

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.

Student:	Wenjin Yao
Dissertation title:	THE IMPACT OF EU EASTERN ENLARGEMENT ON FDI IN CEE COUNTRIES -- USING THE SYNTHETIC COUNTERFACTUALS METHOD

	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	

ECTS Mark:	E	UCL Mark:	52	Marker:	Ilias Chondrogiannis
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	Ilias Chondrogiannis
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	4/9/2024

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 (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):

Why is the research question stated in p. 39? And why does the sample stop in 2020? Data is available beyond that year and should have been used regardless of Covid.

Table 1 pretty much summarises the situation: the vast majority of CEE FDI comes from other EU countries, a fact that is also depicted in trade flows. This is a well-known fact, so why is it worth reassessing? The dissertation refers to FDI in general, often without separating between flows from EU and third countries. The introduction provides an overview of the topic, which is fine, but does not really explain why it is important now, or why we expect older results not to apply anymore. The introduction is generic and does not refer to recent evolutions that make the question worthwhile. This most of the flows coming from EU countries, for example, how are the optimal weights of the Czech Republic explained?

There is no list of countries or a selection criterion. The method is not presented in sufficient detail and its choice is not justified earlier – how exactly does a “synthetic portfolio” of flows improve on other methods? The description of the method does not demonstrate actual understanding and is not conceptually linked to the research question. To be more specific, it seems to have been taken from other sources without actual understanding of how it works or what it captures. For example, what is the economic interpretation of optimal country weights? The rest of the discussion does not stand to much scrutiny.

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

How were the countries selected?

Why is a synthetic portfolio used, what is the economic meaning of its weights and how does that improve upon other methods?

