Master's Thesis Evaluation Form

<mark>Student's name:</mark> Alena Rodikova

Thesis title: The role played by social media in the migration-related decision- making process in the case of international students of Charles University.

Name of the supervisor: Annamaria Neag, PhD

Name of the opponent:

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis? Please give your reasons for the suggested grade in detail below.

1.   Does the author show understanding of one or more theories, and use theory to generate a hypothesis or to make the problem area more understandable.

Comments: The author presents a good number of concepts and theories relevant to the research, which aid the understanding of the problem she wants to focus on.

2.   Is the research question articulated clearly and properly? Is the research question sufficiently answered in the conclusion?

Comments: The thesis was guided by two research questions, and these were articulated clearly. In case of the first research question though, it is quite difficult to answer it with qualitative methods ('to what extent').

3.   Is the thesis based on relevant research and literature and does it accurately summarize and integrate the information?

Comments: The thesis presents a number of definitions, studies and scientific ideas on the topic of international student mobility. While the section on the history of international education is helpful, this could have been more focused to present information on this in the CEE region, as the Czech Republic is the focus of the study. The studies presented are all pertinent for the aims of the student, however, the author should have taken a more critical look at these previous findings, and show how these are connected to her aims.

4.   What is the quality of the data or the other sources? Are the sample method, data collection and data analysis appropriate?

Comments: The data collection method is clearly described, and the author also presents the method's limitations. The sample is large enough, however, the data gathered is not very 'thick'. Another limitation is that the data analysis stays more on a descriptive level, and does not engage more critically with the collected data in relation with previous studies.

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5.   *Are the findings relevant to the research question? Are the conclusions of the thesis based on strong arguments?*

Comments: The findings are relevant, but as said before, the analysis stays somewhat on a descriptive level (e.g. describing what the participants said, but not providing a more theoretical discussion of the implications). It might be that the interviews did not yield more in-depth data, in that case probably another method of data collection could have been considered, had the time constraints allowed it.

6.   *Are the author's thoughts distinguished unambiguously from the borrowed ideas?*

Comments: Yes, they are.

7.   *Is the thesis containing original/innovative research (in terms of topic, approach, and/or findings)?*

Comments: The thesis provides some interesting insights into how international students have chosen Charles University. However, a more in-depth discussion should have been provided that engages with previous literature. For instance, the observation that "[…] people tend to trust other people's experiences when it comes to getting a perspective on the quality of education and the overall experience of studying at a particular university". – could have been more developed and discussed further in light of differences between the type of information students choose social media for.

8.   *What is the quality of style and other formal requirements?*

Comments: The text itself is easy to read, but sometimes it lacks academic depth, sentences seem somewhat simplistic and/or colloquial (e.g. in the abstract). 'Bibliography' is misspelled.

9.   *Are there any other strengths and weaknesses of the thesis, which are not included in the previous questions? Please list them if any.*

Comments: -

10.   *What topic do you suggest for the discussion in the thesis defence?*

Comments: In your opinion, what is this thesis' overall contribution to knowledge?

11.   *Declaration that the supervisor has read the result of the originality check in the system: [   ]   Theses   [X]   Turnitin   [   ]   Original   (Urkund)*

Supervisor's comment on the originality check result: The score is 15%, which is somewhat high, but it is mainly due because of the word choice used in the title and elsewhere and the works cited, which is very similar to another publication.

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Overall assessment of the thesis:

(Please, state clearly whether the thesis is or is not recommended for a defence and write the main reasons for the recommendation).

Proposed grade: C

(A- B: excellent, C-D: very good, E: good, F: fail)

Date:
2023.09.08

Signature:

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