

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.

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| Student: | Xueyan Shi |
| Dissertation title: | Analyzing the Impact of Czech Economic Development on Carbon Emissions: VAR Model Approach |

| | 70+ | 69-65 | 64-60 | 59-55 | 54-50 | <50 |
|---|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
| 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 argument 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 | |
| Methodology <i>Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.</i> | | | X | | | |

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|---|---|------------------|----|----------------|-----------------|
| ECTS Mark: | D | UCL Mark: | 58 | Marker: | Idil Uz Akdogan |
| <i>Deducted for late submission:</i> | | | | Signed: | |
| <i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i> | | | | Date: | 24.08.2023 |

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 (UCL mark 65-69):

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.

C (UCL mark 60-61):

Some evidence of critical analysis, knowledgeable interpretation. Wide range of sources used to develop a logic and coherent argument. Good understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen

field of research, the extent of independent research could have improved.

D (UCL mark 59-55):

Employ relevant sources and show ability to engage in systematic inquiry. Little critical analysis of the material. It demonstrate methodological awareness but the standard and rigor of the analysis can improve.

E (UCL mark 54-50):

Mostly descriptive argument. Employ relevant but limited sources. The structure, logic and overall quality of the argument needs improvement.

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.

Comments, explaining strengths and weaknesses (at least 300 words):

A well-structured dissertation showing a good knowledge of the topics discussed. The research question was clearly identified. The section on the significance of the research in the introduction presents the reason behind the selection of the methodology used in the analysis rather than explaining the general contribution of the study.

The dissertation presents a good effort in testing the relationship between economic growth and carbon emissions. Statistical figures and empirical analysis provide evidence that the economy is growing via an increase in industrialization with lower levels of carbon emissions, providing evidence that the economy is on the right-hand side of the Kuznet curve. Nevertheless, the analysis is silent about the cause of this reduction in carbon emissions, whether it is due to a shift of the economy to specific industries or changes in institutional structure, or due to changes in energy and environmental policies at the national or EU level, or any other reason. Thus, it leaves the reader with the sense that analysis is lax in a compelling argument. Thus, the selection of explanatory variables in the empirical section oversimplifies the complex relationship between growth and carbon emissions. There has been a good effort to use the VAR method for the analysis. The choice of methodology is clearly presented. Descriptive statistics and diagnostic tests were performed. However, the number of observations is insufficient to obtain reliable results, especially when lags are included (see Table 9). There should be more emphasis on discussing the findings and comparing the results with those in the literature. The level of the critical analysis can also be improved.

The dissertation meets the general requirements for presentation and documentation. It presents a good academic writing style, although it falls into repetitions in certain sections and unnecessary numbering of sections (see pages 20-22). The accuracy and the consistency of the citation of sources could have been improved. For example, pages 4, 9, 10, 14, 23-26 and 44-45 seriously suffer from lack of appropriate citations. This is disappointing for dissertation at the master's level. The source of Figure 1 and the statistics on page 39 should have been provided in the text.

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

1. How would the author evaluate the relationship between growth rate and carbon emissions in Czech Republic to other CEECs? What are the similarities and the differences?
2. How effective is the European energy and environmental policies in dealing with economic and environmental issues in Czech Republic?

