

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR'S REFERENCE

Program:	Master in Corporate Finance
Student:	Alexey Kalinogorskiy
Title of thesis:	Capital structure and corporate governance: a study of Russian companies with foreign ownership

Justification of the topic choice. Accuracy in defining the aim and objectives of the thesis. Justification of the topic choice; accuracy in defining the aim and tasks of the thesis; originality of the topic and the extent to which it was covered; alignment of the thesis' topic, aim and objectives.

There are a lot of studies on relationship of the capital structure and corporate governance. Most of them are made on samples of companies from developed and emerging Asian markets; Russian companies are subject of much less publications. Moreover, existing studies provide controversial results.

There is no literature devoted to this issue in Russian companies with foreign ownership. This thesis attempts to link corporate governance factors and financial leverage, assuming that Russian companies with foreign ownership have specifics in their corporate governance practices and the effect owners could make on the capital structure decisions.

The goal of the research is clearly defined. A number of objectives stated are consistent with the goal. The topic is fully covered by the thesis content.

Structure and logic of the text flow. Logic of research; full scope of the thesis; alignment of thesis' structural parts, i.e. theoretical and empirical parts.

The structure of the paper is logical. The first part contains literature review on capital structure theories, corporate governance factors and their link with the capital structure choices of companies.

The second part contains research methodology, the sample description, hypotheses, estimation results.

The author concludes in the third part, providing managerial applications and theoretical contribution.

Theoretical and empirical parts are aligned. Estimation results, theoretical value and managerial implications are substantiated

Quality of analytical approach and quality of offered solution to the research objectives. Adequacy of objectives coverage; ability to formulate and convey the research problem; ability to offer options for its solution; application of the latest trends in relevant research are for the set objectives.

The quality of the thesis content could be evaluated as high. The thesis has a research nature and contains practical implications. Goal and objectives are covered and fulfilled thoroughly. Research question and hypothesis are defined properly. The author uses relevant methodology, regression analysis, for testing hypotheses on the relationship between corporate governance factors and financial leverage.

Thus objectives, hypotheses, methodology are consistent with those used in academic literature. The literature review is thorough. In general the quality of analytical approach could be evaluated as high.

Quality of data gathering and description. Quality of selecting research tools and methods; data validity adequacy; adequacy of used data for chosen research tools and methods; completeness and relevance of the list of references.

Data are valid and relevant. The methodology, research tools and methods (regression analysis) are relevant for this research, for processing the data collected.

The list of references is relevant, complete and contains adequate papers in this field of studies.

Scientific aspect of the thesis. Independent scientific thinking in solving the set problem/objectives; the extent to which the student contributed to selecting and justifying the research model (conceptual and/or quantitative), developing methodology/approach to set objectives.

The author demonstrated the scientific thinking in solving research problem, the thesis is conducted independently. The author applied methodology used in existing studies, to meet objectives set. Empirical findings are substantiated. The empirical analysis provided new scientific results on the impact of corporate governance on the capital structure decisions. Thus research results contribute to existing studies.

Practical/applied nature of research. Extent to which the theoretical background is related to the international or Russian managerial practice; development of applied recommendations; justification and interpretation of the empirical/applied results.

Theoretical background is related to managerial practice of Russian companies with foreign ownership. Empirical results are interpreted properly. Practical recommendations are based on empirical findings.

Quality of thesis layout. Layout fulfils the requirements of the Regulations for master thesis preparation and defence, correct layout of tables, figures, references.

The layout of the thesis meets the requirements for master thesis preparation.

The Master thesis of Alexey Kalinogorskiy meets the requirements for master thesis of MIB program thus the author of the thesis can be awarded the required degree.

Date

23.09.2013



Scientific Advisor:

Asc. Prof. Yulia Ilina