

Introduction to Microeconomics (F710342)

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 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	Dutch	Gent	lecture seminar
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Goeminne, Stijn	EB21	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management	3	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	3	A
Preparatory Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management	3	A
Elective Set Public Administration and Management	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Principles of economics, microeconomics, consumer behavior, producer behavior, market, market forms, sustainability

Position of the course

This course aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the general principles of economics.

The basic concepts of economic thinking are taught with (transversal) attention to sustainability.

The focus is on microeconomics.

No prior knowledge is required at the start of the course. The approach is primarily intuitive. Unless there is no other way, graphical derivations are chosen over pure mathematical ones.

Contents

1. Introduction

- Definition and meaning of economics as a science
- Sustainability & economics
- Some basic economic concepts and models
- Specialization & Cooperation

2. Supply & Demand

- Demand
- Supply
- Elasticities

3. Welfare

- Consumer surplus
- Producer surplus

4. Consumers

- Consumption
- Supply of labor

5. Producers

- Optimal factor combination
- Cost of production

6. Functioning of markets

- Perfect competition
- Monopoly
- Monopolistic competition
- Oligopoly

7. Some exercises

Initial competences

Not necessary to have studied economics at high school.
Knowledge of elementary algebra is required.

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge of and comprehension of the general principles of microeconomics
- 2 Knowledge of and comprehension of the main microeconomic relations
- 3 Development of a critical attitude and rational approach to microeconomic issues
- 4 Approaching general microeconomic concepts, issues and relationships from a sustainability context

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Lectures on theory
- Exercises are available online on the learning platform with immediate feedback
- Exercises are also covered during tutorial sessions by the student counselling service
- Class recordings subject to change (see FOER)

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Wegwijs in economie

Indicative price: € 60

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Schoors, K., Albrecht, J., Baert, S., Defloor, B., Goeminne, S. & Merlevede, B.

ISBN : 978-9-49350-848-4

Number of Pages : 887

Alternative : -

Oldest Usable Edition : Previous edition

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Additional information: The book is also used in the courses "Inleiding Macro-Economie" and "Publieke Economie".

Type: Slides

Name: Slides to the textbook "Wegwijs in Economie" for the course unit "Inleiding Micro-Economie" in 1 Bach BPM

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Number of Slides : 500

Oldest Usable Edition : Present year

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Type: Other

Name: Exercises

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Goeminne, S.

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Additional information: Exercises to supplement the theoretical course. Supported by the mentoring support service.

References

"Kernbegrippen van economie"; Mankiw, G.

Course content-related study coaching

- The student can contact the teacher with questions and problems before, during or after the lessons
- Each lesson starts with a sample exam question
- Student Counselling Services via the FEB Faculty Educational Support Services
- Sample exam in cooperation with the FEB Faculty Educational Support Services

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Full multiple-choice exam, containing :

- Stand-alone theoretical multiple-choice questions
- Stand-alone calculation and graphical multiple-choice questions
- 1 bundle of constructive multiple-choice questions with both theoretical, calculation and graphical approaches

Calculation of the examination mark

Multiple-choice exam is corrected according to higher caesura/standard setting as imposed by UGent