Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Big Data Econometrics
Course Code	EBC4218
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026	C				
4	1-2-2027	25-3-2027	C				

Level	Advanced
Coordinator	Stephan Smeekes, Ines Wilms For more information:s.smeekes@maastrichtuniversity.nl; i.wilms@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of modern and advanced econometric techniques for the analysis of high-dimensional data. Students will be able to read and understand theoretical papers on the subject, to implement the techniques themselves in statistical software, and to apply the techniques to data used in economics and business. In addition to gaining this knowledge they will develop the skills to assess such methods critically and consequently adapt them to suit their needs.
Description	In this course we cover several advanced techniques that have recently been developed in econometrics and statistics for the analysis of high-dimensional problems, which often arise in the context of Big Data. We will discuss theoretical properties of the methods, their practical implementation using the statistical programming language R and the application of these methods to real-life economic and financial datasets. Topics that are covered include: * Linear regression with many regressors: the "curse of dimensionality" in standard least squares estimation and standard approaches to model selection (such as information criteria and cross-validation); * Modern statistical techniques for estimating high-dimensional regression models such as penalized regression (the lasso, ridge and variants): implementation, interpretation and properties; * The standard modern tool in high-dimensional econometrics: Estimation, inference and forecasting in common factor models; * Inference in high-dimensional regression models: multiple hypothesis testing, post-model selection inference, construction of 'honest' confidence intervals and hypothesis tests; * High-dimensional discrete choice/classification methods. The course will consist of lectures, in which the methods and theory are introduced, and tutorials, in which groups of students present specific papers on the subject. Students also have to write a paper for which they implement and apply the methods to economic problems.
Literature	* Hastie, T., R. Tibshirani and J. Friedman (2009). The Elements of Statistical Learning: Data Mining, Inference, and Prediction (2nd Ed). Freely available at http://statweb.stanford.edu/~tibs/ElemStatLearn/ * Hastie, T., R. Tibshirani and M. Wainwright (2015). Statistical Learning with Sparsity: The Lasso and Generalizations. Freely available at http://web.stanford.edu/%7Ehastie/StatLearnSparsity/ * Selected papers and book chapters (to be announced on Canvas /Student Portal).
Prerequisites	Period 4 is for repeat students only. This is an ADVANCED econometric course. Familiarity with the mathematical methods underlying econometric theory is therefore essential. In particular, students need to have solid background in probability theory, mathematical statistics, econometric methods and time series analysis, comparable to the knowledge obtained during the econometric courses of the bachelor programme Econometrics and Operations Research. Familiarity with asymptotic analysis is necessary. In addition, a solid knowledge about time series econometrics is recommended, in particular about VAR models. One way to achieve (more than) sufficient knowledge of time series econometrics is by following the course Time Series Analysis and Dynamic Econometrics (potentially in parallel).
Keywords	
Transitional Regulations	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Business Research - No specialisation [2023-2024 and earlier] - Master Business Research - Operations Research [2023-2024 and earlier] - In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. - In 2026-2027 exam/resit opportunities are offered. - From 2027-2028 onwards, the course is cancelled. <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>2024-2025 - 2025-2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table> <ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Econometrics and Operations Research [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master Economic and Financial Research - No specialisation [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master Economic and Financial Research - Econometrics and Operations Research [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master Financial Economics [2025-2026 and earlier] - In 2026-2027 education (period 4) and exam/resit ("Exam period 4"/"Resits period 4 courses") opportunities are offered. - In 2027-2028 exam/resit ("Exam period 4"/"Resits period 4 courses") opportunities are offered. - From 2028-2029 onwards, the course will no longer be offered in period 4 but will be available in period 2. Note that from 2026-2027 onwards, EBC4218 "Big Data Econometrics" can also be taken in period 2. <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>2026-2027 period 4</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>EBC4218 "Big Data Econometrics" in period 2</td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 period 4</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td>EBC4218 "Big Data Econometrics" in period 2</td></tr><tr><td>2028-2029 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>EBC4218 "Big Data Econometrics" in period 2</td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Final Paper / Participation / 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

Master Business Research - No specialisation	In transition - Year 2 Free Electives
Master Business Research - Operations Research	In transition - Year 1+2 Elective Courses
Master Econometrics and Operations Research	E&OR Electives
Master Economic and Financial Research - Econometrics and Operations Research	Elective Courses
Master Economic and Financial Research - No specialisation	Elective Courses
Master Financial Economics - Asset Pricing	Elective Courses
Master Financial Economics - Banking	Elective Courses
Master Financial Economics - Financial Analysis	Elective Courses
Master Financial Economics - No specialisation	Elective Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses