Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Statistics and Mathematics for Pre-master
Course Code	EBC2185
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	1-2-2027	25-3-2027	L		X		X

Level	Premaster
Coordinator	Matthijs Hermeling For more information:matthijs.hermeling@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	Introduction to the matrix representation of (linear) systems of equations, and to the (constrained) maximization or minimization of (nonlinear) functions of more than 1 variable. Introduction to the basic tools of inferential statistics, suchas. the independent-samples t-test, the paired-sample t-test, one-way-ANOVA, the chi-square test and regression analysis.
Description	In the mathematics part, we will expand the analysis of functions and (systems of) equations. Issues that will be addressed are: * The matrix representation of systems of linear equations (so called linear algebra) will be introduced and supplemented by the concepts of determinants and inverse matrices, which are important tools to manipulate such systems. * The (constrained) maximisation or minimisation of (nonlinear) functions of more than 1 variable, using the Lagrange multiplier method. * Further topics include the chain rule, the slope of a level curve, homogeneous functions, and a collection of tools often used in finance but also in other fields (buzzwords: interest rates, present value, discounting, and geometric series). All these topics will be introduced and illustrated using economic or business applications, and functions that are often used in these fields (e.g. the Cobb-Douglas production function) will be analysed extensively. In the statistics part, we will expand the coverage of inferential statistics, i.e. how to draw conclusions about a population based on a sample. Students will learn to apply the basic tools of inferential statistics (confidence intervals and hypothesis tests) to examine a large array of questions that may occur in economics or business. We will focus on the following topics: * How to examine whether the mean of some quantitative variable (e.g. income) differs between two or more populations (e.g. men vs. women). Related to this, we will also examine what to do when the data are paired, and when the variable of interest is a proportion. * How to analyse relationships between qualitative variables (e.g. between brand preference and gender). * How to analyse relationships between two or more quantitative variables (e.g. between income and age) using regression analysis. This is one of the most frequently used statistical techniques in economics and business. All these issues will involve the use of real-life data, which will be analysed using EXCEL.
Literature	* Penders, Vince (2026). Statistics Uncharted: The Undergraduate's Guide (1st edition). London: Pearson Education UK. ISBN t.b.d. * QM1 and QM2 Mathematics Readers, to be downloaded on the course pages
Prerequisites	
Keywords	
Transitional Regulations	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Pre-master Economics and Strategy in Emerging Markets [2022-2023 and earlier] - In 2023-2024 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. Alternatively, students can take EBC2169 "Academic Skills and Competences for Pre-master". - From 2024-2025 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</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>EBC2169 "Academic Skills and Competences for Pre-master"</td></tr><tr><td>2024-2025 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment
Assessment methods	Attendance / Written Exam
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

Pre-master Economics	Compulsory Courses
Pre-master Economics and Strategy in Emerging Markets	Cancelled - Disciplinary Courses
Pre-master Financial Economics	Compulsory Courses
Pre-master Human Decision Science	Compulsory Courses