

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

Empirical Labor Economics (5ER2041)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en économie appliquée	Cours: 4 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

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Contenu

This course provides an introduction to empirical labor economics. It addresses central questions in labor markets, such as: Why do we observe wage differentials? Do minimum wages reduce employment of workers they intend to support? How does immigration affect the wages and employment of native workers? Do parental leave arrangements influence labor supply and fertility? Does unemployment insurance increase unemployment duration?

The course combines lectures and practical computer lab sessions to answer these questions. In the lectures, core theoretical models are introduced to provide a conceptual framework for each topic. In addition, empirical approaches commonly used in the labor economics literature are presented, including the Mincer earnings equation, Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition, instrumental variable approach, difference-in-differences and regression discontinuity design. We will also discuss selected empirical studies that illustrate how these methods are applied in practice. In the PC lab sessions, students will learn to apply these empirical techniques using STATA and real datasets. In particular, they will learn how to conduct the empirical analysis, how to validate the methods used and how to present and interpret the results.

Forme de l'évaluation

Assessment is based on an empirical project completed during the semester (30%) and a final 2-hour written exam during the exam session (70%).

Neither documents, calculators, nor connected objects are allowed during the exam. In case of violation of these rules, the students are in situation of fraud and the unauthorized items will be removed. The exam could be deemed as failed.

Modalités de rattrapage

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

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Documentation

The course will be based on slides and material used in the PC lab sessions.

Background readings:

- Boeri, T., & Ours, J. V. (2021). The economics of imperfect labor markets. 3rd edition. Princeton University Press.
- Borjas, G. (2024). Labor economics. 9th edition. McGraw Hill.
- Dustmann, C. & Lemieux, T. (Eds.) (2024). Handbook of Labor Economics. Vol. 5. Elsevier.
- Selected empirical research papers

Software: We will use Stata which will be available in the computer lab, on personal computers through remote desktop (see <https://www.unine.ch/sitel/logiciel/>), or you can have Stata installed on your computer by contacting the SITEL (<https://unine.ch/sitel/>).

Pré-requis

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Bachelor-level microeconomics and econometrics. The APEC courses Applied Microeconomics and Applied Microeconometrics, and knowledge in a statistical programming language (in particular STATA), are an advantage.

Forme de l'enseignement

Weekly 2-hour in-class lecture and 2-hour computer lab session

Objectifs d'apprentissage

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

- Interpret empirical results
- Apply empirical methods
- Analyse key theoretical concepts in labor economics
- Present empirical results

Compétences transférables

- Present empirical results
- Develop own research projects