

Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title Public Economics
 Course Code EBC2012
 ECTS Credits 6,5
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026	X		L	X	

Level Intermediate
 Coordinator Max Löffler For more information:m.loeffler@maastrichtuniversity.nl
 Language of instruction English

Goals The goals of this course are to (i) acquire a structured insight into the important role of the state in modern market economies, (ii) learn about the functioning and performance of the state and its interactions with markets, and (iii) understand and critically reflect upon recent developments and discussions concerning issues of the public sector like inequality, taxation, or climate protection.

Description Public economics is the study of the role of government in the economy. It involves answering the following four broad questions: When should the government intervene in the economy? How might the government intervene? What is the effect of those interventions on economic outcomes? Why do governments choose to intervene in the way that they do? The topics include (i) taxation, redistribution, inequality, poverty, and fairness, (ii) market failures such as incomplete information, public goods, and externalities, as well as (iii) political decision-making and elections. These topics will be analyzed from a normative (welfare economic) as well as from a positive (explanatory) perspective, with emphasis on the relevance and limitation of traditional economic theory.

Literature Textbook: Jonathan Gruber (2019), Public Finance and Public Policy, 6th ed., New York: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 978-1-319-25474-2.

Prerequisites * Students who enroll in this course should have knowledge and understanding of mathematics and microeconomics (in particular game theory, industrial organization, general equilibrium theory), at a level comparable to the second year economics course microeconomics.
 * Exchange students need economics as a major and an advanced level of English to enroll in this course.

Transitional Regulations <div class="trreg"><ul class="trcohorts">Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information [2024-2025 or earlier]Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics [2024-2025 or earlier]From 2025-2026 onwards, education and exam/resit opportunities are offered.
Alternative options may be available. See the Bachelor EER 2025-2026 Appendix I Article 16 for more information.<table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2025-2026 onwards</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>See the Bachelor EER 2025-2026 Appendix I Article 16 for more information</td></tr></tbody></table></div>

Teaching methods PBL / Presentation / Lecture
 Assessment methods Participation / Written Exam / Presentation

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	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics	Year 2 Compulsory Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 2 Disciplinary Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 3 Elective Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	In transition - Year 2+3 Elective Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 3 Economics Elective
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 3 Free Elective
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Accounting - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Finance - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Inf Mgmt - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Marketing - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Micro - Core Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Org - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj SCM - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Strategy - Economics Elec
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elective
	SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
	SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
	SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses