

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 not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Anja Kothe
Dissertation title:	

	Excellent	Satisfactory	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:	C	UCL Mark:	63	Marker:	Karel Svoboda
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				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 addresses the question of foreign ownership levels in the banking system of Central European states and the behaviour of the foreign banks in the market. It follows four dimensions of financial development, as they are defined in academic literature.

The structure of the paper remains would deserve a better clarification. Repeating the research question in several sections of the paper (introduction, page 29) resembles more confusion than well designed structure. This then makes basic understanding of the argument much harder. It is not clear, for instance on the page 37, where the author speaks about Hungary and where about the countries in general. Furthermore, the structure of the paragraphs is chaotic. It was hard to follow the argument in some cases (literature overview), as it seems more like summing volumes without any logic.

Concerning the presentation of the results of the research, I must point out that the thesis is full of mistakes such as constant switching between English and American spelling (behaviour-behavior, most typically). Furthermore, although I can find the meaning of the sentence "As a result the economy suffered and loan growth declines as well as demand dropped", but it is by no means clear from the text itself.

The methods used in the thesis seem to be adequate for the purpose of the analysis. Nevertheless, the theoretical discussion could be presented in a richer form. Only some 35 titles in bibliography raise a question about author's knowledge of the debate. Regrettably, this debate is only weakly covered in the theoretical and literature review parts. Sentences like "only few papers have so far analyzed" without mentioning these papers do not give any hint about it.

Some claims are even contradicting: "Using both a theoretical model and an empirical approach, they find evidence that credit to the private sector is lower in countries with higher foreign bank penetration and that foreign banks have a less risky loan portfolio. Similarly, a research paper from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) (Bruno & Hauswald, 2012) came to the conclusion that foreign banks can improve access to credit and increase industry growth." (page 15).

Despite the critical tone of my review, the author exhibited a sound knowledge of the methodological approaches to the topic, including an adequate command of the statistical programs (STATA). My general impression is that it is by no means a bad paper, but it could be better, if the text and structure were clarified.

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

1. Could you please add some comment on the popular belief that the Central European "daughters" saved the western banks during the crisis?
2. In the conclusion, you speak about the possibility to research the countries of origin of the foreign banks and the role of this territorial aspect on their behaviour (which is quite common for the research in FDI and behaviour patterns of foreign companies). Do you have already any preliminary observations (Russian, Chinese banks etc.)?