

# University of Pretoria Yearbook 2016

## MPhil Economics (07255170)

**Duration of study** 2 years

**Total credits** 210

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### Programme information

The MPhil in 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.

Due to capacity constraints, there are not an intake of new students for every degree every year. It remains the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the degree they wish to apply for, will indeed be offered. In addition to the fields of specialisation, options are offered under the various specialisation fields, eg MPhil Accounting Sciences with an option in Fraud Risk Management, which enables the candidate to make a selection and expand specific focus areas within the existing fields of specialisation.

### Admission requirements

- Relevant BCom Honours degree with an average of at least 65%.

### Additional requirements

1. A candidate may be refused admission to a master's degree by the head of the department if he/she does not comply with the standard of competence in the subject as determined by the department – with the proviso that a candidate who does not comply with the required level of competence, may be admitted, provided that he/she completes additional study assignments and/or examinations.
2. The head of department concerned may set additional admission requirements.
3. Specific departments have specific requirements for admission.
4. The number of students will be determined in line with the growth strategy of the University of Pretoria as approved by the Executive.
5. Allowance will be made for the diversity profile of students.
6. A completed Postgraduate Diploma in Economic and Management Sciences can also be considered for admission to the Master's programme in Entrepreneurship.

### Other programme-specific information

EBW 801 is a prerequisite for the mini-dissertation (EKN 895). The module does not carry any credits.

All students accepted into the programme will be required to attend an intensive Mathematics and Statistics session. At the end of this session, students will be required to write an exam. Those students who fail the exam and those who did not attend the abovementioned session will be deregistered from the programme. The Department will also reserve the right to request that those students who have failed or did not attend the Mathematics and Statistics session enrol for appropriate modules before they will be allowed to continue with the master's programme.

### **Capacity limitations**

- The supervision of postgraduate students is a time-consuming process, and, therefore, the Department reserves the right to limit entry into programmes.
- All reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that those students who meet the minimum requirements, are enrolled.
- In the event that departmental capacity cannot accommodate the number of students who meet the minimum requirements, the students will be ranked according to the above averages, and only the top performing students will be admitted to the programme, in accordance with the number of students that the departmental teaching capacity and supervision can accommodate.
- The Department of Economics is serious about the need to develop students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, and, therefore, additional marks, allowing for an increase in the average of up to two percentage points will be allocated to South African students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The Department of Economics also accepts that it has a responsibility to provide its own students with a seamless educational experience, and, therefore, additional marks, allowing for an increase in the average of up to one percentage point, will be allocated to students who previously studied at the University of Pretoria.

## **Examinations and pass requirements**

The pass mark for both a dissertation and a mini-dissertation is 50%. The provisions regarding pass requirements for dissertations, contained in General Regulation G.12.2, apply mutatis mutandis to mini-dissertations. A pass mark of at least 50% is required in the examination of each module.

## **Research information**

The weight of the mini-dissertation (EKN 895) contributes 57% towards the total requirements for the degree.

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.

### **Dissertations/mini-dissertations/research reports, curricula and modules**

1. The degree programme requires that a dissertation/mini-dissertation/research article must be submitted in a field of study chosen from the fields covered for the honours degree, provided that the Dean may, on the recommendation of the head of department concerned, approve the replacement of the required dissertation by the successful completion of a prescribed number of module credits and a mini-dissertation/research article.
2. Information on modules, credits and syllabi is available, on request, from the head of department concerned.
3. A module in Research Methodology is compulsory in all programmes. The Dean may, on the recommendation

of the head of department concerned, waive the prerequisites.

4. Sufficient number of bound copies of the thesis/dissertation must be submitted to the Head: Student Administration for examination, after permission is granted by the supervisor.

### **Article for publication**

A dean may require, before or on submission of a dissertation, the submission of a draft article for publication to the supervisor. The draft article should be based on the research that the student has conducted for the dissertation and be approved by the supervisor concerned. The supervisor should then have the opportunity to take the paper through all the processes of revision and resubmission as may be necessary and/or appropriate in order to achieve publication.

### **Submission of dissertation**

A dissertation is submitted to the Head: Student Administration, before the closing date for the various graduation ceremonies as announced annually.

For examination purposes, a student must, in consultation with the supervisor, submit a sufficient number of bound copies of the dissertation, printed on good quality paper and of good letter quality, to the Head: Student Administration. Permission to submit the dissertation in unbound form may be obtained from the supervisor concerned on condition that a copy of the final approved dissertation is presented to the examiners in bound format or electronic format.

In addition to the copies already mentioned, each successful student must submit a bound paper copy as well as two electronic copies of the approved dissertation to the Head: Student Administration in the format specified by the faculty and in accordance with the minimum standards set by the Department of Library Services, before 15 February for the Autumn graduation ceremonies and before 15 July for the Spring graduation ceremonies, failing which the degree will only be conferred during a subsequent series of graduation ceremonies.



## Curriculum: Year 1

### Core modules

#### Research methodology 801 (EBW 801)

<b>Module credits</b>	0.00
<b>Service modules</b>	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Both Afr and Eng
<b>Academic organisation</b>	EMS Dean's Office
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Year

#### Module content

The following broad themes are covered:

- An overview of the research process to be followed and the outcomes required of postgraduate students;
- Foundational skills for postgraduate students;
- What is research?;
- What is a theory and how can I ensure that my study makes a clear theoretical contribution?;
- An overview of the structure of a research proposal;
- Identifying and evaluating possible research topics;
- Delineating the scope of a study;
- Writing a literature review;
- Choosing an appropriate inquiry strategy (research approach) for a study;
- Writing the research design and methods section of a research proposal.

#### Microeconomics 812 (EKN 812)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Service modules</b>	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	2 lectures per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

## Module content

The module will first expose students to knowledge related to how individual consumers and firms behave under a very strict set of circumstances. Toward the end of the semester, the module will then begin to examine behaviour under less strict assumptions. The module covers in detail, firm behaviour, consumer behaviour, general equilibrium, behaviour under uncertainty and risk, strategic behaviour, information, game theory and to a lesser extent, the interaction between the government and the individual.

## Macroeconomics 813 (EKN 813)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Service modules</b>	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 other contact session per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1 or Semester 2

## Module content

The basic framework for this module will be infinitely-lived dynamic stochastic and non-stochastic macro models in both discrete and continuous time frames. Overlapping generation models will also be used to deal with certain topics. Topics include:

- The Lucas Critique
- Growth models
- Expectations
- Business cycles
- Basics of a new Keynesian business cycle model
- Overlapping generations models

## Applied microeconomics 822 (EKN 822)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

## Module content

The module is devoted to microeconomic theory, and the relevant econometric theory needed to apply that theory to data that is readily available. Students will be expected to read a broad selection of published papers, learn about recent advances in both theory and econometrics, and start writing their own microeconomic research. Students will be graded through coursework and tests, as well as on their research.

### Applied macroeconomics 823 (EKN 823)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

#### Module content

The module is devoted to macroeconomic theory, and the relevant econometric theory needed to apply that theory to data that is readily available. Students will be expected to read a broad selection of published papers, learn about recent advances in both theory and econometrics, and start writing their own macroeconomic research. Students will be graded through coursework and tests, as well as on their research.

### Mini-dissertation: Economics 895 (EKN 895)

<b>Module credits</b>	120.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Both Afr and Eng
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Year

### Econometrics 813 (EKT 813)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 practical per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1 or Semester 2

### Econometrics 814 (EKT 814)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

## Module content

In this module, “panel data” refers to the pooling of observations on a cross-section of countries, households, firms, etc. over a number of time periods. We use panel data techniques for example to control for individual heterogeneity or to study the dynamics of adjustment. Panel data allows for more informative results, more variability, more degrees of freedom and more efficiency. This module focuses on statistical theory and empirical estimation, interpretation and evaluation of economic relationships, within a panel data context. The module covers both techniques applicable to stationary and non-stationary panel data sets, and begins with an introduction to one-way error component models (either including individual-specific or period-specific (time) effects), followed by two-way error component models (including individual-specific and time effects simultaneously). Estimation techniques include fixed effects (LSDV or “Within” estimation) and random effects estimation. Hypothesis testing includes tests for poolability (pooled vs. individual regressions), tests for fixed effects, random effects, and specification (exogeneity of the X-regressors). It also includes various tests for serial correlation and heteroscedasticity and the correction thereof. The section on stationary panel data techniques concludes with a discussion of seemingly unrelated regression (SUR) models. In the non-stationary panel data section we discuss unit root testing in the panel context, estimation of non-stationary panels and tests for co integration.

## Econometrics 816 (EKT 816)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Contact time</b>	1 practical per week, 2 lectures per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1 or Semester 2

## Econometrics 885 (EKT 885)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Registered for MPhil Economics or PhD Economics
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

## Module content

EKT 885 is a research topics module focusing on econometric issues. The content will change from year to year as the research frontier in econometrics is extended.

## Elective modules

### Economics 882 (EKN 882)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
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<b>Prerequisites</b>	Registered for MPhil Economics or PhD Economics
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

#### Module content

EKN 882 is a research topics module focusing on microeconomic issues. The content will change from year to year, as the research frontier in microeconomics is extended.

### Economics 883 (EKN 883)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Registered for MPhil Economics or PhD Economics
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 1

#### Module content

EKN 883 is a research topics module focusing on macroeconomic issues. The content will change from year to year as the research frontier in macroeconomics is extended.

### Economics 884 (EKN 884)

<b>Module credits</b>	10.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Registered for MPhil Economics or PhD Economics
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Semester 2

#### Module content

EKN 884 is a capita selecta research topics module. The content will change from year to year, depending upon staff capacity and the research frontier.



## Curriculum: Final year

### Core modules

#### Research methodology 801 (EBW 801)

<b>Module credits</b>	0.00
<b>Service modules</b>	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
<b>Prerequisites</b>	No prerequisites.
<b>Contact time</b>	1 lecture per week
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Both Afr and Eng
<b>Academic organisation</b>	EMS Dean's Office
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Year

#### Module content

The following broad themes are covered:

- An overview of the research process to be followed and the outcomes required of postgraduate students;
- Foundational skills for postgraduate students;
- What is research?;
- What is a theory and how can I ensure that my study makes a clear theoretical contribution?;
- An overview of the structure of a research proposal;
- Identifying and evaluating possible research topics;
- Delineating the scope of a study;
- Writing a literature review;
- Choosing an appropriate inquiry strategy (research approach) for a study;
- Writing the research design and methods section of a research proposal.

#### Mini-dissertation: Economics 895 (EKN 895)

<b>Module credits</b>	150.00
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Only for students in relevant programme
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Both Afr and Eng
<b>Academic organisation</b>	Economics
<b>Period of presentation</b>	Year

The information published here is subject to change and may be amended after the publication of this information. The [General Regulations \(G Regulations\)](#) apply to all faculties of the University of Pretoria. It is expected of students to familiarise themselves well with these regulations as well as with the information contained in the [General Rules](#) section.



Ignorance concerning these regulations and rules will not be accepted as an excuse for any transgression.