

Bachelor Module

**“Development Economics” (5 ECTS)**

- Course Description -

**1. Objectives**

The module aims at providing students with a comprehensive set of conceptual and methodological tools to analyse problems in development economics. Specifically, students

- get an overview of modern development economics and the history of thought in this sub-discipline.
- learn how to analyse specific problems in development economics, based on the current academic literature.
- deal intensively with applied methods in modern development economics, in particular with econometric and other techniques of data analysis.
- learn to understand, evaluate and replicate empirical studies in development economics.

**2. Structure**

- Lecture (2.5 ECTS)  
The lecture covers the principles of modern development economics and, using various examples from the current literature, highlights the core topics, methodological challenges, and key findings derived in this sub-discipline of economics. The lecture has a microeconomic focus, analyzing mostly decisions of individuals and households. A core topic is why poor individuals and households are often struggling to overcome poverty and to advance to more adequate living conditions, and which policies can help to overcome poverty traps.
- Exercise Class (2.5 ECTS)  
The exercise class aims at providing introductory knowledge of applied research in development economics. In the first part of the semester, students learn about empirical methods applied in the current literature and how to replicate these analyses. In the second part of the semester, small groups of students work on

their own data projects. These projects aim at understanding and analyzing the data of a selected study from the recent literature on development economics. The groups submit their data assignment towards the end of the semester.

### 3. Prerequisites

Students should have a sound background in all core methods and concepts in economics. A necessary prerequisite is that students have completed introductory modules on statistics, econometrics, and microeconomics. Participation is recommended starting from the 4th semester of any economics undergraduate program.

### 4. Grading Procedure

The module grade consists of separate and equally weighted grades for a written exam and a presentation.

- Written Exam (2.5 ECTS)  
Focuses on the contents of the lecture (60 minutes, single-choice problems only).
- Group Assignment (2.5 ECTS)  
Students are graded based on their code and a project report for their data assignment.

### 5. Miscellaneous

Teaching and examination language is English. A timetable and further course material can be found on StudOn.

### 6. Recommended Reading

Banerjee, A. & Duflo, E. (2011), *Poor Economics*, Penguin Books.