

Introduction to Economic Scientific Research (F000867)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	Dutch	Gent	lecture
			group work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Ovaere, Marten	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
Van Ootegem, Luc	EB21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Economics	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Information collection, paper writing, paper presentation

Position of the course

This course introduces students to economic scientific research. Students should learn how to collect and process information (relevant literature, data), how to write a paper and how to present this paper (oral).

Contents

Students (groups of two or three) are assigned a topic to discuss. They choose the topic out of the list of topics from the final theses of students in the masters programme in economics. This topic may concern financial economics, labour economics, public finance, macroeconomics, microeconomics, international economics, development economics, transport economics, environmental economics, etc.

In order to write their paper, students learn how to collect and process information, how to present their ideas, how to refer to the existing literature, how to deal with graphs, tables, etc. The collection of information includes an introduction to the department's library. Students also learn to work with modern electronic media to collect information (e.g. Web of Science, Econlit, Google Scholar). After the sessions organised by the lecturer about these issues, students have eight weeks to complete their paper. At the end of this period they present their papers.

Initial competences

Understand basic concepts of economics
 Good knowledge of macroeconomics and microeconomics (bachelor level)
 Introductory course in economics.

Final competences

- 1 Collect information (relevant literature, data)
- 2 Process information (relevant literature, data)
- 3 Collaborate to expound ideas in a paper on a current topic in a scientific and correct manner.
- 4 Make appropriate references to existing work
- 5 Present data in an efficient and clear way (use of tables, graphs, ...)

- 6 Make a clear and attractive presentation
- 7 Present a paper in a clear and efficient way to an audience of economists
- 8 Responsible and critical use of generative AI tools.
- 9 Be aware of the principles of ethical research, open science, and GDPR in research

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Lecture

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

There are two compulsory interim feedback sessions.

- a meeting concerning a one-page outline + references
- a meeting concerning an advanced drafts

Students may contact the lecturers for further guidance.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Five subscores are combined into the final grade for the following components:

- One page outline of the paper + references (10% + peer-assessment)
- Draft paper (15% + peer-assessment)
- Individual annotated and highlighted academic paper (15% individual score)
- Final paper (30% + peer-assessment)
- Oral presentation + discussion (i.e. "oral exam") (30%)

Calculation of the examination mark

- One page outline of the paper + references (10% + peer-assessment)
- Draft paper (15% + peer-assessment)
- Individual annotated and highlighted academic paper (15% individual score)
- Final paper (30% + peer-assessment)
- Oral presentation + discussion (30%)