Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

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

Period

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

Level	Intermediate
Coordinator	Max Löffler, Jannis Besuijen For more information:m.loeffler@maastrichtuniversity.nl; j.besuijen@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	<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 - Major Accounting [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Finance [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Information Management [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Marketing [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Microeconomics [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Organisation [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Strategy [2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Supply Chain Management [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;"><col><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>
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