



M.Sc. PROGRAM IN ECONOMIC
AND BUSINESS STRATEGY



UNIVERSITY OF PIRAEUS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS

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RESEARCH METHODS IN ECONOMICS

Introduction

This class will provide the general tools to aspiring economists to perform empirical work. It will teach how to design a research paper and how to perform literature review. It will teach students how to search and compile data from various publicly available datasets while training them to form an empirical question grounded on available data and solid theoretical and econometric background. With respect to the latter, it will train them, with actual applications, the basic tools to perform econometric analysis including, but not limited to: OLS, panel data, discrete choice models, survival analysis. Upon the course's completion, students will have a better understanding on how to perform academic and policy research based on data, how to frame the question at hand and how to present the results in a clear and concise manner.

Aims

Some of you will pursue research careers in the academic world or find yourselves conducting financial, market or political research. Inevitably all of you will need to write a MA Thesis. More broadly, the class requires you to identify an unsolved problem, think about it, work out a way to solve it, read and write about it and ultimately communicate your findings and conclusions. The research paper is just a vehicle to get you to practice and develop these important skills that the labor market rewards.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn about research topics and methods in economics.
- Learn how to conduct and present research in economics.

Topics

- Econometrics skills training

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- Library Skills and resources
- Accessing economic data sources
- Essay writing skills in economics
- Reading and reviewing an article
- Software presentation and application
- Starting research and writing a dissertation

Articles

Learning material will be presented in class.

Method of Module Assessment

A 3500-word research paper written by a research project team consisting of two students. The proposal is submitted electronically the last day of the course and counts for 100% of the final grade. The proposal should consist of four parts: (i) Introduction, where one explains why s/he undertakes this research topic, aim and contribution to the field, (ii) Literature Review, where one lists briefly important contributions of other researchers in the topic under examination; (iii) Methodology, where one describes the Model s/he uses, the Data, and the Econometric technique(s) applied; and lastly (iv) Results and Conclusion where preliminary results are presented and (tentative) conclusions are drawn.

Module Outline

Week	Subject
1	How to Write a Thesis
2	How to Perform Literature Review
3	Basic of Data Compilation Pt. 1
4	Basic of Data Compilation Pt. 2
5	Presenting your Data (Summary Statistics and Graphical Analysis)

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- 6 Basics of Regressions (OLS)
- 7 Panel Data Pt. 1
- 8 Panel Data Pt. 2
- 9 Panel Data Pt. 3
- 10 Special Topics in Econometrics
(Discrete Choice Models)
- 11 Special Topics in Econometrics
(Count Data Models)
- 12 Special Topics in Econometrics
(Survival Analysis)
- 13 Presentations

100 Things to Do at ACHS