

MASTER'S EXAMINER REPORT

GPS – Geopolitical Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Thesis title:	Developing Russian Far East: A Model of International Medical Education Cluster
Name of Student:	Faina Kulak
Referee (incl. titles):	Michael Romancov, Ph.D.
Report Due Date:	6/17/2021

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the four numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Contribution and argument:

What is the contribution of the work? Is the argumentation and research quality strong? Interpretation of own results, justified analyses, conclusions. Originality and independent scientific thinking.

The topic of the work is original, actual and relevant within the GPS framework. From an interesting perspective, the author deals with the issue of state / region development in the conditions of global competition of the 21st century. She chose an appropriate theoretical model for the topic, which she applies carefully and precisely. The author clearly demonstrated the ability to process the topic to the required depth and width. The conclusions reached are well argued.

2) Theoretical and methodological framework:

Is the theoretical background relevant? Is there a sufficient theoretical framework applied? Are the applied methods relevant for answering the selected research questions and/or testing hypotheses? Are they used correctly?

The author chose Michael E. Porter's Theory of National Advantage, which was created in the early 1990s, for her work. The author has chosen an approach that is completely satisfactory due to the nature of the topic. The study is organized along the five key areas. These are: contemporary situation in the Russian Far East; notions of the national competitive advantage and business clustering; state of the global healthcare industry and shortfalls in health workers; internalization of Russian higher education; operations of the offshore medical education cluster. By considering the implications of the above trends and their interrelations, the study sets out to model a structure and key aspects of functioning of International Medical Education Cluster in the Russian Far Eastern Federal District.

2) Sources and literature:

Is literature research relevant? Is the thesis situated in a broader context (field of research)? Quotation of sources.

The study relies on a large number of relevant sources. The analysis relies on data available from various Ministries of the Russian Federation, Federal State Statistics Service, Embassies in Russia, reports of the WHO and global business consulting companies. Academic, government and news publications covering Russian Far East, regional development programs and cluster initiatives in the Russian Federation, global healthcare and educational trends are examined.

4) Manuscript form and structure:

Are there any formal issues (logical coherence, layout, structure, tables, figures)?

The work is clearly and logically structured. The individual chapters follow each other organically and the reader orients himself in the text without any problems. In many places in the text, the reader will find maps and tables that are processed carefully and significantly increase reading comfort.

5) Quality of presentation

What is the quality of presentation (language, style, cohesion)

The work reads well, is written in a cultivated language and, if I am able to judge it, without any major grammatical or stylistic problems. Occasional typos do not make the text difficult to understand.

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (research quality, analysis, and conclusions) (max. 40 points)</i>	35
<i>Theoretical and methodological framework (max. 25 points)</i>	22
<i>Sources and literature (max. 10 points)</i>	10
<i>Manuscript form and structure (max. 15 points)</i>	15
<i>Quality of presentation (grammar, style, coherence) (max. 10 points)</i>	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	92
The proposed grade (A-B-C-D-E-F)	

Suggested questions for the defence are:

I have no further questions.

I recommend the thesis for final defence.

Referee Signature

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Quality standard
91 – 100	A	= outstanding (high honor)
81 – 90	B	= superior (honor)
71 – 80	C	= good
61 – 70	D	= satisfactory
51 – 60	E	= low pass at a margin of failure
0 – 50	F	= failing. The thesis is not recommended for defence.