

Bachelor Module “Development Economics” (5 ECTS)

- Course Description -

1. Objectives

The module aims at providing students with a comprehensive set of conceptual and methodological tools to analyse problems in development economics. Specifically, students

- get an overview of modern development economics and the history of thought in this sub-discipline.
- learn how to analyse specific problems in development economics, based on the current journal literature.
- deal intensively with applied methods in modern development economics, in particular with experimental methods and advanced methods of data analysis.
- learn to understand, evaluate and replicate empirical studies in development economics.

2. Structure

- Lecture (2.5 ECTS)

The lecture covers the principles of modern development economics and, using various examples from the current literature, highlights the core topics, methodological challenges, and key findings derived in this sub-discipline of economics. The lecture has a microeconomic focus, i.e. it concentrates mostly on decisions of individuals and households. A core topic is why poor individuals and households are often struggling to leave poverty and to advance to more adequate living conditions, and which policies can help to overcome poverty traps.

- Exercise Class (2.5 ECTS)

The exercise class aims at providing introductory knowledge of applied research in development economics. In the first half of the semester, students learn both basic empirical methods applied in the current literature as well as how to use the statistical software “Stata” to replicate studies from the literature. In the second half of the semester, groups of students are assisted in replicating selected studies, interpreting their obtained findings and prepare a presentation they need to give at the end of the semester.

3. Prerequisites

Students should have passed the assessment phase and completed the core modules on statistics and the basics of empirical data analysis (usually 4th semester or later).

4. Module compatibility

- Module in study area “Economic Policy”
- Module in elective courses

5. Grading Procedure

The module consists of two separate equally weighted grades for a written exam and a presentation:

- Written Exam (2.5 ECTS)
Consists of a 60 minutes multiple choice written exam that primarily concentrates on lecture contents.
- Presentation (2.5 ECTS)
A group presentation concentrating on exercise contents: Students replicate studies from the literature and present the results. They should illustrate how they obtained their findings as well as provide meaningful interpretations and a critical discussion of their insights by contrasting them with the results from the original study. Besides, students are encouraged to perform additional robustness checks or further analyses on their own.

6. Miscellaneous

- Teaching and examination language is English.
- A timetable and further course material is found in [StudOn](#).
Note: The password is provided in the first lecture or on request.

7. Recommended Reading

Banerjee, A. & Duflo, E. (2011), Poor Economics, Penguin Books.