

# IMESS DISSERTATION



**Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator (jiri.vykoukal@post.cz)**

Please note that IMESS students are not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

<b>Student:</b>	Shiyuan Huang
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	The Role of FDI in the Green Transition of Central and East Europe Countries: From Empirical Evidence

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Knowledge</b> <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					
<b>Analysis &amp; Interpretation</b> <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				
<b>Structure &amp; Argument</b> <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 argument's limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>		X				
<b>Presentation &amp; Documentation</b> <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				
<b>Methodology</b> <i>Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.</i>		X				

<b>ECTS Mark:</b>	B/67	<b>Charles Mark:</b>	B	<b>Marker:</b>	Michal Paulus
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>			No	<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	September 7, 2023

## MARKING GUIDELINES

**A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark 91-100 - 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 81-90 – very good)**  
**C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark 71-80 – 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 61-70 – satisfactory)**  
**E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark 51-60 – sufficient):** 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) = F (Charles mark 0-50 - 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):

### General comments:

The thesis combines very extensive and detailed literature review with empirical analysis of the Environmental Kuznets Curve. The objectives of the thesis and its contribution are clearly stated. I have more or less minor comments or remarks which would help to clarify some parts of the text. Therefore, I assess the thesis with grade B.

### My comments in detail

#### 1) Methodology

The relation between equation (3) on page 60 and equations (4) and (5) on page 78 shall be explicitly mentioned because it is unfortunately unclear (see my questions below). E.g., I can see the results of the model described on page 78 but not the results of the model described on page 60. Does that mean that the model presented on page 78 is a way to empirically estimate the equation (3)? That must be clarified.

On page 88 another model investigating the FDI's impact on renewable energy production is presented. However related existing literature which was (or could) be used for inspiration or derivation of the model's specification is missing (see my question below).

I can imagine more extensive robustness checks - e.g., to work with other control variables. Some inspiration can be definitely found in related literature.

#### 2) Other minor comments

- In my understanding  $\alpha_4$  (page 60) is not a coefficient but a vector of coefficients if  $X$  is a vector of explanatory variables.
- It would be better to include also data sources in Table 27 (Page 61) for the listed variables.
- Some author's claims or conclusions would be more trustworthy if they were backed by references to existing literature. E.g. on page 65 it is claimed that "*Consequently, the GDP is considered a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.*". I understand that this claim may seem straightforward but reference to research validating such conclusion would help. Another example is the usage of the ratio of FDI stock as a percentage of GDP as a suitable proxy for the FDI (page 64). Is such approximation used in relevant literature or is it the idea of the author?

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

- What is the difference between the two models described on page 60 and page 78? What is their purpose and why are they using different sets of variables (tables 27 and 38)?
- I can see the results of the model described on page 78 but not the results of the model described on page 60. Does that mean that the model presented on page 78 is a way to empirically estimate the equation (3)? Can you please explain that?
- On page 88 the model investigating the FDI's impact on renewable energy production is presented. On which literature is this specification based or inspired?
- The author used the ratio of FDI stock as a percentage of GDP as a suitable proxy for the FDI. Have you seen such approximation in related literature?