

ECONOMIC POLICY

GOALS AND CONTENT

The goal of the master is to teach students how to analyze economic problems at the national as well as international level and how to identify the most appropriate policy instruments. In a cordial environment and in close interaction with the faculty, the students will be equipped with the quantitative methods and the analytical tools necessary for a successful career as professional economist with a strong policy orientation. The master will also drive interested students into a Ph.D program.

" The close interaction with the faculty eases the acquisition of the quantitative methods and the analytical tools needed for policy analysis

The master offers knowledge in various fields of applied economics combined with a sound background in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. To understand, evaluate and propose economic policy instruments in the current world with all its global challenges, the teaching methodology is to combine economic theory with relevant real world applications of today.

" Understand the global challenges of today, and acquire the skills to rigorously evaluate public policies

MEP prepares professional economists with a policy orientation, with an eye to the skills required to be employed in national and international policy and research institutions, including central banks, development

banks, economics and statistics research offices but also in high ranks of the public administration. In addition, MEP is a pathway to higher studies in Economics and Economic Policy.

" Addressing the challenges and the opportunities of the globalized economy, the recent crises and the strain on public finances requires economists with a strong policy orientation

STRUCTURE PROGRAM

The program is taught entirely in English and has a strong international orientation. The first year offers all the core courses together with some specialized courses. The second year offers mostly elective courses, which can be taken at USI, but also at national and international partner universities.

The students also have the option of doing an internship, either at a private, or a research institution. Together with the master thesis (which is written in the last semester), the students will receive enough training to undertake independent analysis of many economic problems.

STUDY PROGRAMME

FIRST SEMESTER

Core Courses (30 ECTS)

Microeconomics for Public Policy	6
Macroeconomics for Public Policy	6
Micro-Econometrics	6
Industrial Organization	6
Political Economy and Public Finance	6

SECOND SEMESTER

Specialized Courses (30 ECTS)

International Organizations and Relations	6
Quantitative Methods for Policy Evaluation	6
Topics in Labor, Public and Development Economics	6
Advanced Regional Economics	3
Applied Economic Policy	3
Local Public Finance	3
International Fiscal System	3

THIRD SEMESTER

Specialized Courses (9 ECTS)

Pension Economics and Finance	6
Managerial Economics	3

9 credits of the suggested elective courses can be substituted by other courses offered at USI at the Master level

Suggested Electives (21 ECTS)

Corporate Finance	6
Capital Markets	6
Health Policy	3
Environmental and Natural Resource Economics	3
Management of Public Services	3

FOURTH SEMESTER

Internship/Field Work/Research Stay with a Professor (12 credits); or:
2 or more electives (for a maximum of 12 credits) among all courses offered at USI at the Master level

Thesis **18**

Total ECTS **120**

Slight changes in the study programme may occur.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AWARDED DEGREE

Master of Science in Economics, Major in Economic Policy

LANGUAGE

This programme is entirely held in English.

STUDENT PROFILE AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The master is open to students with a bachelor in economics or business economics from a recognised university, but students with a strong quantitative background from other disciplines are also welcome.

Further information for applicants graduating from a University of Applied Sciences is available online: www.mep.usi.ch/admission.

Applicants whose first degree was not taught in English, are required to at least have earned a B2 certificate according to the Common European Framework of Reference for languages or an equivalent level of another proficiency certificate – e.g. TOEFL, IELTS.

Please refer to page 8 for the equivalency table.

CONTACTS

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Detailed course descriptions are available on:

 www.mep.usi.ch

