citations are appropriate and correctly styled, the charts, graphs and tables are all clear, graphically pleasing and well labelled. The language of the thesis is good, but there are grammatical errors and phrasings that can make it hard to follow in places.

Overall the student has succeeded in making a connection between financial globalization and economic growth, and has come up with several findings that are worth further exploration. She has demonstrated that this relationship being positive is not absolute but is contingent on both the counties position in the EU (core/peripheral) and the general economic environment (crisis/non-crisis). I would have liked to see the student develop the policy recommendations that arise from this a bit more.

As the supervisor, I was very pleased with the attitude and approach of the student. She was receptive to comments and in the second semester came regularly for consultations. I was impressed by her openness to change and search for truth in the data. A version of the thesis shown to me in early May was changed dramatically in order to address concerns with the use of varieties of capitalism and several other issues with the choice of indicators. Many students might have tried to force the issue and keep these in given that the thesis appeared to be almost done, but Ms. Tan, removed them and went back to the data to come up with new ideas. I also appreciate that she has not glossed over any findings but has come up with a nuanced conclusion that fits her results.

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

Could you break down the grouping of peripheral countries even further? Do you think you would get even more granular results if you made the groups smaller? What criteria might you use to divide the central European grouping into two or three?

Given your finding that financial globalization does not always correspond positively with economic growth, do you think that your work provides evidence to support anti-globalization measures and politics?

What did you learn about the challenges and difficulties of using indicators during the process of this research?