

Department of Economics
MCom Economics, MCom Econometrics,
MPhil Economics

Introduction: The master's degree programmes offered by the Department of Economics are currently undergoing revision. The motivation for this is to improve the quality of our research-based programmes, and to improve the applied research skills of master's graduates. The changes will also serve 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 will become the qualification required for entry into the PhD, while a one-year MCom will be put in place for students not interested in pursuing a PhD. Furthermore, a bridging arrangement, based on the second year of the MPhil, will be put in place for students who have completed the MCom, and wish to pursue a PhD. Similarly, students who have completed the MCom will remain eligible to pursue a DCom (Economics).

Transitional arrangements: Changing a degree programme often entails addressing the needs of students that were registered in the previous year(s), but did not manage to complete the programme, yet. This change will lead to similar implications. However, a number of transitional measures have been put into place. Some began in 2014, in order to ease the scope of the measures. Specifically, in 2014, students are only allowed to enrol for the degrees MCom (Economics) or MCom (Econometrics). For students already in the system enrolled for other degrees, like MCom (Economics of Trade and Investment), the department will continue to offer a few of the electives previously on offer, and focus its energies on getting students to complete their degrees. For students enrolled as MCom students, who do wish to pursue a PhD, their MCom enrolment will be switched to the new MPhil, which will be in place, at the beginning of 2015.

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 MCom (Economics) degree programme, there are no electives. For both 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.

Structure of MCom Economics and MCom Econometrics as on offer in 2014:

MCom Economics (Total of 180 credits, module credits as indicated in parentheses below)

Full-time

Semester I

- EKN 812: Microeconomics (10)
- EKN 813: Macroeconomics (10)
- EKT 813: Econometrics (10)
- EBW 801: Research Methodology

Semester II

- EKN 822: Applied Microeconomics/Trade (10)
- EKN 823: Applied Macroeconomics (10)
- EKT 814: Applied Econometrics (10)

EKN 895: Mini-dissertation (120)

Part-time

- Choose Microeconomics or Macroeconomics 'focus'
- Year 1
 - Complete 'focus' sequence
 - Complete Econometrics sequence
- Year 2
 - Complete remaining sequence
 - Register for EBW 801: Research Methodology

Complete mini-dissertation (EKN 895)

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

Full-time

Semester I

- EKN 812: Microeconomics (10)
- EKN 813: Macroeconomics (10)
- EKT 813: Econometrics (10)
- EBW 801: Research Methodology

Semester II

- **Either** EKN 822: Applied Microeconomics/Trade (10) **or** EKN 823: Applied Macroeconomics (10)
- Compulsory: EKT 814: Applied Econometrics (10)
- One module from : EKT 816 (Topics in Econometrics) (10) **or** EKT 815 (Forecasting and Estimation) (10)

EKN 895: Mini-dissertation (120)

Part-time

- Choose Microeconomics or Macroeconomics 'focus'
- Year 1
 - Complete 'focus' sequence
 - Complete Econometrics sequence
- Year 2
 - Complete remaining sequence
 - Register for EBW 801: Research Methodology

Complete mini-dissertation (EKN 895)

MPhil Economics (This programme, in its new form, will be offered in 2015)

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 theoretical 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 will be required, 190 from compulsory modules and 20 from elective modules. The compulsory modules would be similar to that of the MCom Economics and MCom Econometrics degree programmes, with the addition of a number of modules focussing on Advanced Topics in Economics, of which four will be required.

The weight of the mini-dissertation will be 57%. Before or on submission of the dissertation a candidate must submit at least one draft article for publication in a recognised academic journal. The draft article should be based on the research the candidate has conducted for the dissertation and be approved by the supervisor.

More details will be made available during the latter part of the year.

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. The Master's programme coordinator is Prof Ruthira Naraidoo, ruthira.naraidoo@up.ac.za.