

MW83: Empirical Economics of Education				Study programme	M
Module type:	ECTS points:	Workload:	Semester of study:	Duration of the module:	
Compulsory Elective	8	240	2 nd or 4 th	one semester	
Courses:			Contact hours:	Independent study:	Planned group size:
Course 1: Empirical Economics of Education (2 semester hours per week)			30 h	90 h	30
Course 2: Empirical Economics of Education – Seminar (2 semester hours per week)			30 h	90 h	30
Learning objectives and competences:					
<p>Course 1: After completing the module, students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – narrow down the fields of application of the economics of education and identify the potentials of an economic analysis of education; – outline and distinguish between important topics of economics of education; – understand and review critically empirical studies at the current edge of research published in international journals; – reflect the background of pioneering empirical studies of the individual topics; – explain and discuss on an expert level the data basis used by empirical studies as well as their methodology, in particular whether the research design used allows in principle to identify a causal relationship (as distinct from a mere correlation) and whether the underlying assumptions have been sufficiently substantiated. <p>Course 2: After completing the module, students are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – write an independent empirical seminar paper in the field of economics of education; – use a statistical software programme of their choice (e.g., Stata or R) to carry out fundamental analysis of larger data quantities, and interpret the results correctly in numerical and economic/econometric terms; – research further scientific literature and place it into a larger overall context within the economics of education; – plan and carry out scientific presentations. 					
Key competences:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - problem-solving skills - critical thinking - analytical skills - willingness to learn and perform 					

- ability to transfer knowledge

Course content:**Course 1:**

1. Production function of education
2. Returns on early childhood interventions
3. Returns on additional years of education
4. Education as a signal
5. Input-based education policy and learning environment
6. Organisation of and competition among schools

Course 2:

The students prepare empirical seminar papers on various topics of the economics of education. Based on identified basic literature, students re-evaluate known relationships with the help of different or the same data and discuss the estimation strategy and results. The data is provided in a partially prepared form so that students learn important data operations, but only have to perform them a few times each in order to replicate the basic literature.

Language:

Language of the course is English. Seminar papers can be written in German or English.

Teaching forms:

Literature studies, presentations, case study work, discussion, text work, independent study

Applicability of the module:

MSc VWL, MSc Business Administration (BWL), MSc Economics, MSc Business Chemistry

Requirements for participation:

Admission to the above-mentioned study programmes. Ideally, participants already have a basic understanding of standard programme evaluation methods (such as, for example, panel data models, instrumental variables estimator and differences in differences estimator). Participation is possible even without corresponding previous knowledge, provided that the participants are willing to work on any gaps in their knowledge that may become apparent. The same applies for the seminar: here, too, basic knowledge of empirical work is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.

Forms of examination:

The examination takes place in the form of another examination output.

Requirements for the award of ECTS points:

Passing the final module examination. A final module examination is successfully passed if the grade is at least "sufficient" (4.0).

Frequency:

The module takes place usually every academic year in the summer semester.

Significance of the grade for the final grade:

This course is graded and taken into account when calculating the overall grade of your Master's degree. For more detailed information on the calculation of the overall grade, please refer to the applicable examination regulations of your respective study programme.

Module supervisors and full-time lecturers:

Prof Dr Schildberg-Hörisch, Dr Daniel Kamhöfer

Other information:

The lecture part of this module is offered in the form of an "Inverted Classroom" where the order of the lecture and the follow-up part are reversed. This means that students work on important educational content outside of the lecture using articles published in English-language journals and similar material. In the subsequent in-person phase (the lecture), the contents of the articles are discussed, and the articles are classified, especially with regard to the empirical estimation approach and its credibility. Since the central issue of empirical studies across all areas is the so-called endogeneity problem of educational decisions, the Inverted-Classroom concept is suitable to identify this common issue and the various solutions to the problem.

Up-to-date information can be found on the DICE website. A project work may be written in this compulsory elective module (MQV01).

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