

**THE HSE ST.PETERSBURG SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT**

**Provisional list of masters’ dissertation topics (2016-18, IMESS cohort)**

*Introduction*:

The list on page 2-3 contains the broad topic headings for possible IMESS dissertations for the 2016-18 cohort of students. We are in the process of recruiting new staff to our School of Economics and Management so this list will likely expand in the future, but nevertheless provides a good initial baseline guide.

After consulting the list, students are encouraged to contact the relevant supervisor, possibly to arrange a skype discussion. If they are not replied to they should contact the local programme coordinator, Prof. Rogova.

*HSE St. Petersburg IMESS Dissertation protocol*:

**Year 1**: IMESS students should develop a research proposal (of up to 5,000 characters, approximately 1,500 words) containing the following sections: provisional title of the research, abstract, list of 5-6 keywords, introduction, preliminary literature review, proposed research methods, anticipated theoretical contribution and possible practical/policy implications and a list of references (Harvard style). The proposal is to be sent to the agreed research supervisor before June 1, 2017 and (after minor revisions) submitted to the Academic Board before June 16, 2017. If submitted in time, it is anticipated that the supervisor feedback should help the students prepare for the UCL Dissertation workshop day.

**Year 2**: The IMESS dissertation draft is due by April 1st, in preparation for a pre-defense that takes place in the middle-part of May (between 10th and 20th), which gives time for revision and amendment prior to the final defense, which takes place in the first half of June. As with all IMESS dissertations the final grade is agreed jointly between UCL and the second year partner, and the grades, along with the award of diploma, will be confirmed by the final examination board in the following October.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

*Elena Rogova*, Professor (IMESS Programme Coordinator, HSE St. Petersburg)

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1. Capital structure optimization and its applications to industrial companies in emerging markets.
2. Corporate venture investors portfolio forming: what criteria is used and how the portfolio affects corporations’ performance?
3. High-tech companies’ valuation: factor analysis of value creation.
4. How investors react to corporate events as dividend payments, mergers and acquisitions.
5. The relationship between the Board Structure and companies’ attitude to acquisitions.
6. Real options applications in business valuation, projects assessment, strategic managerial decision-making.
7. Study of factors affecting the efficiency of working capital management.
8. Venture funds strategies in capital markets: syndication, risk distribution, exit strategies.
9. The analysis of payout policies in emerging markets: do companies prefer a certain policy?

Varvara Nazarova, Associate Professor

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1. Effect of non-financial stakeholders in the company's capital structure
2. Naive diversification of the Russian stock market.
3. Hedging portfolio of stocks futures contract on a stock index.
4. Hedging portfolio of shares options contracts on a stock index.
5. The Management of the index portfolio.
6. Arbitration opportunities in emerging capital markets.
7. The applicability of the CAPM model in emerging capital markets.
8. The bond portfolio management in emerging capital markets.
9. Hedging futures contract bond portfolio on the interest rate.

Yuri Ichkitidze, Associate Professor

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1. Forecasting models application for financial markets (currency, stocks, interest rates, etc.).
2. Capital asset pricing models depending on the level of risk (including three and five-factor CAPM).
3. Models of forecasting of market volatility (ARCH and GARCH model).
4. Models of forecasting the real estate prices.
5. Temporary trends in stock prices: forecasting and application to portfolio management.

Vitaly Lipatnikov, associate professor

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1. Analysis of the features and evaluation of the intellectual capital of multinational corporations.
2. Evaluation of investment attractiveness of high-tech companies.
3. Analysis of features of shares’ pricing for innovative companies.
4. Assessing the impact of the implementation of financial technologies in banks’ performance.

5.  Comparative analysis of patent activity by industry sector and by region.