

**Empirical International Economics (075 040)
Summer Semester 2023**

Course Description

This seminar will deal with applied empirical methods in international and development economics. It is devoted to deepening the knowledge in this area and applying empirical techniques to current economic problems from a policy perspective. Students will write their own research paper, focusing on an empirical application, and present their findings afterwards.

Prerequisites

Some prior coursework in international trade or development economics at the bachelor or master level (modules *Foundations of International Trade*, *Principles of Development Economics*, *International Trade*, *African Economic Development*, *Growth and Development Economics*, *Cost-Benefit-Analysis*, *Economic Growth and Structural Change*, etc.). The master modules *International Trade* and *Growth and Development Economics* will be offered during the summer term. In addition, a good knowledge of econometrics is required (at least one econometrics module at the master level).

Teaching Assistant (and contact person for all inquiries and organizational issues):

Nina Kupzig (office hours: on appointment only, room GD 03/329, nina.kupzig@rub.de)

Class Times

Wednesday, 12 April 2023, 5.00 – 6.00 pm, GD 03/236 (Introductory session and registration)

Friday, 14 April 2023, 12 noon - 4 pm, GD 03/342 (STATA introduction)

Friday, 21 April 2023, 12 noon - 4 pm, GD 03/342 (STATA introduction)

Friday, 12 May 2023, 8 am - 2 pm, GD 03/230 (Presentation & discussion of research proposals)

Friday, 07 July 2023, 8 am - 2 pm, GD 02/156 (Presentation of papers)

Seminar Topics

1. Trade, Institutions and Income
2. Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Growth
3. Exports and Firm Productivity
4. The Effects of Trade on the Environment

Contact Persons for the Seminar Topics

Topic 1: Prof. Busse (matthias.busse@rub.de, consultation by appointment only)

Topics 2-4: Nina Kupzig

Stata Introduction

To help students to conduct their research, an optional introduction to the econometric software package Stata will be offered. (Depending on their preferences, students may use other software packages, such as EViews.) An introduction to Stata and panel data analysis with Stata will be offered on 14 April and 21 April 2023 (see class times). For an introduction to Stata, the following book is highly recommended:

Christopher Baum (2006), *An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using Stata*, College Station, Texas: Stata.

The library of the Faculty of Management and Economics has several copies of this book.

Enrolment, Seminar Paper and Presentation

Enrolment is open to Master students, who may obtain ten credit points (ECTS) for the seminar. Students are expected to form groups of two students. Each group will be responsible for writing a joint seminar paper (13-15 pages in length (including tables and figures, but excluding cover, outline, abbreviations, references and appendix), 2.5 cm margins top/bottom/left/right, 1.5 line spacing, Times New Roman 12 point font) and a joint presentation.

More information about the seminar will be provided during the first meeting on Wednesday, 12 April 2023. In addition, students can register for the seminar during that session. Once they start working on their topic, all groups are expected to write down the research method they intend to use in a short research proposal (2-3 pages). That proposal should contain the main research question(s) addressed (e.g., hypotheses to be tested), the methodology, data and sample employed. The research proposal is due on **Wednesday, 10 May 2023, 8 am**. On Friday, 12 May 2023, students will present their research proposal in front of all students, the lecturer and the teaching assistant. They will receive feedback on how to improve their empirical analysis.

Final papers are due on **Monday, 3 July 2023, 9 am**. Please submit the paper via e-mail to the teaching assistant and the lecturer (please submit your work as a pdf AND Word file) and attach the Stata do-file (or R script) which creates the descriptive statistics and results presented in the paper. Students must write and present the seminar paper in English.

Note that each group should consult Prof. Busse or Nina Kupzig at least two times before submitting the final paper!

Grading

The paper makes up 50 per cent of the total grade, whereas the presentation and participation in the discussion count for the other 50 per cent. The research proposal will not be graded. Students get a joint grade for their paper but individual grades for their presentations and participation. All seminar papers will be posted in Moodle (after submission) to enable students to prepare themselves for the discussion of the papers.

Literature

After the introductory session, we will post selected literature for each topic in Moodle.

Moodle

The password for accessing Moodle can be obtained either in the introductory session or via the FSI Student Council (Fachschaftsinitiative) password distribution online list ("Passwortverteiler"): <https://www.fsi-wiwi.de/tools/passwortverteiler/>.