IMESS DISSERTATION

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

(cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk **and** fiona.rushworth@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:	Ziyi Wu
Dissertation title:	Which Factors Are More Important In Emerging Economies: External or Internal?

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
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		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 argument´s 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	
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*				x		

ECTS Mark:		**Charles Mark:**	D		**Marker:**	Karel Svoboda
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**		
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**		

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark- excellent): *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 (UCL mark 69-65) = B (Charles mark – very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark – good): 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 (UCL mark 59-55) = D (Charles mark – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark – sufficient):
Demonstration of a critical use of sources and ability to engage in systematic inquiry. An ability to engage in sustained research work,

F (UCL mark less than 50) = F (Charles mark - insufficient):
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.

Please provide substantive and detailed feedback!

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

I am somehow confused by the choice of the countries. It seems to me that the main criterium was "BRICS" countries, but without Brazil, without mentioning the reason. For the selected period, Russia can be only hardly taken as "fast growing country", since it grew in a slower pace than the world economy. Naturally, it is author's right to choose any country, but the explanation should be more profound, better developed. Secondly, oil is Russia's main source of growth and trade surplus. This is something that should be at least mentioned in the thesis. If not discussed, the most important factor of the economy is simply ignored. It was not also clear, why there are different time ranges.

The conclusion that well-developed financial market boosts economic growth in Russia may be also questioned. Most of the biggest infrastructural works in Russia are built with Western credits. As a result, development of Russia's financial market has only minor significance. Furthermore, by far the most cited reason of Russian economic growth is the growth of commodity prices.

The title does not correspond with the thesis fully. While it speaks about emerging economies, I would expect broader cross-country analysis of the group of countries. However, the thesis then narrows the choice to four countries including non-Asian.

Although the authoress discusses the problems of emerging economies in South Eastern Asian countries. However, including Russia and South Africa does not give a logic. Targeting on emerging markets in Asia would be more appropriate.

In some parts, I did not fully see any link between the thesis and its topic. For instance, the page 7 speaks about the development aid to the least developed countries. As a result, the thesis could be more coherent. Omitting side topics would be helpful.

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

1. The thesis almost does not mention COVID-19 crisis and subsequent upheavals. Although still highly speculative, can some effects on emerging markets be already distilled? Are there any emerging markets specific measures to fight the crisis?
2. You speak about "political stability" as a recommendation for Russia. However, there were only two presidents in Russia during last twenty years, including Dmitry Medvedev as purely formal one. What do you mean by the term "political stability"?