IMESS DISSERTATION

**Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Ilias Chondrogiannis i.chondrogiannis@ucl.ac.uk and ssees-intma@ucl.ac.uk)**

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

Student:	MUCHEN YOU
Dissertation title:	Empirical Research on the Factors Influencing Industrial Structure Upgrading of Central and Eastern European Countries

	70+	69-65	60-61	59-55	54-50	<50
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Knowledge *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.*				X		
Analysis & Interpretation *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.*				X		
Structure & Argument *Demonstrates ability to structure work with clarity, relevance and coherence. Ability to argue a case; clear evidence of analysis and logical thought; recognition of arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.*					X	
Presentation & Documentation *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.*				X		
Methodology *Understanding of techniques applicable to the chosen field of research, showing an ability to engage in sustained independent research.*					X	

ECTS Mark:		**UCL Mark:**	55	**Marker:**	Ilias Chondrogiannis
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	Ilias Chondrogiannis
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	23-01-2024

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):
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.

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

Surprisingly thin quantitative part. There is a VIF test, a correlation matrix, standard data pre-estimation treatment, but there is only one table of meaningful results. The fact that CEE countries are treated as a single area, without taking into account their structural differences, is a great weakness. There is not even a discussion of the fixed effects coefficient in the regression results, so we cannot know the effect either country or time fixed effects. There are no robustness tests – in fact, the technical part could have belonged to module coursework rather than an IMESS dissertation. Regarding the foundational and conceptual discussion, the statement that most of the research revolves around China is not very accurate and is not solid justification of its own. In addition, the dissertation ignores the fact that the move towards the tertiary sector (i.e. the structure of a modern economy) does not necessarily go through a phase of industrialisation. CEE countries are in a much different nexus of interactions with their peer EU countries than other regional clusters in the world, have access to different types of investment and technology, and tend to utilise FDI both from the EU and outside , especially China. There is little to no reference to the "middle income trap", which can be a factor for at least some of CEE countries, and is also relevant to the process of ISU. It is notable, however, that some aspects are treated wrongly even in that context. For example, labour supply is discussed in a Solow-type neoclassical way, which ignores the need for a highly skilled and trained labour force in order to take advantage of new technologies and management processes. Hence, the negative coefficient in the results is not as self-evident, and productivity of the labour force is not discussed. Finally, the choice to treat CEE as a homogeneous group is damning. There is simply not enough to treat this as a mixed-methods dissertation, as the non-quantitative part is a historical analysis and background rather than the application of a qualitative method, even rudimentary or descriptive.

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

Is there any justification for the treatment of CEE as a homogeneous group rather than separate countries?

What is the relationship between the evolution of the secondary and the tertiary sector of CEE economies in the context of EU regulation, legal framework and trade relations?