

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- www.unine.ch/seco

Public Policy Evaluation (5ER2016)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en développement international des affaires	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3
Master en économie appliquée	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3
Master in General Management	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3
Master of Science en innovation	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

- Lecturer: Dr. Deborah Kistler, deborah.kistler@unine.ch and Dr. Adina Rom, adina.rom@nadel.ethz.ch

Please send emails to both of us. Register on Moodle (see link below).

Contenu

In recent years impact evaluations have become an increasingly important tool to guide strategic and operational public policy decisions. The objective of this course is to understand how impact evaluations work, the advantages and disadvantages of different methods and how they can improve public policy.

Students will learn about the different steps involved in an impact evaluation and apply what they learned on a practical case. They will learn about one step of the process in each course (seven in total) and then implement what they learned to design their own impact evaluation in small groups. Students will pitch their ideas to each other and provide feedback. In addition, we will discuss examples from our own research and invite external speakers to present quasi-experimental or experimental impact evaluations. External speakers will be asked to discuss the methods they choose and explain why they choose it. Their presentation will be closely linked to the topic of the day.

Forme de l'évaluation

Final grade is based on a written essay to be presented orally during the semester (40%) and a 2-hour written exam during the exam session (60%).

Retake: 2-hour written exam during the exam session (100%).

Further details will be given in class.

With the exception of a simple calculator no documents or connected objects are allowed during the exams. Any violation of these rules will be considered as fraud, leading to the withdrawal of unauthorized items and possibly exam failure.

Documentation

The course does not follow any specific textbook, but relies mostly on scientific articles that will be provided during the semester to illustrate specific public policy evaluations in various domains. These articles must be read by the students as they are used as basis for discussion during class.

The following references regarding policy evaluation will also be used:

- Alderman, Harold, Jishnu Das, and Vijayendra Rao. "Conducting Ethical Economic Research: Complications from the Field." (2013).
- Athey, Susan, & Imbens, Guido W. (2017). The state of applied econometrics: Causality and policy evaluation. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(2), 3-32.
- Bates, Mary Ann, and Glennerster, Rachel. (2017). The Generalizability Puzzle
- Bergman, Abigail and Chinco, Alexander and Hartzmark, Samuel M. and Sussman, Abigail B. (2020). Survey Curious? Start-Up Guide and Best Practices For Running Surveys and Experiments Online
- Glennerster, Rachel, and Kudzai Takavarasha. (2013). *Running randomized evaluations*. Princeton University Press.
- INTRAC (2017). *The logical Framework*.
- World Bank Group (2016). *Impact evaluation in practice*, 2nd edition, Washington, D.C. World Bank.
- Studies presented by the external speakers

Pré-requis

URLs
1) https://moodle.unine.ch/course/view.php?id=8716

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Basic knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Possible references:

- Mankiw G (2020): "Principles of Economics", 9th edition, CENGAGE.
- Pindyck R, Rubinfeld D (2018): "Microeconomics", 9th edition, Pearson.
- Stiglitz JE & Walsh CE (2006): "Principles of Macroeconomics", 4th edition.

Forme de l'enseignement

Lecture: 4 hours bi-weekly

Office hours: upon request by e-mail

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Evaluate Understand the potential and limitations of impact evaluation for public policy
- Apply Learn and apply the different steps involved in the design of an impact evaluation
- Analyse Know and understand different impact evaluation methods and how they can be applied
- Judge Learn to critically reflect upon the quality and feasibility of study designs

Compétences transférables

- Formulate arguments based on scientific results
- Interpret critically scientific papers and results
- Recognise suboptimal social situations