



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Empirical Economics

Course Code	E_MFAE_EEC
Credits	6
Period	P2
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	School of Business and Economics
Course Coordinator	dr. N. Ketel
Examiner	dr. N. Ketel
Teaching Staff	dr. N. Ketel
Teaching method(s)	Seminar, Lecture

Course Objective

In order for policy makers to make good decisions about which programs or policies to adopt, they must have a strong understanding of how these interventions will affect the people that are targeted by the program or policy. For a variety of reasons, though, measuring the causal effects of interventions remains a difficult challenge. Fortunately, advances in both data collection and research methods provide opportunities to develop the type of knowledge that can improve policy. This course aims to:

- Help students recognize the need for high-quality evaluation research and to identify whether certain studies meet these standards;
- Help students understand the key elements and intuition behind a number of microeconomic techniques used to empirically analyse economic models;
- Help students develop a tool-kit of models - and familiarize them with a software package to apply them (R) - so they can design and carry out their own quantitative research;
- Learn how to interpret estimation results and translate these into policy conclusions;
- Expose students to high-quality quantitative research on important policy questions.

Course Content

In the course meetings we will discuss a range of approaches that are often used to empirically analyse economic models, including instrumental variables, randomized controlled experiments, regression-discontinuity designs, fixed effects models, differences-in-differences and an introduction to machine learning.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lectures and tutorials

Method of Assessment

Written exam, one individual writing assignment, two group data assignments

Literature

Stock, J.H. and M.M. Watson, "Introduction to econometrics", 4th edition, Pearson.

Recommended background knowledge

Introduction to econometrics (linear regression and maximum likelihood) and basic statistics (estimation and hypothesis testing).