

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:	Yinuo Liu
Dissertation title:	Population Ageing and Economic Growth: An Analysis of Central and Eastern Europe

	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 an argument's 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:	A/71	Charles Mark:	A	Marker:	František Čech
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				Signed:	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				Date:	September 3 2024

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark 91-100 - excellent): 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 69-65) = B (Charles mark 81-90 - very good)

C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark 71-80 - good): 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 (UCL mark 59-55) = D (Charles mark 61-70 - satisfactory)

E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark 51-60 - sufficient):

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) = F (Charles mark 0-50 - insufficient):

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.

Please provide substantive and detailed feedback!

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

The introduction of the thesis nicely introduces the reader to the topic, the motivation is clearly explained and except for some long sentences (some sentences are 7 lines long) the text is easy to read. Some works should be better referenced, e.g. it would be nice to know where to find reference for Jiang Ting's mechanism or on p.12 who is Nicoleta and what kind of study this research produced.

In my opinion, the author has done a good job by producing a quality literature review. The author has found a good balance between detail and readability. I find the work with the literature appropriate and the author tries to connect not only individual papers but also differences between individual countries studied in the papers. Overall, the author shows a good knowledge of the literature, works with it properly, and explains well all the concepts used throughout the thesis.

I would like to see a more detailed description of the actual model used for the empirical analysis - it is not entirely clear whether a fixed effects model, a random effects model or pooled OLS was used for the analysis. The results of the analysis are described in sufficient detail and I like that the author paid attention to detail and performed additional robustness tests with subgroup analysis and additional explanatory variables to validate the results.

The manuscript form of the thesis is adequate. The text is of high quality and the dissertation reads well. In my opinion, there are only a few minor drawbacks, e.g. figures could use different types of lines (line, dot, cross, triangle, etc.) so that it is easy to orientate in the graph, because in the current color scale it is not always easy to identify the country, the important equations should be numbered, it would also look better if the fractions were mostly written in the same way - sometimes they are written in a single line, and sometimes as a typical fraction - it is a bit disturbing when reading the text.

All in all, I think the presented work is a very nice master's thesis. The topic is very relevant for the Czech Republic and other CEE countries, as they all face the challenges of population aging and subsequent pension system reform. I believe that the results of the thesis could possibly serve as a useful tool for policy makers.

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

Can you explain which panel data model was applied in the thesis?

Name the two most important findings of your work and related policy implications that are in your view easiest to implement.