Faculty of
Business and Economics

Degree Profile

Master in Economics and Public Policy

Organizational unit	Faculty of Business and Economics
Degree	MSc in Economics and Public Policy
Range, Duration, Start	90 ECTS, 3 semesters (if full time), fall or spring semester
Language of instruction	English, German

Program Goals

The program prepares students for problem solving in manifold areas of economic policy. Students understand public policy challenges and learn to develop effective solutions. The core courses teach the students fundamentals of economics and quantitative methods essential for the analysis of public policy using real-world applications. The program offers the possibility to focus on one of three economic policy fields: Energy & the environment, competition & regulation, and health & labor markets.

Program Characteristics

Orientation	Scientific-oriented education
Majors	–
Program structure	The curriculum consists of the following modules: Fundamentals in Economics (15 ECTS); Core Courses in Public Policy (15 ECTS); Policy Field: Competition and Regulation, Environment and Energy or Health and Labor (9 ECTS out of one module); Field Electives (12 ECTS); General Electives (0-12 ECTS); Preparation Master's thesis (9 ECTS) and Master's thesis (18 or 30 ECTS).
Distinctive Features	The program focuses on the economic analysis of markets, political processes, institutions, and government interventions. It addresses current, highly relevant topics and challenges such as the combat of climate change and the shaping of a more sustainable future, the significance of a rise and dominance of new firms in the digital sector, the concentration of incomes and wealth, and the extent of government intervention in a crisis like the 2020/21 COVID-19 pandemic.

Career Opportunities

Employment	Private sector companies subject to public policy, public administration, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and political parties that develop strategies for public policy, think tanks or policy consulting agencies academia
Further Studies	Doctorate

Teaching

Approaches	Theory- and research-oriented learning, task-based learning, autonomous learning
Assessments	Oral and written examinations, presentations, term paper, master's thesis

Competences

Generic Attitude / Communication Approach / Management	Students acquire the skills to … – communicate research results in writing and orally precisely and effectively with graphic and statistical visualizations in the form of a scientific work to an international scientific audience. – deal with and work together in a team in a respectful and responsible manner. – act in the context of scientific activities with high standards of professional expertise, integrity, autonomy and self-management. – work with data from independent scientific studies and analyze and interpret them using computer-based methods. – develop very good written and oral language competences in English by writing scientific research reports, reviews or project proposals and presenting scientific research results.
Subject-related Knowledge / Understanding Application / Judgment Interdisciplinarity	Students acquire the skills to … – understand and assess economic literature related to the design, consequences and evaluation of public policy and public institutions. – place studies in the correct scientific context, to assess the validity of their argumentation, and to draw scientifically appropriate conclusions from them. – design, conduct and interpret studies or small surveys on their own. – perform econometric analysis of own or existing data. – design and analyze formal economic models, place their work in an appropriate scientific context and build a scientifically sound argument based on the results. – identify specific public policy challenges and possible solutions in at least one policy field. – analyze the political, societal and economic institutions and processes of that field in Switzerland and abroad. – gain a sound understanding in one policy-relevant discipline beyond economics such as law, political science, political philosophy, ecology, or psychology. – understand and integrate a vast amount of scientific work and to use this knowledge efficiently to design public policies. – assess different policy options and their consequences for society, firms, and individuals and to communicate the findings effectively to both an expert and a lay audience.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the master's program in Economics and Public Policy...

– are able to critically assess empirical scientific studies and can properly carry out their own empirical scientific projects on current and relevant issues.
– are capable of identifying public policy challenges and can evaluate policy options in terms of their impact at the level of a policy advisor or expert.
– have in-depth knowledge of statistical methods as well as computer-based econometric standard programs in the processing of empirical data and can apply theoretical econometric instruments in a well-founded manner.
– are acquainted with survey methods and designs and can use these tools to collect a relevant and high quality data base for efficient and effective decision making.
– can analyze and interpret data from studies or surveys (own or existing), draw scientifically valid conclusions from it and communicate them appropriately to non-academic national and international target groups (e.g. policy makers, ministries, central banks, lobbies etc.).
– can identify market failures and compare and assess possible market interventions by the government in different political systems in terms of equity and efficiency outcomes in a comprehensible and substantiated way.