



Welcome to the Department of Economics at the University of Mannheim!

My name is Sebastian Herdtweck, and I'm the Departmental Exchange Coordinator for the M.Sc. in Economics. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns regarding the master's program. I would also like to take this opportunity to share some important information about the upcoming semester. For more information please visit our website for [incoming exchange students](#) and the website of the [International Office](#).

General information

Academic calendar – spring 2026

Lecture period: 9 February – 29 May

Easter break: 30 March – 10 April

First examination period: 30 May – 13 June

Second examination period: 29 August – 5 September

Welcome week

An orientation week will be held for all exchange students prior to the start of lectures, welcoming you to the University of Mannheim and helping you transition smoothly into student life. You can find detailed information about the activities planned for the welcome week [here](#).

RUM credentials

Upon enrolment you will receive your personal credentials for the university services such as [Portal2](#) (course and exam registration), the [mailing service](#), [ILIAS](#) (online learning platform), and the [university library](#).

Weather

The weather in the early months of the year is mostly unpredictable. From February to March you can expect everything from cold weather, rays of sunshine, snow and even summer-like temperatures. Spring kicks off around April, followed by high temperatures in May and June. Prepare for dry summer days and barbecue weather.

Mannheim at a glance

Mannheim boasts excellent connections to cities within and outside Germany, including Amsterdam, Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Munich, Paris, and Zurich. Beyond its industrial charm, the city features numerous green spaces along its two rivers, providing a refreshing escape. Mannheim also offers a vibrant array of shopping, nightlife, restaurants, museums, and cafés. Additionally, the Palatinate region – a renowned wine area perfect for hiking – is just a short trip away. Be sure to explore it during the warm summer days!

Course program M.Sc. in Economics

Types of courses in the M.Sc. in Economics

The following description will help you understand the differences between the types of courses offered at our department:

- **Lectures:** These are usually led by professors and provide students with background information about a subject in order to explain long-term developments and complex ideas or theories. They usually provide a basic framework for further study.

- **Practical Exercises:** Sometimes led by professors' assistants, information from the lectures or respective literature is reviewed and systematic knowledge and skills are applied. Often the material from the lectures will be expanded upon and reviewed in depth.
- **(Block-)Seminars:** Students are encouraged to participate actively in the seminars through discussion and oral presentations. The goal is to provide students with an opportunity to gain experience on researching and presenting academic topics. Usually the students have to write an essay and present the results in class. Most seminars are organized as block seminars (intensive seminars). Aside from the organizational meeting class time is blocked on one or two days towards the end of the lecture period.

Course program spring 2026

The course catalog of the Department of Economics is published [here](#). Please check back regularly to obtain updated and detailed information about our current course program. Please also note the prerequisites mentioned in the course descriptions.

Course choice

As an incoming master student at the Department of Economics you can choose from our courses in the bachelor's and master's program as long as you fulfill the prerequisites for each course.

Exchange students are also welcome to choose from the **university-wide elective courses**, joining other courses may be possible, subject to availability of places. Please read the course description carefully and contact me in case of doubts. You can find the course catalog for incoming exchange students [here](#).

For consultation about your course choice please contact the Departmental Exchange Coordinator. Please also make sure to let him sign your **Learning Agreement** before or during the first weeks of the semester.

Course registration

You can apply for all lecture courses offered by the Department of Economics between 15 January and 9 February via **Portal²**. To apply for a seminar, please send an email to ecograd@uni-mannheim.de by 4 February.

Examinations

Examination dates

Usually, written exams take place at the end of the semester, during the [examination period](#). Other types of exams, like presentations, papers, or other assignments can take place during the semester. Some elective modules might also have midterm exams.

Exam registration

Make sure to register for your exams during the official registration period on **Portal²**. The specific dates for registration will be announced on the [Student Services](#) website and via email, so keep an eye out for those. Also, remember that you'll need to register for exams even in courses that don't have a written test—like those with assignments, presentations, or papers.

Studying the Healthy Way

Studying presents many opportunities to draw on your inner strength and surpass yourself. At the same time, the demands of university life require perseverance and stamina. At the University of Mannheim, you are not alone, so if you feel your strength and energy waning, do not hesitate to seek help. Our staff will gladly support you in a variety of areas with info sessions and consultation hours, coaching, counseling, courses, and much more. Food for thought and an introduction to a wide range of advisory and support services can be found on our [website](#).

Best wishes for a good start in Mannheim!

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