

IMESS DISSERTATION




Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Allan Sikk a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk and Alexa Stewart alexa.stewart@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.

Student:	Funmi Sotuminu
Dissertation title:	The role played by global forces in development of developing countries (Note: The Charles university online system (SIS) lists a different title: 'Is development aid the most effective tool in poverty alleviation and economic development?')

	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor
Knowledge <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	
Analysis & Interpretation <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
Structure & Argument <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
Presentation & Documentation <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

ECTS Mark:	E	Charles Mark:	3	Marker:	Lucia Najšlová, PhD
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	13.6.2014

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.

A = výborně = 1

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.

B/C = velmi dobře = 2

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.

D/E = dobře = 3

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.

F = neprospěl = 4

CONTINUES OVERLEAF
**PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND
DETAILED FEEDBACK!**

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

The thesis addresses a very important topic yet the research question is not clearly formulated and conceptual apparatus is very weak. While I can only agree with the author's conclusions (e.g. regulation of MNCs on national and international level is essential in order to better assist development objectives), the thesis does not convincingly present evidence that leads to this conclusion (e.g. the text does not include much discussion on 'development objectives').

In the abstract the author states: "The objective of this thesis is to explore the role global interest can play in the economic development of developing and less developed countries. As this topic is quite broad it was limited to exploring the role played by the World Bank, IMF and WTO along with the role-played by Multinational corporation." In the methodological section the author states: "This thesis shall be limited to exploring the role global interest play in economic development and the development aid infrastructure. This paper further intends to analyze this by compartmentalizing the key aspect of the topic to make it clearer for the reader. The overall aim is to explain what role global interest has played and what role they can play in economic development." (p.30). In no place in the thesis does the author clearly explain what is a 'global interest' and how do MNCs, IMF, WB and WTO promote this 'global interest'. It is clear from the substance of the work that the author is trying to say that the MNCs and the IMF, WB and WTO have for now failed to adopt and follow policies and practices that would have significantly helped to alleviate poverty and foster development. Yet this should have been spelled out more clearly and using a more rigorous conceptual framework (e.g. author is not very clear on what 'development' means and what are its basic indicators).

The thesis would have greatly benefitted from a more narrow pool of empirical data (e.g. focusing on one country or region and on a specific period as opposed to providing examples from the whole world). In addition, the ambitious and broad angle necessarily leads to a number of vague and unsubstantiated claims (e.g. p.36 – "FDI and globalization is welcomed in most developed countries").

While it is clear that the author has read widely, and he raises a number of relevant points (e.g. trade liberalization does not necessarily contribute to development; multinational companies are not necessarily interested in development of the countries in which they operate, 'structural adjustment' has in some cases been counter-productive, etc.) there are too many points raised to be followed thoroughly. Thus, it is not clear what specifically is s/he researching and which methodology s/he applies. In the very short and vague section on methodology (only one page – p.30) the author states that 'meta-analysis of relevant papers and reports' and 'literature-based methodology' will be employed yet without specifying what exactly this means. The key for choosing the analysed material is not clear even from the subsequent (analytical) parts of the thesis. Theoretical foundations of the thesis are also presented in a confusing manner – in the opening of the chapter titled 'Analysis' (p.31) the author very briefly explains the Coase theorem and Principal-Agent problem, yet s/he fails to refer to them consistently throughout the thesis.

A significant weakness of the thesis is that the author switches from description and analysis of the studied phenomena into formulating policy recommendations and prescriptions – something I believe is not the purpose of an MA thesis.

The graphs and tables in the thesis seem to all have been taken from existing studies (they often lack a reference), hence there is not much evidence that the author himself worked with primary data.

The reference apparatus and bibliography are not unified, the author switches between various citation styles, in some cases s/he fails to provide full reference.

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

I believe this thesis should be let to oral defence only once the author:

- 1) specifies the research question
- 2) clarifies his conceptual apparatus
- 3) gives a more detailed explanation of the methodology (and follows this methodology throughout the thesis)

narrows down the pool of empirical data to a specific region and/or period.