

## 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
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**Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026**

Merlevede, Bruno	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
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**Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026**

	crdts	offering
<a href="#">Micro-credential Principles of Economics</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Preparatory Course Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics</a>	5	A
<a href="#">Elective Set Economics</a>	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).

