



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE

FACULTY OF
MANAGEMENT, ECONOMICS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Felix Bierbrauer

M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH OVERVIEW

- M.Sc. Economic Research as part of integrated graduate program
 - Exclusive courses for a small group MSc ER (and doctoral students)
 - Preparing students for subsequent dissertation phase
- Exclusive programme distinct from our MSc Economics
 - Core courses based on canonical PhD education
 - Electives with topics from our Excellence Cluster ECONtribute
 - Supplementary courses from other programmes (e.g. MSc Econ)

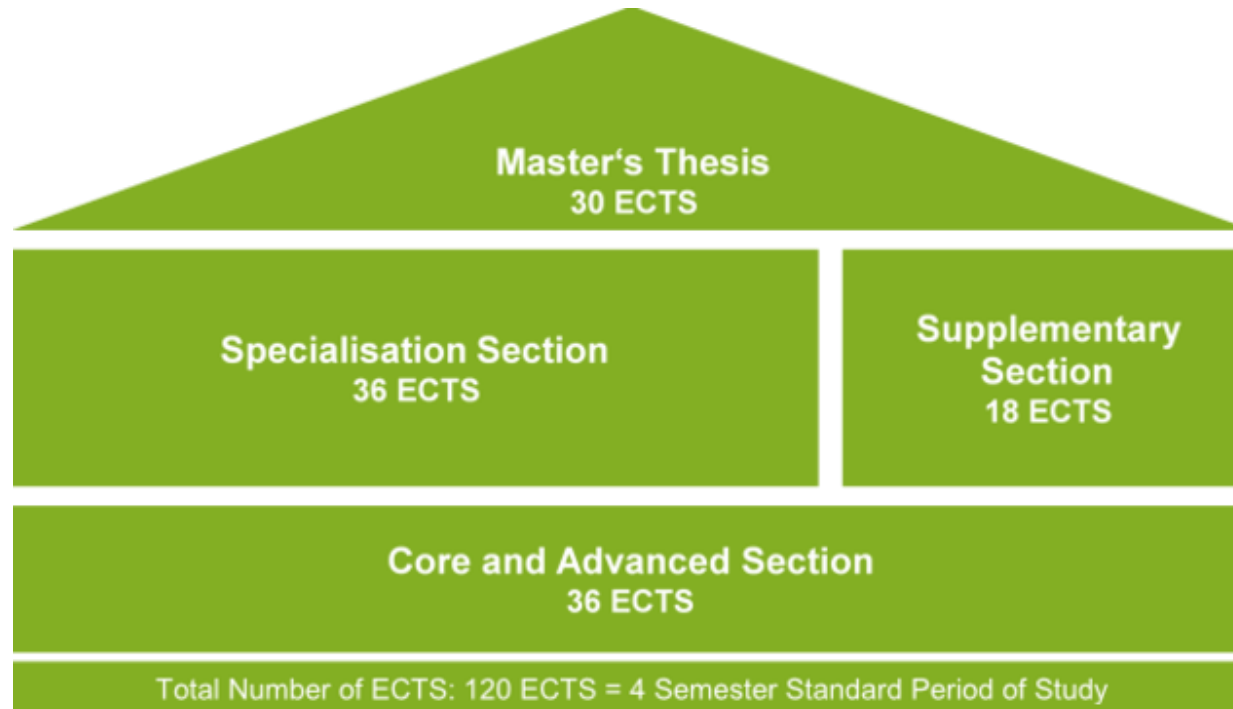
Accreditation of the M.Sc. Economic Research

in Summer 2019 with highest ratings: *“The study concept is excellent and is oriented towards PhD programs of leading international universities.”*

Programme start in Winter 2019/20 // Sixth cohort starting in Winter 2024/25



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

First Year of the Curriculum

- Students have to complete 60 ECTS (30 ECTS per semester)
- Including
 - core courses in methods, micro, macro, econometrics and maths and
 - specialization courses and supplementary courses

Second Year of the Curriculum

- Third semester (30 ECTS):
 - Students should complete coursework in all sections.
- Fourth semester (30 ECTS):
 - Writing and defending master thesis
 - Ideally, the thesis is the starting point of their first PhD research paper



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: OUR RECOMMENDATION

Tailor your own study profile!

Focus on research topics within the specialization section and combine them with suited courses from other M.Sc. programs. Combine, for example,

- M.Sc. ER SM Modules “Advanced Behavioral Economics” and “Market Design and Mechanism Design” with 3 Modules from M.Sc. Economics:
 - SM Market Design and Behavior I-V
- M.Sc. ER SM Modules “Advanced Public Economics” and “Frictions, Technology, and Inequality” with 3 Modules from M.Sc. Economics:
 - SM Markets and Public Policy I-V



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: OUR RECOMMENDATION

If case you are interested in related disciplines, select 3 courses in the Supplementary Section from

- M.Sc. Political Science (fits to the M.Sc. ER SM Module “Political Economics and Media Economics“):
 - Comparative Political Economy
 - European Politics
 - Comparative Political Institutions
 - ...
- M.Sc. Corporate Development (including many microeconomic elements)
 - Strategic Development
 - Strategic Human Resource Management
 - Strategic Management
 - ...

M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

CORE SECTION (36 ECTS)

Group	Module	ECTS	CC/EC	Required ECTS	
Core Section Economic Research	CM Advanced Mathematics	6	CC	6	
	AM Computational Methods	6	EC	6	
	AM Selected Methods in Economics	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Microeconomics I	6	EC	6	
	CM Advanced Microeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics I	6	EC	6	
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Econometrics I	6	EC	6	
	CM Advanced Econometrics II	6	EC		
	CM Causal Inference	6	EC		
	AM Computational Methods	6	EC	6	
	AM Selected Methods in Economics	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Microeconomics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Microeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Econometrics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Econometrics II	6	EC		
					36



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

SPECIALISATION SECTION (36 ECTS)

Group	Module	ECTS	CC/EC	Required ECTS	
Specialisation Section Economic Research	SM Advanced Public Economics	6	EC	24	36
	SM Advanced Behavioural Economics	6	EC		
	SM Market Design and Mechanism Design	6	EC		
	SM Political Economics and Media Economics	6	EC		
	SM Frictions, Technology, and Inequality	6	EC		
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis II	6	EC		
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis III	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Microeconomics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Microeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Macroeconomics II	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Econometrics I	6	EC		
	CM Advanced Econometrics II	6	EC		
	SM Selected Issues in Economic Research I	6	EC		
	SM Selected Issues in Economic Research II	6	EC		
	SM Selected Issues in Economic Research III	6	EC		
	SM Reading Groups Microeconomics	6	EC	12	
	SM Reading Groups Macroeconomics	6	EC		
	SM Reading Groups Econometrics	6	EC		



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION (18 ECTS): (1/3)

Group	Module	ECTS	CC/EC	Required ECTS
Supplementary Section Economic Research (1/3)	SM Advanced Public Economics	6	EC	18
	SM Advanced Behavioural Economics	6	EC	
	SM Market Design and Mechanism Design	6	EC	
	SM Political Economics and Media Economics	6	EC	
	SM Frictions, Technology, and Inequality	6	EC	
	SM Market Design and Behaviour I	6	EC	
	SM Market Design and Behaviour III	6	EC	
	SM Market Design and Behaviour IV	6	EC	
	SM Market Design and Behaviour V	6	EC	
	SM Markets and Economic Policy I	6	EC	
	SM Markets and Economic Policy II	6	EC	
	SM Markets and Economic Policy III	6	EC	
	SM Markets and Economic Policy IV	6	EC	
	SM Markets and Economic Policy V	6	EC	
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis I	6	EC	
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis II	6	EC	



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SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION (18 ECTS): (2/3)

Group	Module	ECTS	CC/EC	Required ECTS
Supplementary Section Economic Research (2/3)	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis III	6	EC	(18)
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis IV	6	EC	
	SM Empirical Methods and Data Analysis V	6	EC	
	SM Energy and Climate Change I	6	EC	
	SM Energy and Climate Change II	6	EC	
	SM Energy and Climate Change III	6	EC	
	SM Energy and Climate Change IV	6	EC	
	SM Business Ethics	6	EC	
	SM Strategic Development	6	EC	
	SM Strategic Human Resource Management	6	EC	
	SM Strategic Management	6	EC	
	CM Comparative Political Economy	6	EC	
	CM Democratic Theory and Practice	6	EC	
	CM International Relations	6	EC	
	CM European Politics	6	EC	
CM Comparative Political Institutions	6	EC		



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION (18 ECTS): (3/3)

Group	Module	ECTS	CC/EC	Required ECTS
Supplementary Section Economic Research (3/3)	SM Special Topics Political Science I	6	EC	(18)
	SM Special Topics Political Science II	6	EC	
	SM Applied Theories and Methods Political Science I	6	EC	
	SM Applied Theories and Methods Political Science I	6	EC	
	Studies Abroad I	6	EC	
	Studies Abroad II	6	EC	
	Studies Abroad III	6	EC	



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

SAMPLE STUDY PLAN I

M.Sc. Programme Economic Research						
1. Semester	Core Module Advanced Mathematics CC 1302MBAMT1 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Microeconomics I EC 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Macroeconomics I EC 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Econometrics I EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (1/4) EC 6 CP	CP 30
2. Semester	Core Module Advanced Methods EC 6 CP	Core Module II EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (2/4) EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (3/4) EC 6 CP	Supplementary Module (1/3) EC 6 CP	CP 30
3. Semester	Reading Group (1/2) EC 6 CP	Reading Group (2/2) EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (4/4) EC 6 CP	Supplementary Module (2/3) EC 6 CP	Supplementary Module (3/3) EC 6 CP	CP 30
4. Semester	Master Thesis Economic Research & Defence CC				24 + 6 CP	CP 30
Sections	Core	Specialisation	Supplementary			



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH

SAMPLE STUDY PLAN II

M.Sc. Programme Economic Research (with study abroad option)						
1. Semester	Core Module Advanced Mathematics CC 1302MBAMT1 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Microeconomics I EC 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Macroeconomics I EC 6 CP	Core Module Advanced Econometrics I EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (1/4) EC 6 CP	CP 30
	Advanced Methods EC 6 CP	Core Module II EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (2/4) EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (3/4) EC 6 CP	Reading Group (1/2) EC 6 CP	30
3. Semester semester abroad	Reading Group (2/2)* EC 6 CP	Specialisation Module (4/4)* EC 6 CP	Studies Abroad in Economic Research I EC 6 CP	Studies Abroad in Economic Research II EC 6 CP	Studies Abroad in Economic Research III EC 6 CP	30
4. Semester	Master Thesis Economic Research & Defence CC				24 + 6 CP	30

Sections Core Specialisation Supplementary

* Individual crediting of successfully completed studies abroad modules is possible.



M.SC. ECONOMIC RESEARCH STUDIES ABROAD

The faculty's Study Abroad Programme (STAP):

- Plan and submit your term abroad application right at the beginning.
- Application deadline December 1st for the following academic year.
- Some suited partners: Amsterdam, Bocconi, Hitotsubashi, Kobe, KU Leuven, Maastricht

Exchange via faculties: Central International Office of the University of Cologne offers exchanges via different faculties.

Freemover: Organization of study abroad is done individually

- 18 ECTS can directly be transferred in “Studies Abroad in Economic Research” in the [Supplementary Section](#)
- Further credit transfers possible for matching courses (e.g. 12 ECTS)

COLOGNE GRADUATE SCHOOL FACILITIES

Cologne Graduate School (CGS) is the Graduate School of our Faculty

- Responsible for all doctoral students
- MSc Economic Research students are associated with the CGS

CGS provides for the MSc Economic Research:

- Workspaces exclusively for M.Sc. Econ Res students in the SSC
- Computers with the opportunity to print material in the SSC
- Student services and advice by CGS coordination office
- Small kitchen in the SSC

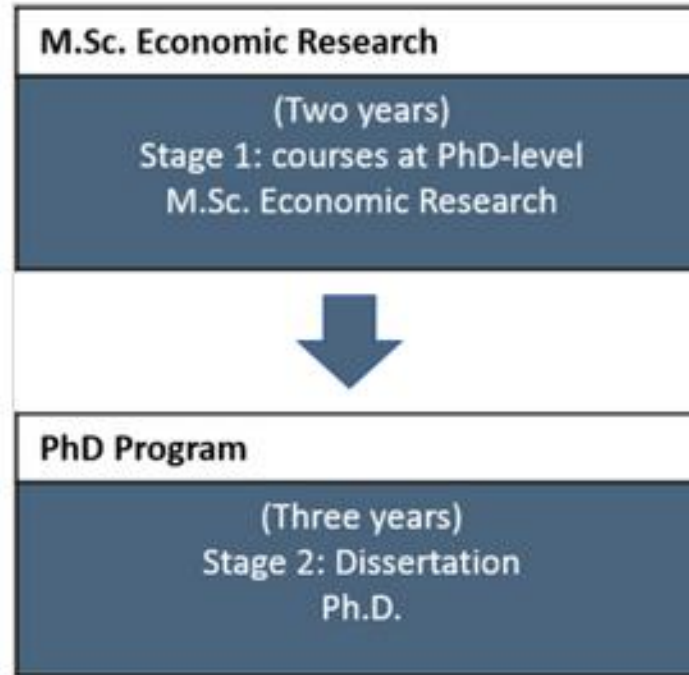
Current CGS team

- CGS Director: Prof. Dr. Michael Krause
- Coordination of CGS: Dr. Katharina Laske
- Academic Director of MSc Econ Res: Prof. Dr. Felix Bierbrauer
- Programme Director MSc Econ Res: Helge Braun, PhD



COLOGNE GRADUATE SCHOOL

TRANSFER FROM M.SC. ECON RES TO THE DISSERTATION PHASE



- Transfer to dissertation phase contingent on **successful course phase**
- Commitment of a **supervisor** as a prerequisite for the dissertation phase
- CGS supports **matching** between students and supervisors



OUTLOOK CGS

DISSERTATION PHASE

Programme

- No further doctoral courses for MSc Econ Res students
- Regular participation and presentation in research seminars
- Participation in soft skill courses and summer schools

Funding

- Doctoral positions at research centers or faculty chairs
- Funding for research projects by research centers or chairs
- Facilities (rooms, IT etc.) at research centers or chairs

Further offers

- Workshops organized by doctoral students
- Conference participation funded by research centers or chairs
- Job market preparation

