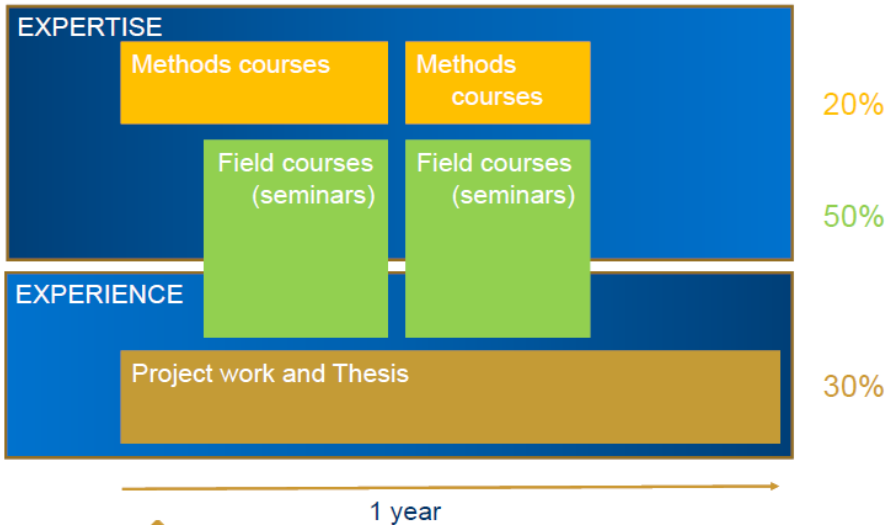
MSc Economics at Tilburg University

Personalizing your Expertise and Experience in Economic Analysis

Firms and policy makers face increasingly integrated and turbulent markets, with unprecedented opportunities but also greater risks. The understanding of how markets function, when they fail and how various markets are interrelated is essential in companies' strategic decision process as well as in solving social economic and development problems. The MSc Economics trains your analytical and practical skills along these dimensions and helps you to become an expert in the field.

The program offers several specialized tracks but you can also compose your own personalized curriculum. Not choosing a track gives you more flexibility but you forego track-specific (extracurricular) activities and the mentioning of the track name on your graduation certificate.



The program covers 60 Credits (EC), over two semesters, in which you choose the following type of courses:

- 4 **methods courses** (3 EC each), to acquire quantitative skills and qualitative tools of analysis
- 5 **field courses** (5 seminars or 4 seminars and a free elective, 6 EC each), to build your expertise;
- The course Research Proposal, which culminates in your **thesis/project report** (18 EC together)

In addition, students from all tracks are invited to follow this year's extracurricular 'topical issues in economics'-course Gender Economics (3 EC)

Website: https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/nl/onderwijs/masteropleidingen/economics/
Admission: https://www.tilburguniversity.edu/education/masters-programmes/economics/application
Contact: Dr. Ben Vollaard, Academic Director, b.a.vollaard@uvt.nl
Contact: Sigrid de Bonth, Education coordinator, tisem-msc-eco@tilburguniversity.edu

MSc Economics Course list and Specialization Tracks (as of academic year 2023-24)

	Competition and Regulation	Public Policy	Sustainable Develop-ment	Financial Economics	Data Science	Behavioral Economics	No Track ##
METHODS (each course is 3 EC)							
Fall Semester							
#Methods: Econometrics 1	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
#Methods: Python programming for Economists	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
Methods: Experiments and Surveys	◊		♦		◊	♦	
Methods: Game Theory 1	◊	♦!	♦!		◊	♦!	
Methods: Game Theory 2 (builds on GT 1)	♦	♦!	♦!		◊	♦!	
Spring Semester							
Methods: Econometrics 2		♦	◊	◊	♦		
SEMINARS (each course is 6 EC)							
Fall Semester							
Seminar Data Science & Society	♦	◊	◊		♦		
Seminar Financial Markets and Institutions			◊	♦			
Seminar Economics and Psychology of Social Norms and Strategic Behavior	◊					♦	
Seminar Sustainable Economic Growth		◊	♦				
Seminar Taxation		♦		◊			
The Economics and Finance of Pensions				◊		◊	
Seminar Health Economics	◊	◊			◊		
Extra Curricular: Seminar Gender Economics (3EC)	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	
Spring Semester							
Seminar Economics and Psychology of Risk and Time			◊	◊		♦	
Seminar Competition Policy	♦	◊					
Seminar Data Science for Economics					♦		
Seminar Environmental and Resource Economics		◊	♦			◊	
Seminar Financial Economics				♦			
Seminar Labor Economics		♦			◊	◊	
PROJECT WORK (in fall and spring semester)							
# Research Proposal(Spring) (Fall is video lectures), 3 EC	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
#Thesis (spring and summer), 15 EC	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
ELECTIVES (fall and spring)							
From defined group				6 EC$			
From Methods (see above: ◊ = good choice)				3 EC	3 EC		6 EC
From Seminars (see above: ◊ = good choice)	12 EC	12 EC	12 EC	6 EC	12 EC	12 EC	24 EC
Free (any MSc-level course, upon approval)	6 EC$$	6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	6 EC	6 EC

♦ = compulsory course for this track; ◊ = good choice for this track; #compulsory within MSc Economics.

If you do not choose a track, you do the courses indicated with # and you choose 2 more methods courses, 4 seminars, and 1 free elective (or 5 seminars)

$ "Investment Analysis" and "Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility". $$Recommended: Course at Tilburg Law School, e.g. "Regulating Competition"

! Choose either Game Theory 1 or 2 as a mandatory methods course. GT 2 is only recommended if you meet the prerequisites

Please note the following about the start and duration of the courses:

Fall semester:
Methods courses take place the first 5 weeks of Fall semester
Seminar courses take 9 weeks and start right after the methods courses have ended
Methods: Game Theory 2 will start after Methods: Game Theory 1 ended and will also take 5 weeks

Spring semester:
Seminar courses take 9 weeks from the beginning of Spring semester.
Methods: Econometrics 2 will take place the first 5 weeks of Spring Semester

Competition & Regulation

In this track you will learn how to apply insights from Industrial Organization, Competition Law, Regulation, and the Economics of Innovation to business strategies and to regulatory policies. Cases deal with, for example, the lack of competition in certain markets (electricity, telecommunication services),the response by national governments and the European Union, and how governments should guide the consequences of datafication (if at all). For that purpose, students are advised to choose a course at Tilburg Law School as Free Elective, where we have agreements that certain courses are taught at levels digestible for non-law students.

This track is closely linked to the ***Tilburg Law and Economics Center (TILEC)*****.**

Career perspectives: This track is advised if you wish to work for competition authorities (e.g. the Dutch ACM), regulatory bodies, Ministry of Economic Affairs, large consultancy firms (PricewaterhouseCoopers), specialized economic consultancies on competition and regulation (Lexecon, Nera, Oxera), international organizations such as EU and OECD, and economics departments of large firms.

Public Policy

This track focuses on how governments can achieve their policy objectives, design effective policies, and finance their activities.

Career perspectives: This track is advised to you if you wish to pursue a career as policy advisor in national governments (Ministry of Social Affairs, or other Ministries) or in international organizations such as the EU, as a researcher in applied research institutes (e.g., Netherlands Bureau of Economic Research (CPB)), or as a consultant with nationally or internationally oriented consultancy firms.

Sustainable Development

In the 'Sustainable Development' track, you will learn how to analyze sources of economic growth in a country or region, barriers to growth and development, and possible negative consequences of growth. You will be trained to evaluate policies and firm strategies towards development and sustainable resource use.

The track is closely linked to the ***Tilburg Sustainability Center****, a multidisciplinary research and policy advice institute.*

Career Perspectives: This track is advised if you wish to pursue a career in international organizations (World Bank), national governments (Ministry of Development Cooperation, Ministry of the Environment), non-governmental organizations, or internationally oriented consultancy firms.

Financial Economics

This track will train you in two sub-disciplines: Finance as well as Economics. You will get the opportunity to combine practical financial management to economic analysis of the markets you invest in.

You will for example discuss problems in the Eurozone, International financial supervision, microfinance, bank-runs and systemic risk, and taxation of financial institutions.

*The track is closely linked to the **European Banking Center**, a Tilburg-based research network on banking and finance.*

Career Perspectives: This track is interesting for you if you aim for a career in banking (private but also central banks), in other private businesses that are regularly confronted with international policy making, or in (inter)national government.

Data Science

The track 'Data Science,' one the one side, trains students in those modern programming languages that are used in firms, the public administration, and research to work with big data and algorithms (Python and R), including hands-on exercises how to work with big data sets from a variant of fields within economics. On the other side, it offers a deeper understanding of innovation economics, the consequences of datafication, and, thereby, how innovation affects markets, political landscapes, and our societies – and what to do about it as policy maker.

Career Perspectives: Data scientists are highly sought after in today's economy by all types of private and public organizations, as they enable those organizations to make better decisions (based on data). Students taking this track will become 'translators' between real data scientists (who have a computer science or engineering background) and economic and political decision makers, who rely on advice based on data.

Behavioral Economics

Many economic questions ultimately revolve around behavior and behavioral change. The track 'Behavioral Economics' will provide you with the knowledge and skills to effectively address such questions. It integrates insights from economics and psychology and builds on the principle that policy advice should be evidence-based and cannot rely on theory alone. The starting point is that individuals are not rational self-interested maximizers but that human behavior is based on a bounded capacity to process information and on preferences that include a regard for such social norms as fairness and reciprocity.

*The track is closely linked to the **Tilburg Institute for Behavioral Economics Research**, in which economists, psychologists, and marketing researchers cooperate.*

Career Perspectives: This track is recommended to students who want to work in consultancy, policy advice and project management. The insights from behavioral economics are in high demand at financial institutions, insurance companies, multinational enterprises, as well as in regional and national government.