

Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

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	31-8-2026	16-10-2026		X			X

Level Advanced
 Coordinator Bart Golsteyn For more information: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
 Basic econometrics, some experience with statistical software such as Stata.An advanced level of English.

Keywords

Transitional Regulations
 <div class="trreg"><ul class="trcohorts">Master Economics [2022-2023 and earlier]In 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered.From 2025-2026 onwards, the course is cancelled.<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>2023-2024 - 2024-2025</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2025-2026 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table></div>

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 Courses
	SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
	Master Economics - Digitalisation and the Future of Learning and Work	Cancelled - Compulsory Courses
	Master Economics - Global Challenges and Macroeconomic Policy	Cancelled - Compulsory Courses
	Master Economics - Market Regulation and Design	Cancelled - Compulsory Courses
	Master Economics - No specialisation	Cancelled - Compulsory Courses