UNIVERSITY OF MANNHEIM
Department of Economics

Master of Science Economics
University of Mannheim
Course catalog spring 2026

The schedule of the introductory phase and the specialization phase as well as information on the course registration and links to the course pages in Portal[2] can be found in our online course catalog.
Additional courses at Heidelberg University: Within the scope of the cooperation agreement with the Alfred Weber Institute for Economics of Heidelberg University students may contribute up to a total of 40 ECTS credits from elective modules of the master's program Economics (area MScE 2b) and from the master's thesis. Participation requires a Heidelberg University matriculation number. For more information please visit the information website for non-AWI students.
Additional courses outside economics: Students may contribute up to a total of 16 ECTS credits from the following master's programs of the University of Mannheim: Mannheim Master in Management (area Business Administration), M.Sc. Political Science, M.Sc. Sociology, M.Sc. Business Mathematics, Master of Law, and Competition Law and Regulation (LL.M.) (for students in study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics only). Additional 8 ECTS credits may be granted upon request.

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Contents

Compulsory Modules for study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics

E505 Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics, compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Martin Peitz
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 14
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (4) + exercise (2)
Workload: 420 working hours, containing 63 hours class time and 357 hours independent study time, time for assignments and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601- E603 (or equivalent; this course is only suitable for Economics students)
Grading: Written exam (180 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course covers the theory of industrial organization. It provides an overview of modern industrial organization with an emphasis on theory and formal models. Models are adapted to tackle concrete problems. Students are provided with a toolkit and are encouraged to think strategically. Theoretical analyses are complemented by case studies and background knowledge of competition policy. Organization: 1. Introduction; 2. Market Power; 3. Sources of Market Power; 4. Pricing and Market Segmentation 5. Product Quality and Information; 6. Theory of Competition Policy; 7. R&D and Intellectual Property; 8. Networks, Standards, and Systems; 9. Intermediation.
Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Ability to develop industrial organization models, ability to solve industrial organization models, ability to analyze business and competition cases.

Further information: Essential reading: Paul Belleflamme and Martin Peitz (2015), Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press

Expected number of students in class: 30

Contact information: Name: Prof. Martin Peitz; Email: martin.peitz@gmail.com

E5046 Empirical Industrial Organization

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics, compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS Credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2) + exercises (1)
Workload: 210 working hours, including 31.5 hours class time and 178,5 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent; this course is only suitable for Economics students)
Grading: Final exam (120 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course is designed to provide an introduction to empirical methods in industrial organization, with a focus on antitrust issues. This course covers the traditional topics in empirical industrial organization and antitrust: Demand estimation, supply estimation, measurement of market power, productivity estimation, and horizontal mergers. The aim is to provide students with knowledge of the standard models and approaches and introduce them to modern research questions. This course is organized in lectures complemented by computer sessions. The software used is Matlab.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students acquire methodological and programming skills in the field of empirical industrial organization. Those skills can be applied to answer empirical questions in industrial organization and antitrust policy.

Expected number of students in class: 30

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky; Email: michelle.sovinsky@uni-mannheim.de

Competition Law

Form and applicability of the module: Compulsory course for Master in Economics with specialization Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Friedemann Kainer
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS-Credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2 SWS)
Workload: 150 working hours, containing 21 hours in class and 129 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: none
Grading: Final exam (120 min)

Goals and Contents of the module: The course familiarizes students with the essential concepts of competition law and introduces them to the legal tools available to competition authorities and private parties. The course will put a particular emphasis on those aspects of competition law which rely heavily on economic findings. Students will be invited to discuss the interplay between competition law and economics on the examples of cartels, the abuse of market power, and merger control. Numerous cases and examples provide a close link to the practice of competition law.

Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be able to understand competition law cases and to follow current developments in competition law and policy, e.g. the role of competition law in a digital economy. They will learn how economic arguments can be used in a legal discourse and how law and economics interact in the field of competition law."

Expected number of students in class: 15

Further information: Legal texts will be provided. Further reading: Fox/Gerard, EU Competition Law, 2017; Lorenz, Introduction to EU Competition Law, 2013; Wish/Bailey, Competition Law, 8.ed., 2015.

Specialization Phase: Lecture modules

The descriptions of modules for study track 3: Economic Research can be found in the CDSE course catalog on the website of the Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences.

E505 Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics, compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Martin Peitz
Cycle of offer: Each spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 14
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (4) + exercise (2)
Workload: 420 working hours, containing 63 hours class time and 357 hours independent study time, time for assignments and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601- E603 (or equivalent; this course is only suitable for Economics students)
Grading: Written exam (180 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course covers the theory of industrial organization. It provides an overview of modern industrial organization with an emphasis of the theory and formal models. Models are adapted to tackle concrete problems. Students are provided with a toolkit and are encouraged to think strategically. Theoretical analyses are complemented by case studies and background knowledge of competition policy. Organization: 1. Introduction; 2. Market Power; 3. Sources of Market Power; 4. Pricing and Market Segmentation 5. Product Quality and Information; 6. Theory of Competition Policy; 7. R&D and Intellectual Property; 8. Networks, Standards, and Systems; 9. Intermediation.
Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Ability to develop industrial organization models, ability so solve industrial organization models, ability to analyze business and competition cases

Further information: Essential reading: Paul Belleflamme and Martin Peitz (2015), Industrial Organization: Markets and Strategies, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press

Expected number of students in class: 30

Contact information: Name: Prof. Martin Peitz; Email: martin.peitz@gmail.com

E526 Development Economics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Minki Kim, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 150 working hours, containing 21 hours class time and 129 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading and ECTS credits: Final paper (45%, 6-10 pages), midterm paper (35%, 6-10 pages), classroom discussion (20%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course aims to introduce the students to the determinants of long-run economic growth/development and differences in real income per capita across countries. We will cover selected topics of frontier research at the intersection of macroeconomics and development. Topics will include demographic transition and the transition to modern growth, measuring and accounting of income across countries and time, structural transformation and agricultural productivity gap, human capital accumulation, misallocation of total factor productivity, health and economic growth, and rural-urban migration. This course focuses on economic growth in developing countries. We begin with a basic theory of economic development at the macro level and how to test its various predictions with data. This class will not give you specific answers about the right and wrong things to do in any situation. These rely on so many context-specific features that it would be impossible to cover in an entire MA program, let alone a single semester. Instead, the goal is to offer you a framework. More specifically, the goals of this course are to give you a framework to understand the process of economic growth and to understand proper policies for governments and firms to foster development

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will familiarize themselves with frontier academic discussions on development economics, particularly ones with macroeconomic approaches. They will also acquire skills how to assess academic articles critically.

Further information: The reading list is available in the syllabus.

Expected number of students in class: 20

Contact information: Name: Prof. Minki Kim; Email: minki.kim@uni-mannheim.de

E528 Financial Economics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Andrea Modena
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2) + exercise (1)
Workload: 210 working hours, containing 31.5 hours class time and 178.5 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601-E603 (or equivalent); basic programming knowledge (e.g., Matlab, R, or Python) is desirable.
Grading: Midterm exam (60 min, 30%), final exam (90 min, 70%)

Goals and contents of the module: The course introduces the fundamental principles of modern finance, including key concepts in asset pricing and corporate finance. It is divided into four main sections. The first section establishes the foundation of arbitrage theory in static and dynamic settings, focusing on state prices and stochastic discount factors. The second section explores choices under uncertainty and general equilibrium, leading to an introduction of portfolio choice theory and various

asset pricing models, such as the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and consumption CAPM. The third section applies the theory for pricing financial instruments and evaluating their risks. If time permits, the course will also cover model implementation and computation aspects. The final section covers the basics of corporate finance, including the Modigliani-Miller Theorem and trade-off theory. It's important to note that while verbal analysis can be helpful, it is not sufficient to understand modern financial markets fully. Mathematics is the most appropriate language for describing and analyzing complex financial instruments. With practice, it becomes more accessible, and you will eventually be able to speak it fluently.

Part A. Arbitrage theory

- Uncertainty, Information, and Stochastic Processes.
- Financial markets in discrete (uni, multi-period).
- State prices, arbitrage, stochastic discount factor, market completeness.
- Financial markets in continuous time.

Part B. Portfolio choices and asset pricing

- Preferences under uncertainty.
- Self-financing portfolio (GOP, Mean-variance, CAPM, Factor models).
- Utility maximization (Martingale and HJBE methods; CCAPM).
- Asset pricing in general equilibrium.

Part C. Applications

- Fixed-income securities and the term structure of interest rates; ane models.
- Derivatives (Forward, Swaps, European and American Options, CDS).
- Numerical methods (binomial tree calibration, finite-differences, Monte Carlo).

Part D. Corporate finance

- Firm valuation and the Modigliani-Miller Theorem.
- Firm valuation with endogenous default.
- Trade-off theory; Agency frictions.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon successful completion of the module, the students should understand the fundamental questions of financial economics: how are asset prices determined and how are firms financed? They will also acquire the necessary tools to understand more advanced asset pricing and corporate finance models.

Further information: There is no unique ideal textbook for this course; the material consists of lecture notes that are freely available on my web page. The lecture notes draw mainly on material covered in the following references:

- Bjork, T. (2009) Arbitrage theory in continuous time. Oxford University Press.
- Back, K. (2010) Asset pricing and portfolio choice theory, Oxford University Press.
- Brandimarte, P. (2013) Numerical methods in nance and economics: a MATLAB-based introduction John Wiley & Sons, 2013.
- Luciano, E., and Dumas B. (2017) The economics of continuous-time nance MIT Press.
- Hull, J. (2009) Options, futures and other derivatives Prentice Hall.
- Moreno-Bromber, S. and Rochet, J-C. (2018) Continuous-time Models in Corporate Finance, Banking, and Insurance. Princeton University Press.

Expected number of students in class: 25

Contact information: Name: Dr. Andrea Modena; Email: andrea.modena@uni-mannheim.de

E570 Macroeconometrics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Endong Wang, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Every fall semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 9.5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 285 hours, containing 42 hours time in class and 243 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Final exam (90 min, 75%) and assignments (25%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course offers an introduction to multiple time series methods with a focus on macroeconometrics. It covers the econometric theory and practical implementation of structural vector autoregressive (VAR) models and local projection (LP) methods for forecasting and impulse response analysis. Topics include model estimation, order selection, diagnostic checking, and the treatment of unit roots. The course also explores recent advances in high-dimensional time series modeling, including regularized estimation techniques (e.g., Lasso-type penalization) and factor-based approaches (e.g., principal component analysis) for both VAR and LP frameworks. Applications are grounded in contemporary research papers and illustrated through hands. Empirical tutorials will be conducted using both MATLAB and R, with R particularly suited for the implementation of regularized high-dimensional VAR and LP models, supported by mature software packages. This course is complementary to E0538 Empirical Macroeconomics: whereas the latter emphasizes applied macroeconomic analysis, the present course provides a deeper focus on the econometric and technical foundations of time series methodologies.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The ability to understand and the use the fundamental tools of multiple time series for applied and methodological analyses. Successful course participants are able to understand, evaluate, and synthesize the relevant specialized literature and to conduct own empirical analyses in order to address economic and policy relevant research questions. They are able to communicate their research results to experts and nonexperts.

Further information: The list of covered research papers will be provided at the beginning of the course. General readings:

- Lütkepohl, H. (2005), New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis, Springer, Berlin, Chapters 1-4, 6-9, and 11-13, Appendices A-D;
- Kilian and Lütkepohl (2017), Structural Vector Autoregressive Analysis, CUP, Cambridge, Chapters 1-3.

Expected number of students in class: 15

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Endong Wang; Email: endong.wang@uni-mannheim.de

E588 International Macroeconomics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Jan Schymik
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 9.5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (3) + exercise (1)
Workload: 285 hours in total, containing 42 hours in class and 243 hours for independent studies and exam preparation.
Prerequisites: E601-603
Grading: Written exam (120 min)

Goals and contents of the module: The course offers an introduction to international macroeconomics at the graduate level, emphasizing theory and the use of formal dynamic macroeconomic models. Models are used to tackle concrete policy problems. Students are provided with a toolkit and are encouraged to think independently. Topics covered will include (time permitting): current accounts and global imbalances, open-economy real business cycle models, nominal and real exchange rates, nominal rigidities and monetary policy in open economies, financial and exchange rate crises, sovereign debt crises.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students know international macro models at an advanced level. They are able to understand and to analyze macroeconomic questions arising in the open economy using formal mathematical models. They are able to analyze concrete macroeconomic policy questions.

Further information: Recommended readings:

- Maurice Obstfeld and Kenneth Rogoff (1996): Foundations of International Macroecomics, MIT Press.
- Stephanie Schmitt-Grohe and Martin Uribe (2017): Open-economy Macroeconomics, Princeton University Press.
- Stephanie Schmitt-Grohe and Martin Uribe and Michael Woodford (2019): International Macroeconomics, Lecture Notes, NYU.

Expected number of students in class: 20

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Jan Schymik; Email: jan.schymik@uni-mannheim.de

E5019 Advanced Microeconometrics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Mengshan Xu, PhD.
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 9
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Workload: 270 hours in total; 42 hours class time and 228 hours for independent studies and exam preparation

Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Final exam (120 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This module offers advanced theory in various topics of modern Microeconometrics, including Linear regression, nonlinear regression, M-estimation, discrete choice model, and causal inference. There is also some discussion on asymptotic theory. The participating students should have completed E603 and have considerable interest in econometric and statistical theory.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon successful completion of the module, students will better understand the modern econometrics theory and be better prepared for study and research at higher levels. For the students who plan to do applied works in the future, they will have deeper insights into the mechanisms behind the models widely adopted in modern applied economics. For the students who plan to do theoretical research in the future, their analytical capabilities will be further improved, and they will be able to start reading frontline research papers independently and doing individual research.

Further information: Recommended textbooks:

- Econometrics, Bruce E. Hansen, University of Wisconsin (2021)
- Microeconometrics Methods and Applications, Cameron and Trivedi (2005)
- Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data, Wooldridge (2010)

Expected number of students in class: 20

Contact information: Name: Prof. Mengshan Xu, PhD.; email: Mengshan.Xu(at)uni-mannheim.de

E5035 Environmental Economics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Mateus Souza, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 9.5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (3) + excercises (1)
Workload: 285 hours in total, containing 42 hours in class and 243 hours for independent studies and exam preparation
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Final exam (120 min, 50%); individual homework assignments (20%); group case study written report (20%); group case study presentation (20 min, 10%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course is an introduction to the field of environmental economics at the graduate level. The first part of the course presents the economic theory of environmental policy. Primarily based on the theory of externalities, a broad range of instruments for environmental policy will be analyzed from an economic point of view. The course also deals with empirical methods for the causal impact analysis of policies, and for valuation of environmental quality. These can serve as the basis for robust cost-benefit analyses that are key for determining optimal environmental policy design. Later parts of the course provide an introduction to topics such as:

behavioral environmental economics; fundamentals of electricity markets; and the economic analysis of international environmental problems and potential solutions.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Ability to formulate and solve problems in environmental regulation using advanced economic theory, mathematical techniques, and statistical analyses. Ability to estimate willingness-to-pay for environmental quality. Understanding of strategic incentives in international negotiations over environmental problems. More broadly, this course promotes strategic, analytical, and critical thinking, which is crucial in any professional career. Graduates will be able to exchange information, ideas, and solutions both with experts of the field (using models, math, and jargon) and with laymen (in plain English).

Further information: Bibliography:

- Daniel J. Phaneuf and Till Requate. A course in environmental economics. Cambridge University Press.
- William J. Baumol and Wallace E. Oates, The theory of environmental policy. Cambridge University Press

Expected number of students in class: 20

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Mateus Souza; Email: mateus.souza@uni-mannheim.de

E5038 Empirical Macroeconomics: Shocks and Propagation

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Matthias Meier
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 150 hours in total, containing 21 hours time in class and 129 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Written exam (90 min, 60%), take-home assignments (40%).

Goals and contents of the module: This course covers both methods and applications in empirical macroeconomics. On the methodological side, we first discuss narrative approaches to identify structural shocks and univariate methods to study their propagation. The second and larger methodological block covers structural vector autoregressive (SVAR) models. The focus will be on various identification strategies (e.g., short-run/long-run restrictions, sign restrictions, external instruments), but we will also cover inference, factor models, nonlinear models. The lectures, and even more so the assignment, introduce a range of applications. Those include the analysis of technology shocks, monetary policy shocks, and fiscal policy shocks.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The course introduces students to the econometric theory and macroeconomic applications of structural vector autoregressions.

Further information: Recommended literature:

- Ramey (Handbook of Macroeconomics, Volume 2A, Chapter 2: Macroeconomic Shocks and Their Propagation)
- Kilian and Lütkepohl (Structural Vector Autoregressive Analysis, preliminary: see http://www-personal.umich.edu/~lkilian/book.html)
- Lütkepohl (New Introduction to Multiple Time Series Analysis, 2005)

Expected number of students in class: 10

Contact information: Name: Prof. Matthias Meier; Email: m.meier(at)uni-mannheim.de

E5046 Empirical Industrial Organization

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics, compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS Credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2) + exercises (1)
Workload: 210 working hours, containing 31,5 hours class time and 178,5 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent; this course is only suitable for Economics students)
Grading: Final exam (120 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course is designed to provide an introduction to empirical methods in industrial organization, with a focus on antitrust issues. This course covers the traditional topics in empirical industrial organization and antitrust: Demand estimation, supply estimation, measurement of market power, productivity estimation, and horizontal mergers. The aim is to provide students with the knowledge of the standard models and approaches and introduce them to modern research questions. This course is organized in lectures complemented by computer sessions. The software used is Matlab.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students acquire methodological and programming skills in the field of empirical industrial organization. Those skills can be applied to answer empirical questions in industrial organization and antitrust policy.

Expected number of students in class: 30

Contact Information: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky; Email: michelle.sovinsky@uni-mannheim.de

E5124 Household Finance and Macroeconomics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Kwok Yan Chiu, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Irregular
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 150 hours, containing 21 hours time in class and 129 hours independent study time

Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Written exam (120 minutes, 70%), three take-home assignments (9 - 15 pages, 30%)

Goals and contents of the module: The course focuses on understanding household consumption-savings behavior and heterogeneity in household behavior, a key feature of modern macroeconomics. We will start by briefly introducing life-cycle models of consumption and savings decisions to provide a theoretical foundation and study what these models predict for consumption, savings, portfolio choice, and wealth accumulation. The main goal of the course is to study how consumption empirically responds to different shocks: we will cover how consumption responds to shocks to income, wealth, and interest rate shocks, again focusing on differences across households. The empirical methods discussed in the course consist of credible, quasi-experimental research designs such as difference-in-difference, instrumental variables, and experiments. We will use recent research papers to illustrate how these methods are used in cutting-edge research today. In the final part of the course, we will focus on why different households respond differently to shocks by studying, for example, wealth inequality or participation in asset markets. The course is based on cutting-edge research papers in economics and finance. Tentative Plan:

1. Introduction to Household Finance and Macroeconomics
2. Canonical Models in Household Finances
3. (Exercise) Computing Consumption-Saving Model
4. Marginal Propensity to Consume
5. Deleveraging and Housing wealth Shock
6. (Exercise) Document Households Marginal Propensity to Consume
7. Wealth Inequality and Portfolio Choice
8. (Exercise) Households portfolio data and computation
9. Additional Topics if time allows

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: In this course, students will:

- Increase their knowledge of household finance by reading, comparing, and criticizing articles on topics highly relevant to policymakers and the general public.
- Use skills learned in other courses in microeconomics, financial economics, and microeconometrics to understand relevant problems faced by households today, and to critically assess recent articles on the subject.
- Learn to understand and evaluate empirical strategies used to identify causal effects using econometrics and policy evaluation skills.
- Attain more knowledge of recent trends in topics and methods used in household finance, which is useful for their own research.
- Learn to identify unanswered questions and extensions of articles to be able to conduct research into new topics.
- Improve their communication and presentation skills.

Further information: The complete reading list is announced at the start of the course. The course is based on recent research papers.

Contact information: Name: Kwok Yan Chiu, Ph.D.; Email: kwok.yan.chiu@uni-mannheim.de

E5134 Macrofinance

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Andrej Mijakovic
Cycle of offer: Irregular
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 150 hours, containing 21 hours time in class and 129 hours independent study time
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Written exam (120 min, 60%), take-home assignment (40%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course provides an advanced introduction to macro-finance. The first part focuses on the microeconomic level and presents empirical evidence on household asset portfolios alongside the basic theory of portfolio choice. The second part shifts to the macroeconomic level and studies how assets are priced, with an emphasis on key asset pricing puzzles. The third part examines the role of asset prices in the propagation of business cycles and in the evolution of inequality.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: After completing the course, students will have a solid understanding of how financial markets interact with the macroeconomy. They will learn the theoretical foundations of household saving and portfolio choice and how these compare with empirical evidence. Students will also learn how assets are priced and gain insight into major debates in modern asset pricing and their macroeconomic relevance.

Further information: Recommended readings:

- John Campbell. Financial Decisions and Markets: A Course in Asset Pricing
- John Cochrane. Asset Pricing

Contact information: Name: Prof. Andrej Mijakovic; Email: andrej.mijakovic@uni-mannheim.de

E5136 Sustainable Finance

Form and usability of the module: Elective course for M.Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Celine Yue Fei, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Once
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2)
Workload: 150 working hours, containing 21 hours class time and 129 hours independent study time and preparation for the exam
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent), students are expected to be familiar with basic programming in Python, familiarity with basic models and concepts in finance is a plus
Grading: Presentation (30 min, 50%), take-home assignment (4 - 6 pages, 50%)

Goals and contents of the module: This module provides a rigorous introduction to sustainable finance from an economics and finance perspective. Its primary objective is to equip students with analytical tools to understand how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors affect financial markets,

corporate decisions, and real economic outcomes. The course covers core topics in sustainable finance, including the economics of ESG ratings, their construction, informational content, and limitations; firm behavior in response to sustainability incentives, with emphasis on capital structure, disclosure, and shareholder engagement; and the incentives of asset managers and institutional investors in incorporating ESG considerations into investment decisions. The role of government policy and regulation is examined, alongside challenges related to greenwashing and strategic sustainability disclosure. Further topics include innovation and technological change driven by environmental policies, household and investor attitudes toward sustainability and climate risk, the pricing of climate and environmental risks in financial markets, and the real effects of environmental factors on firms, such as investment, productivity, and long-term performance. Throughout the module, these issues are analyzed using both theoretical and empirical methods, with attention to identification strategies and data limitations. The course is closely tied to frontier research in economics and finance. Readings consist primarily of recent academic papers, which are discussed in lectures and student presentations.

Expected competencies acquired after completion of the module: Upon successful completion of the module, students are expected to have developed a strong set of analytical and research-oriented competencies relevant to sustainable finance. Students will acquire a solid conceptual understanding of the economic mechanisms underlying sustainable finance, including how ESG information is produced, interpreted, and priced in financial markets. They will understand how sustainability considerations influence firm behavior, investor decision-making, and policy outcomes. The module develops critical analytical skills, enabling students to evaluate both theoretical models and empirical studies in sustainable finance. Students will be able to assess assumptions, identification strategies, data quality, and the robustness of empirical findings, as well as synthesize insights across different areas of the literature. Students will gain research literacy, becoming familiar with the structure and standards of high-quality academic research in economics and finance. They will develop the ability to read and discuss frontier research papers and to identify open questions and directions for future research. Finally, students will strengthen their oral and written communication skills, demonstrated through in-class presentations and a written examination requiring clear argumentation, analytical reasoning, and synthesis across course topics.

Expected number of students in class: 20

Further information: Due to the applied nature of the course the number of participants is limited to 20. If necessary, participants will be selected by lot. Students close to graduation will be given priority.

Contact Information: Name: Celine Yue Fei, Ph.D.; email: yue.fei@uni-mannheim.de

Specialization phase: seminar modules

E510 Topics in Macroeconomics

Form and applicability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Jan Schymik
Acting teacher of the module: Dr. Robin Sogalla
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Course language: English
ECTS Credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2 SWS)
Workload: 150 hours consisting of class time, independent study and writing of the final paper.
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation (40 min, 50%), seminar paper (8 - 12 pages, 30%), classroom discussion (20%)

Goals and contents of the module: This seminar examines frontier research in environmental macroeconomics, combining theoretical and empirical perspectives. Topics include integrated assessment models, the estimation of climate damages, directed technical change and clean innovation, spatial heterogeneity in climate impacts and policy, and the interaction between trade and the environment.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of the modern literature in environmental macroeconomics. They will become familiar with key theoretical and empirical methods, including structural models, calibration, and empirical identification strategies. Students will be able to critically evaluate research designs and results, and will enhance skills in presenting, discussing, and assessing academic research.

Further information: Syllabus

Expected number of students in class: 12

Contact Information: Name: Dr. Robin Sogalla, Email: robin.sogalla@uni-mannheim.de

E530 Topics in Industrial Organization

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Nicolas Schutz
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Seminar (2)
Workload: 150 hours
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation and discussion (60 min, 70%), seminar paper (8 – 10 pages, 30%),

Goals and contents of the module: The seminar covers recent research papers in theoretical industry organization. Potential topics inlcude horizontal merger, oligopolistic behavior, vertical relations, advertising, and consumer search. A reading list will be distributed at a later stage.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will gain knowledge in the modern literature on theoretical industry organization. Through reading recent research article, they will acquire an excellent command of the technical tools used by researchers contributing to this field. Relevant techniques include advanced game-theoretical tools (perfect Bayesian equilibrium and its refinements, repeated games) as well as mathematical tools (multivariate analysis and proof-writing skills). Students taking this course will be able to use this new knowledge as a starting point to start contributing in a research-oriented way to the theoretical industrial organization literature. Students will also broaden their presentation and discussion skills.

Expected number of students in class: 10

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Nicolas Schutz; Email: schutz@uni-mannheim.de

E586 Topics in Empirical Development Economics

Form and usability of the module: Elective course for M. Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Johanna Gather
Cycle of offer: Every spring semester
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Seminar (2)
Workload: 150 hours
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation (30 min, 30%), seminar paper/proposal (3-5 pages, 70%)

Goals and contens of the module:
This course aims to equip master's students in international economics with the practical skills and knowledge required to apply impact evaluation methods in the context of sustainable rural development economics. The course emphasises integrating theoretical concepts with real-world applications, preparing students to design, implement, and assess the impact of interventions promoting sustainable development in rural areas. Course schedule:

- Session 1: Introduction to the course
- Session 2: Impact Evaluation Methods Recap
- Session 3: Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Development
- Session 4: Natural Resource Management
- Session 5: Climate Resilient Agriculture in Rural Areas
- Session 6: Sustainable (Agricultural) Technology Adoption in Rural Areas
- Session 7: Market Access and Rural Infrastructure
- Session 8: Access to Financial Services
- Session 9: Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Alleviation
- Session 10: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Session 11: Education and Skill Development
- Session 12: Gender and Female Empowerment
- Session 13: Proposal Exercise

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module:
In this course students learn and practice to define and explain the key concepts and principles of sustainable rural development economics, to understand the role of program evaluation in rural development and how IE fits into the project cycle of rural development initiatives, to translate impact evaluation findings into actionable policy recommendations, to communicate impact evaluation findings and policy recommendations effectively, and to demonstrate the ability to engage in group discussions, workshops, and presentations.

Expected number of students in class: 15

Contact information: Name: Dr. Johanna Gather; Email: johanna.gather(at)uni-mannheim.de

E599 Empirical Environmental Economics

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Kathrine von Graevenitz
Cycle of offer: only in fall
ECTS-Credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2)
Workload: 150 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, preparation of the seminar paper and presentation
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601- E603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation (30 min, 40%), report (6 - 8 pages, 40%), classroom discussion (20%)

Goals and contents of the module: This seminar covers recent empirical research in environmental economics. The reading list for the class will focus on a particular research topic in environmental economics, such as climate policy or air pollution control. Each student will present a paper chosen from the list to the class and write a report critiquing the paper. Emphasis will be on identifying the central questions addressed in the paper, evaluating the methodology and data, and making suggestions for improvements and extensions.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Ability to present academic research to semi-expert audience, ability to critically reflect on academic research, and to articulate criticism and suggestions for improvement.

Further information: Reading list

Expected number of students in class: 15

Contact information: Name: Prof. Kathrine von Graevenitz; Email: Kathrine.vonGraevenitz@zew.de

E5004 Topics in Industrial Policy

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Achim Wambach
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2)

Workload: 150 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, and preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation and discussion (30 min, 50%), paper (22,000 characters including spaces, 50%)

Goals and contents of the module: The seminar explores wide range of topics in industrial policy, with a focus on empirical research. The purpose of this seminar is to provide students the opportunity to present and discuss research papers, get familiar with the state of art in the field and inspire their own research in this area.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students have gained knowledge in recent developments in industrial policy. They can apply their expertise and methods to analyze and evaluate ongoing debates in both the academic and the policy-oriented literature. The students have broadened their analytical abilities as well as their presentation and discussion skills.

Expected number of students in class: 12

Contact Information: Name: Dr. Jasmina Simon; Email: jasmina.simon@zew.de

E5006 Topics in Empirical Industrial Organization

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Michelle Sovinsky
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Course language: English
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2)
Workload: 150 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation (45 min, 50%) and term paper (8 - 12 pages, 50%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course is intended for master's students interested in conducting research in empirical industrial organization. Students will be required to write a paper and present a published paper during the class.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be familiar with recent research in empirical IO and will be able to provide constructive criticism of work and gain skills in presenting.

Further information: Paper topics will be selected from current publications in empirical industrial organization.

Expected number of students in class: 12

Contact information: Name: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky; Email: msovinsky@econ.uni-mannheim.de

E5109 Topics in Economic Demography

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: Irregular
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2)
Workload: 150 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, preparation of the seminar paper and presentation
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation (30 min, 50%), leading discussion (15min, 20%), seminar paper (3-5 pages, 20%), classroom discussion (10%).

Goals and contents of the module: This course will discuss the main triggers that led to a fertility decline in Europe and North America during the 19th and 20th centuries. The historical fertility transition that countries in North America and Europe experienced is regarded as one of the most important determinants of rapid and sustainable long-run growth. Falling fertility rates allowed the transition from a Malthusian regime, where income per capita was roughly constant, to a regime with lower population growth and higher living standards. We will discuss the role of different factors that contributed to this transition, such as structural change, public health improvements, declining child labor, the rise in the relative wage of women, or the rise in the demand for human capital during the second phase of the industrialization. Particular focus will be on articles that evaluate the importance of human capital for the fertility transition. The material covered in the course is grounded in the field of economic history, economic growth, and demography. The focus will be on articles that evaluate the causal impact of these triggers for the fertility transition.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Participants of this seminar will acquire a deeper understanding of a well-established literature on the historical fertility transition. The students will discuss and evaluate papers that are currently at the frontier of this field. The students will gain an understanding of different empirical methods that applied economists use to establish causality. They will also improve their presentation and writing skills.

Expected number of students in class: 10-15

Further Information: The reading list will be provided in the first meeting.

Contact information: Name: Prof. Philipp Ager; Email: philipp.ager@uni-mannheim.de.

E5112 The Limits of Markets

Form and applicability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Roland Beck
Cycle of offer: irregular
Course language: English
ECTS-Credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2)

Workload:150 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.
Prerequisites: E601-E603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Presentation of a research paper (25 min, 30%), co-chairing the discussion of a second research paper (10 min, 30%), final exam (90 min, 30%), active participation in the course (10%).

Goals and Contents of the module: The course is targeted at Master students who are interested in empirical research on international issues or aim at pursuing a career in a central bank or an international organization (e.g. IMF, BIS, OECD etc.). The course reviews selected topics in International Finance with an emphasis on their policy implications. It requires familiarity with basic concepts in international economics and finance, macroeconomics, and applied econometrics. Topics (subject to updates) include Financial Development, Financial Integration, Capital Flow Volatility, Capital Flow Management, Global Financial Cycles, the Global Financial Safety Net, Capital Flows via Financial Centers and Geopolitical Fragmentation. The reading list combines classic academic papers, more recent published and working papers as well as policy reports by central banks and international organizations. The course requires familiarity with basic concepts in international economics and finance, macro-economics and applied econometrics. The reading list combines influential academic papers and recent working papers as well as policy reports by central banks and international organizations. The course is targeted at Master students who are interested in empirical research in international finance and aim at pursuing a career in central banking, an international organization or in the private sector.

Expected Competences acquired after Completion of the Module: After completing this module, students will be familiar with selected recent empirical research in international finance which has proven to be relevant for central banks, regulators and international organizations. Students will also get exposed to data sources and empirical strategies used by researchers to identify causal effects in international finance. The seminar will also enable participants to provide constructive criticism of the papers discussed and to put them into a broader context. Finally, the seminar will help students to improve their presentation and writing skills and to get ideas for own empirical research in the area of international economics and finance.

Expected number of students in class: 12

Contact information: Name: Dr. Roland Beck; Email: roland.beck@ecb.europa.eu

E5135 Topics in Macrofinance

Form and applicability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Andrej Mijakovic
Cycle of offer: Irregular
Course language: English
ECTS Credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Block seminar (2 SWS)
Workload: 150 hours consisting of class time, independent study and writing of the final paper.
Prerequisites: E601-603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Term paper (8 - 12 pages, 50%), presentation (45 min, 40%), in-class participation (10%)

Goals and contents of the module: This seminar examines frontier research at the intersection of macroeconomics and finance from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. Topics include the secular decline in interest rates, long-run trends in asset prices, the role of inequality for asset pricing, and the role of asset prices for inequality.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will gain an in-depth understanding of several branches of the modern macro-finance literature, particularly on long-run trends and their distributional implications. They will become familiar with key theoretical models and empirical approaches used in this field. Students will learn to critically evaluate research designs and results, and will develop their ability to synthesize academic work, provide constructive critiques, and formulate original research ideas, both in writing and in oral discussion.

Expected number of students in class: 12

Contact Information: Name: Prof. Andrej Mijakovic; Email: andrej.mijakovic@uni-mannheim.de

E5137 Topics in Economic History

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Ph.D. Philipp Ager and Prof. Dr. Jochen Streb
Cycle of ffer: Once
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): Seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: E601 - 603 (or equivalent)
Grading: Final essay (3 - 5 pages, 50%), chair of discussion (90 minutes, 25%), classroom discussion (25%)

Goals and contents of the module: This reading group is for Ph.D. candidates and advanced master students with an interest in economic history. We will discuss recent research papers concerning relevant topics in economic history, demography, labor economics, innovation and technological change. Some of the papers will cover tools and advances in methods that are useful for economic historians and economists in conducting empirical research. Examples are applications of machine learning to digitize data, automatized linking, or the use of GIS methods.

Ecpected competencies acquired after completion of the course: A major goal of this class ist to learn about new fields and methods of research in economic history. This knowledge will enable students to identify and discuss new open questions for future research in a constructive and friendly environment. Participants are expected to attend all sessions, read all discussed papers beforehand, and lead at least one discussion session.

Further information: **Course description and reading list**

Contact information:

- Name: Prof. Philipp Ager; Email: philipp.ager@uni-mannheim.de
- Name: Prof. Jochen Streb; Email: jochen.streb@uni-mannheim.de

Specialization Phase: E5998 Internship

Form and usability of the module: Elective module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): Internship
Workload: 175 internship working hours; 5 hours for the preparation of an internship report in line with the Internship Report form
Course language: Language of the internship: any; Language of documents of proof: German or English
Participation requirements: Bachelor's degree
Requirements for the award of ECTS credits: Proof that the intern worked at least 175 hours, typically to be completed within a period of eight to twelve weeks; internship report (600 – 1000 words) and confirmations in accordance with the corresponding form; the internship is not graded

Goals and contents of the module: Application of specialized knowledge and approaches from the field of the economic sciences to practical problems; getting to know practical approaches relevant to the respective field of work; acquisition of key competences

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon completion of the module, students are able to apply the knowledge and understanding gained from the degree program in a professional context. They have developed and enhanced explanations and solutions in their area of work and obtained specialized knowledge relating to this field. They have reflected on work processes, evaluated them and, if applicable, (re)designed them. They have exchanged with their colleagues about information, ideas, problems and solutions and have formulated and defended positions and solutions. By completing an internship abroad, they may have developed their proficiency in a foreign language for use in business contexts.

Additional information: The internship meets the requirements for mandatory internships set out in the federal regulations on employing interns dated 1 January 2015 (Praktikantenrichtlinie Bund) and the supplementary information on internships (Durchführungsrundschreiben D5-31005/1#11 dated 4 May 2020, page 4: „Sehen Studiengänge ein Praktikum als Wahlpflichtmodul (Wahl zwischen einem Praktikum oder Seminar, Hausarbeit, Forschungsaufenthalt etc.) vor und entscheidet sich eine Studentin oder ein Student für ein Praktikum, gilt dieses als Pflichtpraktikum nach dieser Richtlinie.")

Contact information: Sebastian Herdtweck; Email: econgrad@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 405; Office hours: upon appointment

Research phase

E5999 Master's Thesis

Form and usability of the module: Compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 1: Economics and study track 2: Competition and Regulation Economics
Cycle of offer: Every semester
ECTS credits: 30
Teaching method (hours per week): Written final thesis, length to be agreed with the supervisor, typically 20 to 70 pages
Workload: 900 hours, optionally including a master's colloquium
Module language: English
Participation requirements: Completion of at least 45 ECTS credits in the specialization phase and successful completion of at least one seminar
Requirements for the Award of ECTS Credits, and Grading: The master's thesis is passed if it is graded "fair" (4.0) ("ausreichend") or better.

Goals and contents of the module: The students work independently on a topic from the fields of Economics, Statistics, Econometrics, and/or Economic History. The thesis should demonstrate the ability to identify and apply relevant theories and methods in academic research and to present the results in a linguistically and formally appropriate way. The topic, assignment, and scope of the master's thesis shall be limited by the supervisor so that its completion is possible within the given period of time.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon completion of the module, students have demonstrated the ability to apply the knowledge and understanding gained from the degree program in a research context, in particular:

- largely independently develop a research idea and line of inquiry,
- identify and evaluate scientific literature relevant for the research topic,
- deepen and integrate specialized knowledge in the chosen field of research and independently close knowledge gaps,
- identify and apply scientific concepts and methods suitable for the respective line of inquiry,
- demonstrate profound skills in data collection, compilation, preparation, processing, and presentation,
- exchange with their supervisor about information, ideas, problems, and solutions and formulate and defend positions and solutions,
- recognize the specifics and limitations of their research,
- reflect on the results obtained scientifically, socially and, if necessary, ethically,
- present their results in a precise and consistent manner and in accordance with the formal requirements of a scientific work,
- organize their scientific work process independently and
- use English flexibly and effectively and produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects.

Contact information: Sebastian Herdtweck; Email: econgrad@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 405; Office hours: upon appointment

E8999 Master's Thesis (Dissertation Proposal)

Form and usability of the module: Compulsory module for M.Sc. Economics in study track 3: Economic Research
Cycle of offer: Every semester
ECTS credits: 20
Teaching method (hours per week): Written final thesis, length to be agreed with the supervisor, typically 10 to 35 pages
Workload: 600 hours
Module language: English
Participation requirements: Completion of at least 45 ECTS credits in the specialization phase
Requirements for the Award of ECTS Credits, and Grading: The master's thesis is passed if it is graded "fair" (4.0) ("ausreichend") or better.
Goals and contents of the module: The students work independently on a topic from the fields of Economics, Statistics, Econometrics, and/or Economic History. The thesis has two goals. Firstly, it should demonstrate the ability to identify and apply cutting-edge theories and methods to academic research and to present the results in a linguistically and formally appropriate way. Secondly, it should indicate the extent and nature of the student's dissertation research interests. The topic, assignment, and scope of the thesis shall be limited by the supervisor so that its completion is possible within the given period of time.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon completion of the module, students have demonstrated the ability to apply the knowledge and understanding gained from the degree program in a research context, in particular:

- independently develop a research idea and line of inquiry,
- identify and evaluate scientific literature relevant for the research topic,
- deepen and integrate highly specialized knowledge in the chosen field of research and independently close knowledge gaps,
- identify, develop, and apply scientific concepts and methods suitable for the respective line of inquiry,
- demonstrate profound skills in data collection, compilation, preparation, processing, and presentation,
- exchange with their supervisor about information, ideas, problems, and solutions and formulate and defend positions and solutions,
- recognize and evaluate the specifics and limitations of their research with special consideration of most recent academic research,
- reflect on the results obtained scientifically, socially and, if necessary, ethically,
- present their results in a precise and consistent manner and in accordance with the formal requirements of a scientific work,
- organize their scientific work process independently and
- use English flexibly and effectively and produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects.

Contact information: Sebastian Herdtweck; Email: econgrad@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 405; Office hours: upon appointment

Additional course: E5051 Mannheim Competition Policy Forum

Form and usability of the module: Optional module for M.Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Martin Peitz + guest lecturers
Cycle of offer: Every semester
Course language: English

Goals and content of the module: The last couple of years have seen a remarkable increase in the application of economic insights to competition problems. In order to further promote and refine this development, practitioners need to understand how microeconomics can help to shed light on particular aspects of competition problems. At the same time, academics benefit from a better understanding of real-world challenges and institutional details. The forum aims at providing a platform for the discussion of recent cases, general competition policy issues, and relevant academic research in the field. Renowned practitioners and academics will be invited to present their views on cases and general policy questions, followed by a discussion of the economic implications with the audience.