

# IMESS DISSERTATION



Note: Please email the completed mark sheet to Year 2 coordinator  
(cc Allan Sikk [a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.sikk@ucl.ac.uk) and Louise Wassell [l.wassell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.wassell@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.

<b>Student:</b>	Funmi Sotuminu
<b>Dissertation title:</b>	The role played by global forces in development of developing countries

	Excellent	Satisfactory		Poor
<b>Knowledge</b> <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		
<b>Analysis &amp; Interpretation</b> <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	
<b>Structure &amp; Argument</b> <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 arguments limitation or alternative views; Ability to use other evidence to support arguments and structure appropriately.</i>			x	
<b>Presentation &amp; Documentation</b> <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	

<b>ECTS Mark:</b>	D	<b>UCL Mark:</b>	55	<b>Marker:</b>	Tomas Cahlik
<i>Deducted for late submission:</i>				<b>Signed:</b>	
<i>Deducted for inadequate referencing:</i>				<b>Date:</b>	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2014

## 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):**

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  
PLEASE PROVIDE SUBSTANTIVE AND  
DETAILED FEEDBACK!

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

General idea of this thesis is that different global forces impact development in developing countries with respect to the interests of global players: MNCs (multinational corporations), WTO, World Bank and IMF. Author correctly specifies two basic theoretical concepts that can be used for deeper understanding: the Coase theorem and principal-agent problem.

The main strength of this thesis is in showing the historical and social context. The second chapter is on the history of development aid (the name of the chapter in the Content is misleading); the author shows good orientation in this theme.

The third chapter – literature review is poorly structured. One possibility would be to structure the review according to the literature on main actors – WTO, MNC, WB and IMF. I do not understand well why everything is mixed in the part named WTO. Actors are surely interrelated, but with more structuring the chapter would be more readable. Another problem linked with this chapter is the choice of literature. I cannot judge the relevancy of author's choice because his research question is not clearly specified.

Description of methodology in chapter four is very short and for me not too clear. Author could specify in more detail what he understands under "literature based methodology" and "meta-analysis of relevant papers and reports". With tens of thousands of existing papers in this field, what does it mean relevant? I am afraid that without a clearly specified research question the choice is very fuzzy. But with author's methodology, it is exactly the choice of papers that predetermines conclusions.

Analysis in chapter five is interesting but the main theoretical concepts: the Coase theorem and principal-agent problem are not clearly applied. I miss some alternative views to illustrate the contrast of author's argumentation with more positive presentation of the role of global players this thesis describes.

I do not understand why the author puts the same graphs into the text and into the appendix. I would appreciate if graphs in the text were numbered; it would make the orientation easier.

I am really sorry that I were not given the possibility to consult this thesis more while it was being written; I have seen just one other version about one week ago and it was too late already to give a substantial feedback to the author.

**Specific questions you would like addressing at the oral defence (*at least 3 questions*):**

**What is the research question?**

**What criteria did author use for the choice of literature?**

**Can he present some alternative view to his view?**