IMESS DISSERTATION

Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator
(cc Chiara Amini chiara.amini@ucl.ac.uk **and** fiona.rushworth@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:	Yuehan Wang
Dissertation title:	A study of the trade effects of China's direct investment in 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 an argument´s 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:	65 - B	**Charles Mark:**		**Marker:**	Filipa Figueira
Deducted for late submission:				**Signed:**	Filipa Figueira
Deducted for inadequate referencing:				**Date:**	5 June 2020

MARKING GUIDELINES

A (UCL mark 70+) = A (Charles mark- 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 – very good)
C (UCL mark 64-60) = C (Charles mark – 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 – satisfactory)
E (UCL mark 54-50) = E (Charles mark – 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 - 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*):

Mark: 65 - B

Best aspects

The dissertation offers a valuable empirical analysis of the trade effects of Foreign Direct Investment from China into Central and Eastern European countries, which adds value to the existing literature.

It shows a good awareness of the existing literature. The writing is clear and the dissertation is well structured.

The presentation is excellent. The student shows effort and attention to detail.

Suggestions for improvement

The dissertation sometimes appears to lose focus on its key research question, which relates specifically to the link between FDI and trade. For example, in chapter 5, the link between the policy recommendations and the analysis could be strengthened. The recommendations focus on how to increase Chinese investment in CEE, but it would be good to explain how this connects with the conclusion that FDI complements rather than substitutes trade in the long-run. Similarly, some aspects of chapters 1 and 2 could be better connected with the research question.

Although the writing is clear, it is not always made clear to the reader why this research and its results matter. The text is sometimes a little abstract, focusing on the relationships between variables, without giving the broader picture of what is actually happening in the real world.

Chapter 2 could be presented as background information rather than as a qualitative analysis.

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

-Why is it useful for researchers and policymakers to understand the link between FDI and trade?

-How does your key policy recommendation that China should enhance its trade and investment links with CEE countries connect with your key result that FDI and trade are complements in this case? Is it because that makes investment in CEE particularly beneficial for China, or for other reasons?