

International Graduate Program Evidence-Based Economics Course Syllabus

July 2015

Content

1. Course Requirements EBE Program3

2. EBE Courses and Examinations.....5

1. Course Requirements EBE Program

Semester	Winter 2015/16	Summer 2016	Winter 2016/17	Summer 2017	Winter 2017/18	Summer 2018	Winter 2018/19	Summer 2019
MSc Math Course	Recommended							
Core Courses - Behavioral theory - Econometric methods	2 mandatory courses							
Practice Courses - Experimental Methods - Replication Workshops	2 mandatory courses							
Field Courses & Guest Courses 1 field course=2 guest courses	2 elective courses							
Summer School		mandatory						
Reading Courses		2 short elective courses						
Research strategy seminar			mandatory					
Project funding seminar				encouraged				
Interdisciplinary academy				mandatory				
Research retreat (s)				mandatory				
Field visits/Field days	optional							

Conference Participation/Presentation	optional (recommended)							
Jamboree (Organization/Participation)						mandatory conference		
Topical Workshops	optional							
Soft skills training	optional							
Exchange visits	optional (recommended)							

2. EBE Courses and Examinations

Name	Content/Organization	Duration	Examination
Semester 1			
Math Course	The math course is one of the compulsory modules in the M.Sc. Program in Economics. The module presents the mathematical methods underlying economic theories and applications. The aim is to provide students with the mathematical background for their subsequent study of economics. It comprises of a lecture and an accompanying problem solving class. The EBE students are highly recommended to take this class before the start of their program.	1 1/2 weeks, morning and afternoon	Exam at the end of the course (not mandatory for EBE students)
Core Course 1: Behavioral theory	The Core Courses are designed to provide the students with theoretical background and the relevant tools for the EBE course program as well as their individual dissertations. The course on behavioral theory covers the following topics: social preferences in social dilemma and principal-agent settings, fairness and reciprocity, loss aversion, endogenous reference points, and experimental design issues. Attendance is mandatory.	Blocked, 1 week (w/ Practice course 1)	Term paper: research proposal, to be handed in at the end of the second semester
Practice course 1: Experimental methods	Practice courses are complementary to the core courses and designed to expose the students to practicing the methods they have learnt in those. During the Practice Course seminars in experimental methods, students implement variations of standard experimental economics designs in the laboratory. Attendance is mandatory.	Blocked, 1 week (w/ Core course 1)	
Core Course 2: Econometric methods	The Core Courses are designed to provide the students with theoretical background and the relevant tools for the EBE course program as well as their individual dissertations. The course on econometric methods covers topics such as diff-in-diff and RD methods, treatment evaluation based on instrumental variables, and econometric issues in the design and analysis of randomized (field) experiments. Attendance is mandatory.	Blocked, 1 week (w/ Practice course 2)	Presentation of research proposal during Research Strategy Seminar
Practice Course 2: Replication Seminars	During the Replication seminars, students re-analyze data from published research papers to get hands-on experience with advanced econometric methods, and may try to extend the existing analysis by applying new methods. Attendance is mandatory.	Blocked, 1 week (w/ Core course 2)	

Semester 2/3			
Field Course	Field courses introduce the students to the substantive research areas in which they will write their thesis. They are organized by the participating faculties and consist of lectures and tutorials. Please note that affiliates to the program can only take field courses at their home university.	1 semester, weekly lecture and tutorial = 1 field course Blocked seminar 3-5 days = ½ field course	Exam/Paper (depending on course)
Guest Course	Guest courses augment the curriculum provided by the core faculty and, importantly, bring the students in contact with leading international scholars. The guest courses will be given by the international mentors and other leading scholars.	3-5 days, blocked	Referee report /Paper/Presentation (if counted as EBE course)
Summer School	The focus of the summer schools is on state-of-the-art methods and applications in EBE. Courses will be taught by leading international scholars who draw on recent research in their fields of expertise. The summer school will (if possible) be combined with an international conference/workshop on related topics (funded separately from the IDK). These conferences will further strengthen the profile and enhance the international visibility of the IDK and its students.	5 days consecutively, blocked	Research Idea
Reading Course/Reading Group	During the reading courses and groups smaller groups of students together with one or two faculty discuss state-of-the-art literature in a clearly defined field. Students have to present articles and write short “referee reports” on the presented article. The presentation offers a chance to improve presentation skills, and the reports foster the ability to critically assess the literature.	Reading Course: 2-3 days, blocked Reading Group: depending on preferences of members	Presentation/Referee report
Research Strategy Seminar	During the research Strategy Seminar, students have to present their research ideas (developed during Core Course term paper) to their fellow students and the core faculty. The feasibility of these ideas will be discussed at a very early stage.	2-3 days consecutive, blocked	Presentation
Project Funding Seminar	Building on the ideas presented in the research strategy seminar, students are required to write, present, and defend a (hypothetical) funding proposal. This seminar is aimed at providing the students with the information and skills required to independently and successfully apply for third party funding, in particular with the DFG.	2-3 days, blocked	Funding proposal

Research Retreat	Along with two to three members of the IDK's core faculty, they students will meet in conclave to discuss their own research papers. For each paper, at least two other students will provide a written "referee report". This internal peer review process will help students to prepare their papers for submission to leading scientific journals.	2-3 days, blocked	Presentation, Referee report
Interdisciplinary Academy	During the interdisciplinary summer academy, a group of local experts from neighbouring fields will be invited. The summer academy is designed to broaden the EBE students' methodological skillset and help them find innovative research topics.	2-3 days (long weekend)	No examination
Semester 4			
Jamboree	Toward the end of their third year, the IDK students will organize a multi-day conference. At this jamboree, an equal number of IDK students and students from top international graduate programs working on EBE will participate. The IDK students will be able to invite two senior international keynote speakers. IDK faculty members participate in the jamboree and help students to get in contact with foreign scholars and schools. At the jamboree, IDK students and students from partner universities present and discuss their work, get international exposure, meet their peers and competitors, and start joint projects.	Participation in Soft Skills Course: organization of symposia, one year before Jamboree (3 days, blocked) Organization of Jamboree Attendance of Jamboree (2-3 days)	Organization + Participation, no examination
Continuously			
Field days	Typically centered activity with an academic umbrella but with a more practical focus on methods, and access to data to conduct a real research project within the topic. Students are encouraged to come up with own ideas on whom to approach, how exactly the day will be looking like, the topic to be discussed, etc.	Decided by students	No examination
Field Visits	Visits to firms and organizations that cooperate with the IDK (GFK, Munich Re, IAB) . Students will get a chance to develop research projects in close cooperation with our partner institutions, using their unique data resources and specific institutional expertise.	½ day	No examination
Topical Workshops	Thematically focused short workshops with international guests presenting their research. IDK students will also have a chance to present and discuss their ongoing projects.	2-3 days	No examination

Conferences	Students are encouraged to attend international conferences and workshops. It is also expected that starting in the second year, they will present their research.	Depending on conference	No examination, presentation recommended
Exchange Visits	Students are encouraged to spend at least three months of their doctoral studies at an internationally renowned research university.	~3 months	No examination
Soft Skills	The EBE students are encouraged to participate in soft skills courses organized by the participating universities. In addition, a few courses will particularly be organized for the EBE cohort.	1-3 days, blocked	No examination