

## Aims and Objectives

The Master of Science programme in “Economics” leads to a second qualification and provides students with the skills necessary for professional activities in the field of economics. It is designed to equip students with the tools for the critical examination of current research results and their application to theoretical and practical issues. Subject to attaining the required grades, students may progress to a PhD Programme of the highest international standard.

## Research, Teaching and the Labour market

Students with a Master’s degree in Economics are facing an increasingly international working environment. Only those are successful who have a good grasp of quantitative methods. The Master’s programme covers this requirement to a substantial degree. In addition, both lectures and the presentation of important research results are exclusively held in the English language.

## Entry Requirements

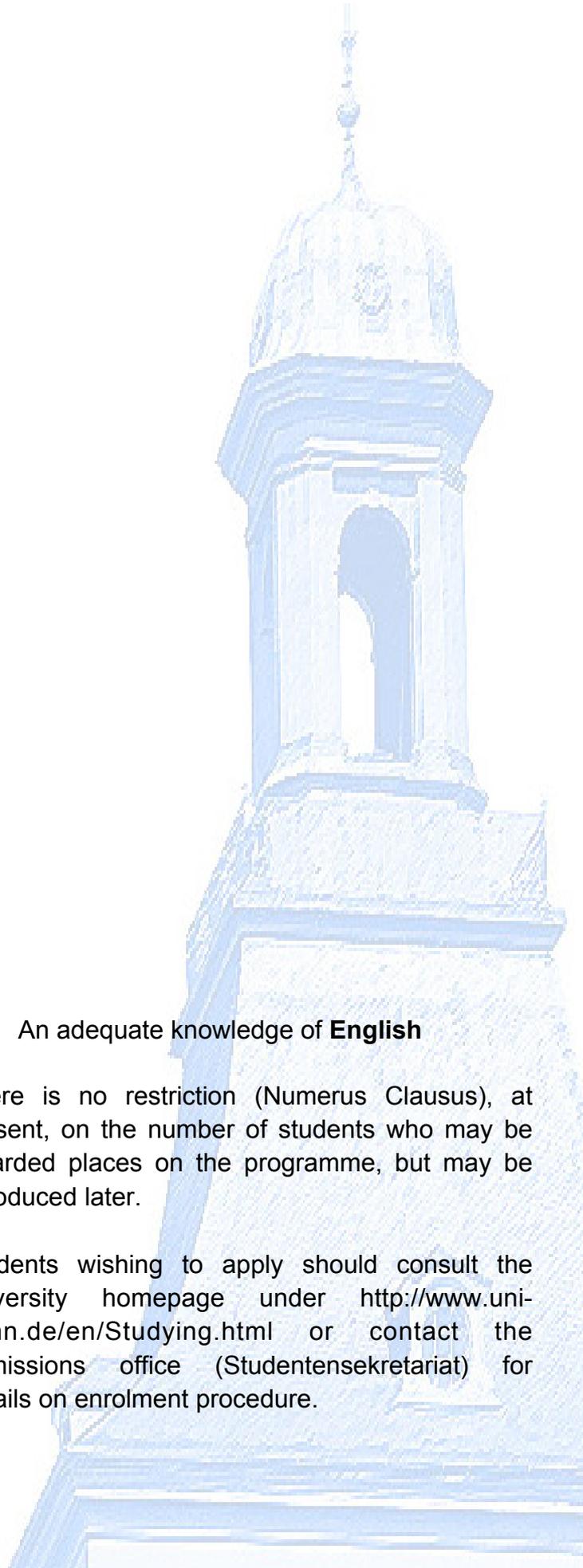
Applications for enrolment can only be made once a year for the **winter semester** beginning in October. Entry requirements are

- A **Bachelor of Science degree in Economics** with the final grade "good" (or an appropriate ECTS grade) or higher. Students can also be admitted who have been awarded an equivalent qualification which has been approved by the examination board of the University of Bonn.
- A solid background knowledge in **mathematics**

- An adequate knowledge of **English**

There is no restriction (Numerus Clausus), at present, on the number of students who may be awarded places on the programme, but may be introduced later.

Students wishing to apply should consult the university homepage under <http://www.uni-bonn.de/en/Studying.html> or contact the admissions office (Studentensekretariat) for details on enrolment procedure.



# Programme Structure

The Master's programme in "Economics" is a two-year course held in English. The workload consists of 30 credit points per semester, i.e. 120 credit points in total.

The allocation of credit points is based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). One credit point corresponds to a student's expected workload of 30 hours and consists of duration of contact time (e.g. length of lecture period, tutorials, presentation) as well as personal study time. The latter includes reading, assignments, revision and the writing of the final thesis.

The course syllabus is divided into modules designed as interrelated building blocks in terms of content and scheduling. The modules of the Master's programme are subdivided into foundation and advanced modules.

The first semester covers the foundations of economics and methodology. Most of these first-semester modules are compulsory. In the second and third semester advanced modules are introduced which involve a more in-depth study of at least three areas of economics. The fourth semester is devoted to the writing of the Master's thesis.

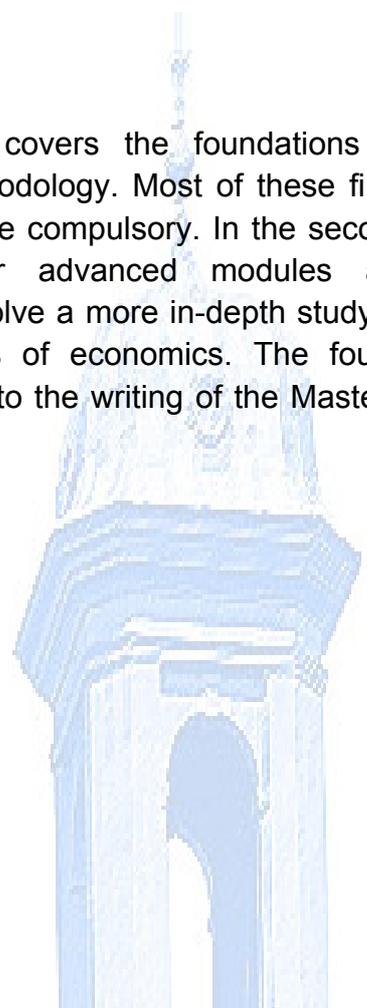


Illustration 1: Programme Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Foundation Module	Advanced Modules covering a minimum of three areas of economics		Master's Thesis
30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points

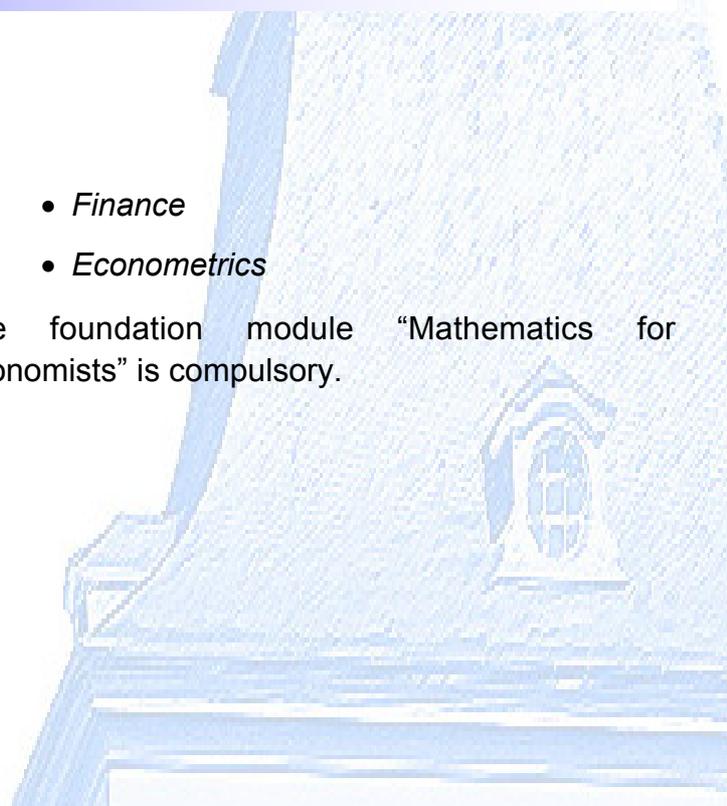
## Foundation Modules

Foundation modules provide a basis for the understanding of current economic research. They are only offered in the winter semester and are compulsory for first-semester study. On successful completion of these modules, students will gain 7.5 Credit Points for each module. The foundation modules on offer are as follows:

- *Mathematics for Economists*
- *Microeconomics*
- *Macroeconomics*

- *Finance*
- *Econometrics*

The foundation module "Mathematics for Economists" is compulsory.



# Advanced Modules

The study of advanced modules concentrates on current topics of economic research. Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of the conceptual and methodological differences of a variety of approaches to economic issues as well as their common ground. Students will also undertake a critical analysis of the current literature. Each of these modules is available in a yearly cycle and accounts for 7.5 Credit Points.

Advanced modules have to be taken in the second and third semester. Eligibility for an examination in an advanced module is subject to having gained 30 credit points from the foundation modules. The advanced modules comprise six areas of economics as shown in **Illustration 2**.

Advanced modules of “**Economic Research**” are designed to prepare students for a PhD and are intended for those having successfully completed the foundation modules.



## Illustration 2:

Subjects offered in the Master of Science Programme in *Economics*

- **Microeconomic Theory**
- **Macroeconomics and Public Economics**
- **Management and Applied Microeconomics**
- **Financial Economics**
- **Econometrics and Statistics**
- **Economic Research**

# Master's Thesis

The fourth semester is assigned to the Master's thesis, with one module on offer comprising the writing of the thesis accompanied by a colloquium. 30 credit points are gained on the successful completion of this module.

Entry requirements for the Master's thesis module are the completion of two advanced modules relevant to the prospective topic of the thesis as well as a seminar examination in one of these

modules. Advanced modules offering seminar examinations are available for each area of study.

To sum up, each student has to attend a teaching programme comprising lectures (foundation module), lectures in small groups (advanced modules) and a seminar (advanced module and colloquium).

### Illustration 3: Course Outline Master of Science “Economics”

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>4 Foundation Modules, 7.5 Credit Points each</b>			
	<b>Foundation Module 1 Mathematics for Economists</b>	<b>Foundation Module 2</b>	<b>Foundation Module 3</b>	<b>Foundation Module 4</b>
<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>4 Advanced Modules, 7.5 Credit Points each</b>			
	<b>Advanced Module Subject A</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject B</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject C</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject optional</b>
<b>Semester 3</b>	<b>3 Advanced Modules and one optional Advanced or Foundation Module, 7.5 Credit Points each</b>			
	<b>Advanced Module Subject A</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject B</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject C</b>	<b>Advanced Module Subject optional or another Foundation Module</b>
<b>Semester 4</b>	<b>Master’s Thesis, 30 Credit Points</b>			

## Studying for a PhD

The modular course “Economic Research” is primarily designed to prepare a student for a PhD. A successful completion of these modules enables a student to change directly to a PhD course without having to finish the Master’s Programme. The integration of the PhD into the Master’s programme facilitates an early entry for students with a Bachelor’s degree. This leads to a reduction in length of PhD preparation time and is in line with international practices.

## Examinations

Each module is carefully designed with regard to credit points. In the Master’s programme “Economics” 7.5 credit points are allocated for all modules except the Master’s thesis module, which accounts for 30 credit points. Foundation modules are offered in the winter semester, advanced modules in a yearly cycle.

Module examinations are written or oral examinations and are held on a specific date during each of the two examination periods. The first examination period begins, as a rule, shortly after the end of the semester in which the module was offered. The second one precedes the start of the following semester. The choice of examination

period for each module is optional. The early marking of examination papers allows, where necessary, a student to resit a paper in the period shortly before the beginning of the following semester. Moreover, the programme of advanced modules on offer for each semester guarantees options that are flexible and goal orientated. The number of examinations is in accordance with the international standard of four examinations per semester.

