

# Course Descriptions Master 2024-2025 DRAFT

Course Title Empirical Methods in Economics  
 Course Code EBC4233  
 ECTS Credits 5,0  
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2-9-2024	20-10-2024		X			X

Level Advanced  
 Coordinator Bart Golsteyn For more information: [b.golsteyn@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:b.golsteyn@maastrichtuniversity.nl)  
 Language of instruction English

Goals  
 \* A critical attitude towards the use of data and the empirical methods to analyse real world events  
 \* How empirical observations can be interpreted and evaluated from an economic point of view  
 \* Experience in working with Stata

Description  
 People who retire earlier, die earlier. Would you conclude from this evidence that it is better not to retire early? This course offers you (1) tools with which you can take a critical look at such claims, (2) tools with which you can investigate data yourself. In case of this example, causality might run in the opposite direction: people who are healthier work longer than those who are less healthy. So decreasing earlier might not be caused by earlier retirement but be due to worse health of early retirees. To estimate whether early retirement really increases health risks we need a better research strategy. This course offers such methods and tools along with assignments to see how it works in practice. It considers both cross-section, time series and panel methods. The course develops an understanding of the main tools with which empirical claims can be established or refuted. The philosophy is to explain the empirical strategies in an intuitive way. We focus on analysing economic phenomena, using applied papers as examples.

Literature  
 Chapters from:  
 \* Stock, J. & Watson, M. (2019), Introduction to Econometrics, Fourth Edition, Pearson.  
 \* Söderbom, M. and F. Teal (2015), Empirical Development Economics, Routledge, London/New York.  
 A reader with articles and background material.

Prerequisites  
 This course is in transition for the master Economics.  
 See the Master Education and Examination Regulations for more information.  
 The following rule applies to master Economics students who started the programme prior to academic year 2023/24.  
**TRANSITIONAL REGULATION (EBC4233):**  
 Students can continue to register for EBC4233

**PREREQUISITES:**  
 \* Basic econometrics, some experience with statistical software such as Stata.  
 \* An advanced level of English.

Keywords  
 Teaching methods PBL / Lecture / Assignment  
 Assessment methods Participation / Written Exam / Assignment

Evaluation in previous academic year  
 For the complete evaluation of this course please click <http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM>

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation	Master Economics and Strategy in Emerging Markets	Compulsory Course(s)
	SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
	Master Economics - Digitalisation and the Future of Learning and Work	Transitional Regulation
	Master Economics - Global Challenges and Macroeconomic Policy	Transitional Regulation
	Master Economics - Market Regulation and Design	Transitional Regulation
	Master Economics - No specialisation	Transitional Regulation