Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title	Economics of Education
Course Code	EBC4207
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	1-9-2025	17-10-2025	X			X	

Level	Intermediate/Advanced
Coordinator	Lex Borghans, Trudie Schils For more information:lex.borghans@maastrichtuniversity.nl; t.schils@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	Participants will acquire knowledge of the economics of education and learn how to investigate educational issues from an economic point of view. Economic theory will be used to study the optimal design of educational systems and the curriculum and to study the control mechanisms by which the functioning of the systems can be improved. Student will acquire knowledge about the measurement of skills, how such measures can be used for educational policy and their limitations. Furthermore, students will acquire understanding of typical challenges for empirical identification for key parameters and possibilities to tackle these empirical challenges.
Description	The course covers theoretical topics such as: (a) Human capital theory; (b) The technology of skill formation: how does the acquisition of skills affect the future acquisition of skills and what are the implications for the timing of education?; (c) The determinants of school success: What are the economic preference parameters that determine choice people make in the acquisition of skills and how does this affect future outcomes?; (d) Tracking in education: How does the structure of the educational system, e.g. with early tracking or comprehensive schools and second chance options like the GED shape outcomes?; (e) Training at the workplace and informal learning; (f) Educational/vocational choice, labour market opportunities, preferences and the option value of education and (g) Educational choice and competition and empirical issue like the measurement of skills and the identification of key parameters in education.
Literature	Several papers updated yearly to cover most recent topics and developments
Prerequisites	Microeconomics I
Transitional Regulations	
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Assignment / Papers
Assessment methods	Participation / Oral Exam / Portfolio
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 Economic and Financial Research - Econometrics	Elective Courses
Master Economic and Financial Research - No specialisation	Elective Courses