

NEKN01, Economics: Master Essay I, 15 credits
Nationalekonomi: Examensarbete - magisternivå, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economics on 2011-06-07 and was last revised on 2025-09-10. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-09-10 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

This is a single subject master course in economics. The course is either obligatory or optional within a number of master programmes at Lund University.

Language of instruction: Swedish and English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Economics A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

Students shall demonstrate:

- a deep understanding of advanced theories and models in the chosen area,
- a deep knowledge of relevant empirical methods to analyse the chosen issue,
- an understanding of the relevant theories and methods to analyse the problem of the essay,
- insight in current research within the chosen area.

Competence and skills

Students shall have the ability to independently:

- identify relevant research questions,
- formulate relevant research questions,
- initiate and undertake an advanced scientific investigation,
- apply relevant and advanced theories and models in the chosen area,
- apply relevant and advanced empirical methods to analyse the chosen issue,
- draw relevant conclusions from the analysis undertaken,
- seek, evaluate, analyse and critically examine information,
- integrate knowledge,
- account for and discuss the analysis undertaken in a structured and scientific manner, both orally and in writing,
- critically and constructively discuss phenomena and issues within the chosen area and other economic areas.

Judgement and approach

Students shall have the ability to independently:

- make judgements based on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects,
- identify unanswered issues and new issues arising as a result of an analysis,
- adopt a critical scientific approach.

Course content

The course consists of writing an essay that is publicly defended at a seminar with a discussant and to discuss another essay at a seminar. The essay shall be written in groups of two students. Permission to write individually may be granted in special cases. In the process of writing, the student is advised by one or more tutors. The course starts with some gatherings for general information on writing essays and seeking information through the library.

Course design

1. Teaching: In the beginning of the course, there are some meetings. The course is ended by seminars. Apart from this, tuition consists of individual supervision.

At the start of an essay, the student states what seminar period the essay shall be presented. If an essay has not been presented at the latest two seminar periods after the stated seminar period, the student does not have the right to further supervision unless there are exceptional circumstances. If an essay has been presented but failed at two attempts, the student does not have the right to further supervision unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Assessment

1. Examination: Examination consists of writing the essay, presenting the essay at a seminar, discussing another essay and actively participating in at least three other seminars. Individual performance during the work on the essay can affect the grade. The grade is decided by an examiner and not the supervisor. The essay must be provided to the database of the Economic Library in order to pass the course.

2. Limitations on the number of examination opportunities: –

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary action against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specified period.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

1. Grading: Grade (Definition), Points or percentage out of maximum points, Characteristic

A (Excellent), 85–100, A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

B (Very good), 75–84, A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

C (Good), 65–74, The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

D (Satisfactory), 55–64, The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

E (Sufficient), 50–54, The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.

U (Fail), 0–49, The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

2. Weighting grades from different parts of the course: –

3. Grading scales for different parts of the course: –

Entry requirements

Students who are admitted to the Master Programme in Economics and have at least 30 ECTS-credits in economics at the advanced level are qualified for this course. For other students, at least 90 ECTS-credits in economics are needed for admission till this course. These credits must include 30 ECTS-credits from the introductory course, a course in intermediate microeconomics (e.g. NEKG21), a course in intermediate econometrics or quantitative methods (e.g., NEKG31), a bachelor essay (e.g. NEKH01), and at least 30 ECTS-credits from the advanced level, or equivalent courses.

Further information

1. Transitional regulations: This course replaces NEKM01 "Master Essay I".

2. Limitations in the period of validity: –

3. Limitations: This course may not be included in the same degree as NEK791 "Degree Project D", NEK790 "Degree Project" or NEKM01 "Master Essay I".

4. Similar courses: –

5. Limitations in renewed examination: When an essay is presented and get the grade Fail, the student may revise the essay. When the grade Fail is awarded, the examiner shall decide if the revision is of a nature that the essay will have to be presented at a new seminar or if it is sufficient to hand in the revised version. Essays that require a new seminar shall be handed in within a year. This means that the essay shall be handed in at the corresponding seminar period the year after at the latest. Essays that do not require a new seminar shall be handed in within six months after the grade Fail was awarded. Essays that receive the grade Fail for the second time shall be handed in in a revised version within three months after the grade Fail was awarded. For all later versions, the same rules apply as for essays that received the grade Fail for the second time.