Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Empirical Methods in Economics
Course Code	EBC4233
ECTS Credits	5,0
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

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 deceasing 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	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Economics - No specialisation [2018-2019 - 2022-2023] - Master Economics - Digitalisation and the Future of Learning and Work [2018-2019 - 2022-2023] - Master Economics - Global Challenges and Macroeconomic Policy [2018-2019 - 2022-2023] - Master Economics - Market Regulation and Design [2018-2019 - 2022-2023] - 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;"><col><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>
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