

Information for newly registered students in the M.Sc. Program Agricultural Economics Version June 2021

General Information

Moodle/AGNES

Relevant information for your courses is often only announced in Moodle and/or AGNES, so make sure you check Moodle and AGNES on a regular basis. Sometimes information must be announced short notice, so it is advised to check before your course starts (room change etc...).

Deadlines

Deadlines are not negotiable. Keep them.

Exams

You have to register to take an exam within the registration deadline. Should you have registered for an exam but cannot take the exam, you will need a doctor's certificate. Otherwise the exam is considered fail.

Examination office

The Examination Office is the central point of contact for students and teachers regarding examination matters.

The tasks involved in examination administration include: Registering for / de-registering from examinations (if not possible via AGNES), keeping examination records, organising and supervising the examination procedure, issuing certificates / graduation documents, academic transcripts and federal student funding (BAföG) certificates, registering and accepting of theses, processing applications to change study programmes and examination regulations, entering credits, examination results, recognising and transferring credits, proving achievements for master's degree programme applications, registering for resittable examinations, registering for compulsory study advisory services, etc.

The examination office offers a [keyword register](#) which covers many topics and provides detailed information on processes. Please inform yourselves here prior to any inquiries.

Student Advisor

Contact Deike Hesse-Wilting, the study coordinator, in case of technical questions. For other issues you may contact Harald Grethe, head of the study program.

Expected background knowledge

Since in the Agricultural Economics Program we expect our new students to be familiar with basic economic concepts, we strongly recommend that you refresh your undergraduate knowledge especially in microeconomics and statistics as a preparation for your studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Successfully completed courses in both of these subjects at the undergraduate level are essential and assumed. Please take this seriously! You will not have the opportunity during the module to review and improve your basic knowledge.

The module “**Econometrics**” is one of the compulsory modules you have to attend in the first semester of your Agricultural Economics Master. During class, you will learn to understand different regression models, apply them on your own in R and analyse various economic questions.

In particular, the following topics are prerequisites for “Econometrics”:

- Fundamentals of probability (random variables, discrete and continuous distributions)
- Theoretical moments (expectation, variance of random variables, higher moments)
- Samples and sample moments
- Important probability distributions
- Testing and confidence intervals (t-test, types of errors, confidence intervals)

If you do not have a solid background in statistics, you can use e. g. online statistics education like <http://onlinestatbook.com/2/> or the following textbooks to review and improve your knowledge:

- Chapter 1, 2 and 3 of Stock, J. H. and Watson, M. M. (2012). Introduction to Econometrics, 3rd Edition, Pearson, Essex
- Appendix A, B and C of Hill, R.C., Griffiths, W.E. and Lim, G.C. (2012): Principle of Econometrics, 4th Edition, Hoboken Wiley, New York
- Appendix A to D of Wooldridge, J. M. (2013): Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, 5th Edition, South-Western Cengage Learning, Mason
- German: Statistische Repetitorien in von Auer, L. (2016): Ökonometrie – Eine Einführung, 7. Auflage, Springer Gabler.

For catching up with basic microeconomics, we propose the textbook

- Mankiw, N.G. and Taylor, M.P. (2017): Economics. 4th edition. Cengage Learning Emea.
- German version of the book: Mankiw, N.G. and Taylor, M.P. (2016), Grundzüge der Volkswirtschaftslehre. 6. Auflage, Schaefer-Poeschel Verlag.

Generally, we would like to encourage you to read the descriptions of the AgEcon modules and familiarize yourself with the content and the expected background knowledge, as well as the literature used in these courses. See: https://www.agrar.hu-berlin.de/en/lehre-en/studgang-en/maoe/SPO_MA_Agricultural%20Economics_2017_English.pdf or information at AGNES.

In several modules, you are required to work with MS Excel. In case you need to practice with this program a bit, we recommend this online tool: <http://chandoo.org/wp/welcome/>

Networking

In order to communicate with other AgEcon students and to receive messages from your study advisor, please register at the Moodle course “E-Mail-List Agricultural Economics Students” (<https://moodle.hu-berlin.de/course/view.php?id=73779>).