

M.Sc. in Health Economics

Course Descriptions

EC515 Data Management and Survey Techniques

Probability and probability distributions. Test of Hypotheses (design and distribution of selected parametric and non-parametric test statistics). Analysis of variance. Measurement and Scaling. Research process. Methods of data collection. Design of Surveys. Design of questionnaires. Analysis and interpretation of survey data. Data presentation. Applied work using SPSS software.

EC517 Cost Benefit analysis and Evaluation

Foundations of cost-benefit analysis. Welfare economics. Social objectives and the allocation of resources. Project appraisal and analysis. Measuring cost and benefits. Risk and uncertainty. Distributional questions. Contingent valuation. Policy and programme evaluation. Case studies in cost-benefit analysis

EC505 Dissertation

The minor dissertation shall be approximately 10,000 words in length and shall be original in content but not necessarily a major contribution to a particular field of study. The dissertation will normally be linked to an internship in an appropriate regional or national agency.

EC520 Health and Social Care

Health economics. Evaluation of health care programmes. The valuation of health. Equity in health and health care. Economics of social care.

EC526 Public Sector Economics

Health economics. Evaluation of health care programmes. The valuation of health. Equity in health and health care. Economics of social care.

EC506 Econometrics

Linear regression model. Dummy variables. Violations of classical assumptions (omitted variables, extraneous variables, heteroscedasticity, and autocorrelation). Topics in single equation regression models (e.g. Discrete Dependant Variables). Regression analysis in practice.

EC572 Health Systems and Policy Analysis

The module examines alternative health and social care systems operating in developed economies. The structures, funding, incentive arrangements and performance in terms of efficiency and equity of systems are compared. Policy development, appraisal and system reform are critically appraised including examination of strategies aimed at tackling emerging public health issues such as ageing and obesity and policies aimed at cost containment. Case studies are used to explore policy development, implementation and appraisal.

EC569 Decision Modelling

The module examines the use of various techniques deployed by economists to address uncertainty in cost effectiveness analysis. The module examines the construction of cost effectiveness models in the presence of incomplete information and the use of techniques such as scenario analysis, Markov modelling and regression analysis to address uncertainty. Extensive use is made of practical computer lab sessions and topics covered include the expected value of perfect information and efficient research design.

EC573 Health Technology Assessment

The module examines the practice of economic evaluation as it applies to health and social care interventions. Evaluation techniques used in health and social care are discussed together with the alternative approaches used for data generation. Study design and conduct, the role of oversight bodies in the approval and conduct of evaluations as well as the presentation and dissemination of findings of studies are examined. Case studies are used to critically appraise the application of health technology assessment, the difficulties that can arise in its practice and the challenges faced when using it to inform policy.