

# 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>	Xiaoyi Xiong
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment in CEE countries

	70+	69-65	64-60	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 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>	C/62	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	62	<b>Marker:</b>	Yating Li
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> Aug 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):**

This thesis studied the effective factors influencing the foreign direct investment for China via the pool of CEE countries. The empirical model was built based on gravity model and using panel data. The research question has been clearly defined in the introduction section, the research background also provides the information about China's FDI history. The motivation of studying this topic has been stated in section 1.2, which intends to contribute to the collaboration between China and CEE countries. More explanations can be added here: is the collaboration refers to the economic sense only? What factors have been found in other studies to the same area? And how these factors affecting the collaborations between China and CEE countries.

Extensive literatures have been organized in a systematic way in section 2 and 3. Graphs have been used to present the developments. The presentation of some figures seems interesting. Literatures of different have been used to form a critical literature review.

Variables have been clearly defined with a self-explanatory table. But the sample size seems to too small for the number of coefficients to estimate. Panel model has been fitting to the data. However the motivation of fitting the FE model has not been explained. Other parts of model fitting seems to be weak. Stationarity, as an essential problem for panel data, has not been discussed. This affects the quality of fitting FE model, as it affects the form of variable entering the model.

The modelling results have been interpreted in a quantitative way. Rich literatures has been used in the comments of modelling results. It is interesting to have the testing results from variation of sub samples. The research questions have been answered by the modelling results. It would be better if more advices to the policy can be added.

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

1. What is the motivation of using FE model?
2. What is the policy implications based on the modelling results?

