

Philosophy & Economics “Made in Germany”

The Master of Arts Programme

Student Handbook



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Introduction

Welcome to the University of Bayreuth MA Programme in Philosophy & Economics. We hope you will have a fruitful and enjoyable two-years of study with us. We have compiled this Handbook to help you orientate yourself in your new study environment. If you do not find answers to your queries here please do not hesitate to get in touch with us – the hallmark of our programme is the close contact you will have with us.

Please note that this Handbook is *not* to be confused with Module Handbook, which is an official document that accompanies the Examination Regulations governing the programme. This Handbook does, however, contain most of the information contained in the Module Handbook (see the P&E website for details).

The Programme

The Master's Programme in Philosophy and Economics is organised and taught by both the departments of philosophy and economics. It is a unique two-year (120 ECTS) course of studies offering a rigorous graduate level education in core areas of economics and core areas of philosophy especially relevant to economics.

The programme is targeted at students with an interest in obtaining an advanced analytical and quantitative training as a foundation for pursuing research-based careers in academia, public service, and business. In designing the degree we had in mind economists and philosophers who are intent on sharpening their abilities in normative reflection, on deepening of their knowledge of subjects they have pursued during their Bachelor's studies, and on broadening and enhancing their methodological skills in key areas relevant to both disciplines.

We see both economics and philosophy and their integration as methods for analysing allocation, distributive, and institutional mechanisms in a world that is becoming a global village in need of new governance structures. Chief among these are pressing foundational and practical questions:

- What are the dimensions of equality?
- Should we correct the lottery of life?

- How are equal opportunities to be implemented?
- Does globalisation threaten social solidarity?
- Why is the international organization of labour necessary for achieving social justice?
- What are the economic and moral challenges that regional trade agreements create for the WTO?
- What is a fair allocation of voting power in the EU?
- What is the best way to organize deliberation?
- What kind of knowledge does computer simulation generate?
- Who bears responsibility for climate change?
- Should executive salaries and bonuses be capped?
- How do we encourage corporate social responsibility?
- Are the standard assumptions of economics appropriate?
- What is the best philosophical and economic explanation for norms of morality, prudence, and rationality?

The P&E MA programme is divided into three modules: Foundations, Integration, and Specialization. In each module you will take taught courses over three semesters that will be assessed by unseen written examinations, seminar papers, exercises, oral presentations, or some combination of these. In the final semester you will have to write a MA thesis.

Serious and Independent Study

The first thing you should be aware of is that the step up from Bachelor to Master level courses in both philosophy and economics is a big one. There is no gentle progression to graduate study: it is a jump that will require a great deal of time and dedication. The level of your graduate level courses in disciplines is what you can expect of the best international universities. You will be challenged.

Secondly, the P&E programme is based on research-led teaching. This means two things. First, courses are linked to the particular research areas of instructors. Second, we expect you to undertake independent learning and research in advanced courses. At the MA level you should have an active attitude to your studies: it is *you* who acquires knowledge and skills through *your participation* in the courses.

Lectures and seminars will only be a small part of your studies and will decrease as you progress through the programme. In the first semester you will have around 14 hours in the classroom; by the third semester it

may drop to as little as 8, and by the time you start your thesis in the fourth semester it will be 0. For the rest you will be expected to spend a lot of time in independent study: preparing for class exercises and presentations and writing essays and seminar papers. Your ability to develop your powers of reflection and analysis is dependent on the investment of your time and energy. Your instructors can only guide, assist, and supervise.

While the programme can be studied part-time over 8 semesters, it is conceived as a full-time study programme over 4 semesters and is ideally studied as such. The programme is designed to absorb a full working week and a full working year.

Your First Semester

The first semester will be the toughest and you should prepare yourself accordingly. You will be taking four compulsory courses in the Foundations module that will require a lot of preparation for classes and examinations. Do not take things easy – catching up will be difficult. Once you are over this hurdle you will have obtained most of the basic skills and knowledge required for following advanced courses in philosophy and economics. In the event that you run into difficulties you should consult with the Programme Coordinators early on.

The Welcoming Session

Please watch your emails for an invitation to the welcome session that takes place in the first week of the semester.

Please make sure that you attend. You will have the chance to meet most of your first semester instructors, get to know the programme staff, and be introduced to second-year MA students. It is also a chance for us to inform you about programme details and for you to pose any questions that you may have. There are two social events at the beginning of the semester: following the introductory meeting there is the University Opening Ceremony followed by drinks in the Mensa; we will also organise a dinner with faculty and other MA students – details to be announced at the meeting and via email.

University logins

In order to make use of the University online resources you will need an account. You will receive this automatically once you have matriculated.

Please remember to matriculate as soon as possible once you have decided to accept the offer of a place. You will need your login for any induction or crash-courses that use the e-learning platform. These courses usually take place in the week before the start of the semester.

Please also communicate your matriculation number and current e-mail to Claudia Ficht as soon as possible.

Timetable

You will be taking four courses in your first semester. You will find the timetable on the P&E webpage.

Planning Your Studies

Recommended Study Plan

Take the recommended study plan seriously, otherwise you may find it difficult to complete your studies within the four semesters or you may find yourself overloaded with work. To get a feel for the workload, take the opportunity to talk to current students!

Integrative Seminar and Thesis Workshop

Please note that that when planning your studies you need to take into account the Integrative Seminar and the Thesis Workshop.

- The Integrative Seminar is a research-driven course in which you have to already engage in independent research. The start-up meeting always takes place in the first week of the summer semester. During this meeting we will outline the themes and organization of the seminar. The course then takes place as a series of mini-workshops in the Winter Semester from mid-November. You will have to plan to do the work for this course in the semester break (August and September).
- The Thesis Workshop is always held in the first week of the summer and winter semesters. This is also a research seminar in which you present your thesis idea or work in progress – it is up to you. You must have presented in order to complete the thesis module.

Semester Abroad

While it is not excluded that you can also visit another university as part of your studies we do not have an official exchange programme and we have also not explicitly planned for this in the programme. As an international programme we have in fact planned for students to spend their

whole period of studies in Bayreuth. If you want to spend part of your studies at another university you will have to make independent arrangements. Please also take advice on this matter with the Programme Coordinators.

Internships

Internships are not part of the academic programme. If you plan to undertake an internship during your studies please take into account the demands placed on you for the Integrative Seminar and Thesis Workshop.

Degree Requirements and Programme Structure

The Degree

In order to successfully obtain the Bayreuth MA in Philosophy & Economics, you need to complete 120 ECTS of courses. The programme has a simple tri-partite modular structure.

Foundation Module (48 ECTS)

- 3 compulsory courses in philosophy: ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of the social sciences (each 8 ECTS). These courses are assessed by unseen written examinations and exercises or seminar papers.
- 3 compulsory courses in economics: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and empirical economics research (each 8 ECTS). These courses are assessed by unseen written examinations and exercises.

The six courses will provide you with the advanced training in normative and methodological reflection and modelling and quantitative skills required to follow advanced specialist courses in either discipline. The P&E conception of interdisciplinarity is the ability to reason, reflect, and converse easily in either discipline and comprehend the application of specialist methods and theoretical frameworks from both philosophy and economics to studying a set of problems that are of interest to both philosophers and economists alike.

Integration Module (12 ECTS)

- 1 compulsory seminar course in philosophy & economics (8 ECTS), assessed by seminar presentations and seminar papers.

- 2 (from 4) departmental research seminar series (4 ECTS, ungraded). Credits are awarded on the basis of regular participation.

The seminar course in philosophy & economics is a specially designed syllabus in which you will have the chance to actively apply your powers of philosophical analysis to a series of economic problems from micro- and macro-economics and empirical economic research that are especially relevant to issues of public policy.

The departmental research seminars are the ideal opportunity for you to come into contact with current research and become socialized into the world of research. They also form the ideal place for you to start searching for a Master's thesis research project.

- Philosophy Research Forum
Tuesdays (during the semester), 18:00–20:00 (and 16:00–18:00 from Summer Semester 2018 onwards).
www.pe.uni-bayreuth.de/allgemein/Research_Forum
- Economics Research Seminar
Wednesdays (during the semester), 16:00–18:00
www.vwl4.uni-bayreuth.de/de/research/Forschungsseminar/

Please note that you will require a signed 'course certificate' for your participation. This requires that you inform the respective organisers at the start of a semester (please see the respective web-pages).

The Specialization Module (60 ECTS)

- 5 courses of 6 ECTS from *any* MA level course offered by the departments of Philosophy and Economics or any MA level course offered by cognate departments (e.g. Mathematics, Business Administration), subject to approval by the Programme Coordinators. You can take a **maximum** of 2 methods courses from cognate departments (e.g. maths).
- 1 MA thesis of 30 ECTS. Preparation for the thesis includes a Thesis Workshop.

An overview of the modules and courses, responsible instructors and departments, and modes of assessment can be found on the P&E website. Detailed course descriptions can be obtained from the respective departments or the instructors respectively.

Choosing Your Specialization

The P&E programme offers you ample opportunity to specialise according to individual interests and aptitude. This is *your* programme and thus one in which you can carve out your own distinctive academic and professional profile. From the second semester you can start to specialise in *any* available field of philosophy or economics or you can continue on a balanced interdisciplinary track. We have made room for this individuality by creating a very simple module structure in which you are free to explore and deepen your knowledge as you see fit.

Although the programme is very flexible to meet your needs for specialization it has a unique characteristic and hallmark: as a graduate of the programme will have pursued your specialization with a developed set of skills in methodological and normative reflection, formal modelling, and quantitative reasoning and understanding.

Courses

Courses for a coming semester are usually announced on CAMPUSonline. Detailed course guides (content, teaching methods, assessment, background readings, and how to register) are usually distributed by the particular departments and instructors.

- **Warning:** There is no standardised application procedure for the P&E programme. Each department and sub-department follows different practices. To ensure that you can rationally plan your studies you must keep an eye out on the departmental web pages.
- If you want to take courses outside of the philosophy and economics departments, please consult first with the Programme Coordinators to guarantee that the courses fall within the programme regulations.
- If you have ambitions to undertake a PhD you are well advised to consider your course selections carefully and you should consult with P&E teaching staff about your course selections.

To obtain an idea of the type of courses available you should browse the departmental web-pages.

The MA Thesis

Your MA thesis a major part of your studies and final degree grade (25%) and is submitted at the end of your fourth semester. This is an independent piece of work in which you present the results of your own research into a topic approved by a supervisor. You do not, however, need to be concerned about it yet. Although you may start the programme with an

idea about the kind of research you want to undertake, this often changes in the light of the courses you take. The crucial period is in the third semester: during this period you will need to form an idea of the area in which you are going to work. A topic area and title, approved by your supervisor, must be submitted to the programme office by the end of the third semester as part of the organization of the Thesis Workshop, which will take place at some date in the semester holiday prior to the fourth semester. At the Workshop you will present and discuss the main research theme with fellow students and faculty. You should not start detailed work on the thesis before having approval from a supervisor.

- You can ask teaching staff of the P&E departments to supervise you. You can also obtain supervision from outside the P&E departments on approval of the Programme Coordinators.
- Detailed advice on the length and form of your thesis will be provided by your thesis advisor.
- Rules and guidelines for registering and submitting a thesis are governed by the Examination Regulations governing the programme. Please be sure to consult these prior to registering and submitting your thesis. Should any queries arise you should contact your supervisor.

Administering Your Degree

Foundations Courses

Unless otherwise specified, you have to officially register on CAMPUSonline to sit the foundations courses examinations. Please enquire with the programme office about details or with your course instructor.

Electives

On completion of an elective seminar course your results will be recorded in CAMPUSonline. This is also where you can view and print your academic transcript.

Block Seminars

Elective seminars are sometimes blocked from a Friday afternoon to Sunday evening. We generally try to avoid holding regular lectures and seminars on Fridays. Should you wish to attend a block seminar and it clashes with another regular seminar course, you will usually be given an attendance exception for that course. Please speak to your instructor first.

Governance

The P&E Master's programme is governed by the statutes of the University of Bayreuth and the Examination Regulations of the Master of Arts in Philosophy & Economics.

The Examination Regulations govern admission to the Programme, the award of the degree of Master of Arts, and the constitution of the Board of Examiners.

- Your degree will be awarded jointly by the faculties of Cultural Studies and Law and Economics of the University of Bayreuth.
- The Board of Examiners consists of three elected members from each of the faculties of Cultural Studies and Law and Economics elected by the respective faculty councils. Members of the Board of Examiners serve for a period of three years.

The Programme Coordinators are usually members of the Board of Examiners.

The current Examination Regulations are still provisional, but all students admitted to the Programme for the current academic year are bound by these new regulations once they come into force.

Programme Administration, Information, and Advice

The Programme Coordinators

All academic affairs of the programme are organized and administered by the Programme Coordinators:

- Prof. Dr. Julian Fink (Philosophy)
GW II, Room 1.01
Tel: +49 921 55-4124
e-mail: julian.fink@uni-bayreuth.de

- Prof. Dr. Hartmut Egger (Economics) (on sabbatical for WS 2011–12)
RW, Room 2.63
Tel: +49 921 55-2906
e-mail: hartmut.egger@uni-bayreuth.de

The Programme Office

The Programme is administered by:

- Claudia Ficht
GW II, Room 1.10
Tel: +49 921 55-4148
e-mail: claudia.ficht@uni-bayreuth.de
Office hours: Mon-Fri 08:00–12:00

Academic Office Hours

All teaching staff hold regular office hours during the semester lecture period. You will find the times on personal webpages. If you have issues relating to a course please make an appointment with the instructor.

Communication

e-mail

All programme correspondence will be sent to you by e-mail and therefore you should keep a regular check on the e-mail account that you provided us with. We will use this address to send you information about events, timetable changes, courses, etc. You will receive a login sent to your st-mail account for our new intranet platform with e-mail capabilities soon. Once you have received this please login and fill-in your profile. You will be able to use this platform to send messages to staff and students.

P&E and Departmental Websites

The P&E website is also used to announce events, time-table changes, courses, etc. You will find this in several places: on the home page, news, and on the personal sites of the programme staff. As the University of Bayreuth does not yet have a unified content management system, you should also keep close tabs on the Dept. of Economics website as well as personal web pages of the economics staff.

eLearning Platforms

Generally most staff use the University e-learning platform. Some use their own pages. Your course instructors will inform you of which one they are using. E-learning platform access will require your login that you received with you matriculation.

Facebook Group

There is an official P&E Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/philosophyandeconomics/>.

Various P&E-students Facebook groups exist too. Please get in touch with current students who can help you how to sign up.

Programme Evaluation

We make every effort to provide you with the best possible educational programme. Courses are evaluated at the end of a semester by an anonymous questionnaire distributed by the instructor.

If you have any additional issues regarding the programme or teaching you should not hesitate to speak to either one of the programme coordinators or the instructor concerned.

Student Affairs and Social Life

P&E Social Life

The P&E MA community is small; Bayreuth is small; and our departments are small. This means that you have the opportunity to be part of a close-knit community. You should make the most of this because it is often your peers and the social interaction with teaching staff that contributes most to your intellectual development and the enjoyment of your studies. Try to attend departmental social events. You will be informed about these events at the welcoming meeting in the first teaching week.

You will be greeted by current postgraduate students at the beginning of the semester and who will organize a social event for the end of the first teaching week.

The P&E Förderverein

The *Förderverein Philosophy & Economics* is more than just an alumni association: it is a student and alumni association that acts as a supporter and for the Bayreuth P&E programmes. The Förderverein is engaged in promoting the Bayreuth P&E in the private and public sector as well cultivating a steadily increasing career network. Every summer the Förderverein organizes a homecoming weekend for P&E alumni which is combined with job-talks by alumni who report on their career developments and the postgraduate programmes they have attended. The Förderverein also grants scholarships, award the best BA and MA thesis prize, and organizes a doctoral forum.

Membership for it is free of charge for P&E students. For further information:

- www.philosophy-economics.de

A member of the Förderverein will greet you at the Welcoming Session. We encourage you to join in the life of the Förderverein and contribute to its future development.

Finding Accommodation

Please be aware that Bayreuth is a rapidly growing student city. Finding accommodation is generally more difficult than many initially anticipate. This means that you should start your search early. The usual internet sources are the best. However, the P&E community is also a good place to check so the earlier you decide to take up your offer the better – once you have confirmed your place you will be sent a list of P&E students offering flats and flat-shares. You will also obtain access to our internal distribution lists.

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