

**Department of Economics**  
**MCom Economics, MCom Econometrics,**  
**MPhil Economics**

**Introduction:** The master's degree programmes offered by the Department of Economics has recently undergone revision. The motivation for the change was to improve the quality of our research-based programmes, and to improve the applied research skills of master's graduates. The changes also served to simplify the offerings in the department and to create a master's programme in line with international best practice. In so doing, a two-year MPhil has become the qualification required for entry into the PhD, while a one-year MCom is in place for students not interested in pursuing a PhD. Furthermore, a bridging arrangement, based on the second year of the MPhil, is in place for students who have completed the MCom, and wish to pursue a PhD. Relatedly, students who have completed the MCom remain eligible to pursue a DCom (Economics); however, the Department of Higher Education and Training has proposed the development of professional doctorates. Currently, the Department of Economics is considering the meaning of a professional doctorate, although know decisions have been made regarding potential changes to the DCOM.

**Composition and credits:** For both MCom (Economics) and MCom (Econometrics) the required number of credits will be 180. For MCom (Econometrics), 10 of the credits may come from electives, with a choice between Applied Macroeconomics and Applied Microeconomics in the second semester. For the MPhil (Economics) degree programme, there are no electives. Technically, a student can take additional courses, which means that there are electives; however, we assume that few students will take that option. For all programmes the Research Methodology course does not carry any credits, but is a prerequisite for the mini-dissertation component, which contributes 67% towards the total requirements for the degree.

**Exam entry and duration of study:** Exam entry in all subjects requires a minimum of 40% in order to continue on the programme, all students must receive exam entry in every module. Students cannot be registered on the programme more than two years.

**Program Structure:** Below, we outline the courses that are typically offered in the degree program. Please, note that the exact timing and offering of elective courses depends upon lecturer resources and research interests. Each of the MCOM programs requires 180 credits, while the MPhil requires 210.

**Part-time Students:** Many students work, as well as study. For that reason, the majority of our M courses are in the evenings. The exceptions are courses for the MPhil, which are normally offered during the day. For those of you planning to pursue your studies part-time, you should complete the coursework over three semesters and write your mini-dissertation in the fourth semester. A part-time MCOM must be completed within two years. **From 2017, the Department of Economics will not allow M students to remain enrolled into their third year, unless they: (a) do not have any courses, either required or elective, yet to be completed; (b) have completed Research Methodology, as well; and (c) are able to submit a draft mini-dissertation by the time they request to re-enroll.**

**MCom Economics (module credits and semester normally offered indicated in parentheses below)**

*Required Courses:*

- EKN 812: Microeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 813: Macroeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 822: Applied Microeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 823: Applied Macroeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

*Required Research*

- EBW 801: Research Methodology (0, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 895: Mini-dissertation (120, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)

*Elective Courses*

- EKT 813: Time Series Econometrics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKT 814: Panel Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKT 815: Forecasting (10, Not offered recently)
- EKT 816: Cross-Section Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 804: International Trade (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 819: Computable General Equilibrium Modelling (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 821: Capita Selecta (10, Not offered recently)
- EOG 880: Economic Development (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

## **MCOM Econometrics (Total of 180 credits, module credits as indicated in parentheses below)**

### *Required Courses:*

- EKN 812: Microeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 813: Macroeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKT 813: Time Series Econometrics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKT 814: Panel Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKT 816: Cross-Section Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

### *Required Research*

- EBW 801: Research Methodology (0, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKT 895: Mini-dissertation (120, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### *Elective Courses*

- EKT 815: Forecasting (10, Not offered recently)
- EKN 804: International Trade (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 819: Computable General Equilibrium Modelling (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 821: Capita Selecta (10, Not offered recently)
- EKN 822: Applied Microeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 823: Applied Macroeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EOG 880: Economic Development (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

## **MPhil Economics**

The MPhil Economics programme is designed to prepare students to enter into a research-based PhD degree programme in Economics. The programme focuses primarily on the core microeconomic and macroeconomic theory principles, as well as the econometric fundamentals necessary for the student to understand the extant economic literature and to contribute to the international economic debate.

A minimum of 210 credits are required, 190 from compulsory modules and 20 from field modules. The compulsory modules are those required from MCOM Economics and MCOM Econometrics, combined. The field courses are seminar style, and will require in-depth student participation and development. They are designed to help students take their knowledge to the 'frontier', and, more importantly, to be able to explain and discuss the frontier with either other academics or non-academics.

The weight of the mini-dissertation in the degree is 57%. A mini-dissertation that feeds into the PhD is our preference at this stage; therefore, it is recommended that the mini-dissertation be a detailed literature review, or, possibly a meta-analysis.

### *Required Courses:*

- EKN 812: Microeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 813: Macroeconomics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 822: Applied Microeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKN 823: Applied Macroeconomics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKT 813: Time Series Econometrics (10, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKT 814: Panel Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- EKT 816: Cross-Section Econometrics (10, 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

### *Required Research*

- EBW 801: Research Methodology (0, 1<sup>st</sup> Semester)
- EKN 895: Mini-dissertation (120, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>)

### *Field Courses (Topics and Timing of Delivery Vary)*

- EKN 882: Advanced Topics in Microeconomics (10)
- EKN 883: Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics (10)
- EKN 884: Advanced Topics in Economics (10)
- EKT 885: Advanced Topics in Econometrics (10)

**For further information:** The postgraduate administrator is Ms Sindi Magwaza. She can be reached either by phone on +27-(0)12-420-2423 or via email [sindi.magwaza@up.ac.za](mailto:sindi.magwaza@up.ac.za). The Master's programme coordinator is Prof Nicola Viegi, [nicola.viegi@up.ac.za](mailto:nicola.viegi@up.ac.za). Furthermore, if you are interested in the PhD in Economics, you are welcome to contact either Sindi or Prof Ruthira Naraidoo, [ruthira.naraidoo@up.ac.za](mailto:ruthira.naraidoo@up.ac.za), who is the PhD programme coordinator.