

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:	Analysis of EU Enlargement on China-EU trade: Based on Gravity Model
Dissertation title:	Chao Dan

	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:	B	UCL Mark:	67	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*):

There is not an argument why the enlargement is expected to have an impact in the first place, more importantly why this is something more than a headcount issue. The only consistent, meaningful argument is that the new entrants are in a position to trade more (export/ attract FDI) with China because e.g. of preexisting terms of trade or their industrial structure. The argument that enlargement may lead to intra-EU trade crowding out international trade is plausible but is only an argument – raw trade data on the subject can shed direct light on whether that has happened. It is crucial to attribute the trade increase explicitly to enlargement, not a general increase in trade for other purposes, which can be challenging. Overall, although there are angles of the research question that can provide a clear foundation, these are used haphazardly. There is knowledge and engagement, but the narrative, flow and writing are not very clear and the specifics of the topic are not defined clearly. Therefore, such arguments are not established in the introduction but discussed later. More importantly, it is not clear at all how the dissertation takes the current trade and geopolitical situation into account, e.g. tariffs. These aspects are discussed in detail and appropriate, yet somehow selective, length, but still it is not clear how they are captured methodologically.

The reader needs to wait until p.55+ for the application of a methodology. It would have been much better if a more succinct and concise approach was taken in writing, since a lot of the information in the previous sections could have been contextualised and summarised better. The reader needs to go through a lot of text that merely describes tables and literature but the key takeaway is not clear. The dissertation seems to have dumped everything in without examining what is really useful for the question, in direct relation with the ambiguity of the introduction.

The citation style in text is very inconsistent and does not follow an appropriate convention. There is a misleading mistake in the legend of Figure 13. The formatting of the results is quite poor and difficult to absorb.

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

