

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 not required to use a particular set of methods (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, or comparative) in their dissertation.

Student:	Yiyun Qi
Dissertation title:	Determinants of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

	70+	69-65	60-61	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 arguments 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>						

ECTS Mark:	C	UCL Mark:	57	Marker:	Ilias Chondrogiannis
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	Ilias Chondrogiannis
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	13 June 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.

CONTINUES OVERLEAF

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

Awkward, mechanical language with syntax errors that sometimes becomes very difficult to read.

The introduction is generic and touches upon a series of issues that are not directly relevant to CEEs countries.

It is not clear why three similar panel regression models are required, especially since their suitability can be tested statistically in the absence of a clear economic rationale which would justify the method choice. Using Fixed Effects/ Random Effects and compare with System GMM to address potential endogeneity issues, for example, would make sense. There is quite a lot of data testing, diagnostics and post-estimation statistics but very little in terms of expanding or contextualizing the main results. There is Table 14, which contains the main results, two more tables with sample separation (which could have been addressed by a dummy variable) and...that's it. This is simply inadequate for 20.000 words and does not provide a lot of background and support for a discussion. In addition, half of the dissertation is descriptive and does not provide many explanations, e.g. about the 2010 OFDI surge, which is an outlier and not a large policy shift as suggested (subsequent values are quite lower).

The adjusted R2 in the regressions is generally quite high, between 60-90+%, which can signify a statistical issue with the data. Correlation statistical significance is not mentioned but some values are quite high, while some VIF values are between 5 and 10 (in fact the "no multicollinearity" equivalent value is 1). This means that under the more conservative threshold of 5 at least 3 variables should have been dropped. This poses a key validity issue.

Overall, a mediocre piece of work whose conclusions and discussion are not well supported by the empirical findings, which are debatable.

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