

Methodology for Economic Research (F000924)

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

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture seminar
----------------	-------	------	--------------------

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Merlevede, Bruno	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
------------------	------	--------------------

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Micro-credential Principles of Economics	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics	5	A
Elective Set Economics	5	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Position of the course

students in the preparatory program of the Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics:

- 1 learn to understand and apply basic methodology in empirical economic research
- 2 become critical consumers of advanced empirical methodology used in the Master program
- 3 learn about different subfields in economics
- 4 link insights from their previous studies to economics

Contents

The course consists of three modules:

- students study the basic empirical techniques and apply these themselves in a statistical software package; basic microeconomic techniques are studied
- students develop a basic insight in more advanced techniques used in the economic literature that is used in the master program (e.g. causality, panel data, (quasi-) experiments, difference-in-difference, instrumental variables, VAR)
- key research areas of the department of economics and their research topics are presented to students. On the basis of these classes students choose an economic topic that they link with their prior studies. Students write a short research proposal-style text.

Initial competences

Basic statistics

Final competences

- 1 understanding basic empirical methodologies for economic research and being able to apply these
- 2 understanding advanced empirical methodologies in economic research and being able to interpret and evaluate results in scientific contributions
- 3 being able to link economic sciences to the previous field of study

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Module 1: combination of traditional classes and pc-exercises

Module 2: traditional classes where advanced methodology is explained and combined with research paper examples

Module 3: in class presentation of key research areas in economics, students use newly gained insights in economic fields to write a 'research proposal' combining economics and their previous field of study.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: € 5

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: Slides available via Ufora. Limited printing cost for those students who want to print a physical copy.

References

Stock & Watson, Introduction to Econometrics, Pearson, 2019

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be raised during class, via email or through an appointment.

With respect to the assignment, there is one fixed interim feedback session.

Students may contact the lecturer for further guidance.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

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

Oral assessment, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Module 1 & 2 are evaluated together through a combination of a written exam and an oral discussion of a case prepared on beforehand (70%)

- discussion of prepared case: 35%

- written exam: 35%

Module is evaluated through the written text (30%)

Students that do not participate in one of the partims cannot pass the course.

Calculation of the examination mark

- case + discussion: 35%

- written exam: 35%

- written text: 30%

If students choose not to participate in the assessment of one or more components, passing the course unit as a whole is no longer possible. If the total score does turn out to be a mark of 10 or more out of twenty, this is reduced to the highest non-tolerable mark (7/20).

