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MSc Business Administration

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 MSc Business in Society (Joint
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**MSc Econometrics and
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Study guide MSc Econometrics and Operations Research 2015-2016


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Below you find a comprehensive description of the Master's programme Econometrics and Operation Research.

- See also individual [course descriptions](#)

The Master's programme in Econometrics and Operations Research is an academic programme focusing on the development and application of quantitative methods for analysing economic issues in a broad sense. It is a successful preparation for a professional career in which mathematics, statistics and ICT are used in analysing and solving complex issues in general economics, and business and financial economics. Econometricians are also employed as experts in optimizing strategic and operational business processes like transport flows, stock management and operating systems. Econometricians can be found working at the central banks of Europe, at federal banks in the United States, at central government agencies and ministries, financial institutions, consultancy firms and in the majority of listed companies.

The components of the Master's programme correspond closely with the department's research interests, which means that many of the latest scientific developments in areas like financial econometrics, logistics and game theory find their way directly into the teaching programme. Students also benefit from having the opportunity to study in small groups and work closely with the academic staff.

For talented and ambitious students the master's programme offers an extra opportunity to distinguish themselves with the *MSc Honours Programme Operations Research*. This Honours Programme allows master's students to broaden and deepen their knowledge on state-of-the-art operations research techniques. [Read more >>](#)

Programme

	Specialization Econometrics and Mathematical Economics		Specialization Operations Research and Business Econometrics	
Period 1 (Sept-Oct)	Advanced Econometrics Optional course (from designated list)	see p. 2 9 EC	Advanced Algorithms* Optional course (from designated list)	see p.2 9 EC
Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Advanced Econometrics Strategic and Cooperative	6 EC	Advanced Algorithms (continued)	6 EC
	Decision Making Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC 3 EC	Strategic and Cooperative Decision Making Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC 3 EC
Period 3 (January)	Case study	6 EC	Case Study	6 EC
Period 4 (Feb-Mar)	Time Series Econometrics	6 EC	Simulation and Stochastic Systems	6 EC
	Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC	Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC
Period 5 (Apr-May)	Thesis and thesis seminar	see p. 6	Thesis and thesis seminar	see p. 6
Period 6 (June)	Thesis	18 EC	Thesis	18 EC

* Formerly known as Caput Operation Research.

At the beginning of the programme, students can make a choice for a specialization. There are two areas of specialization: Econometrics and Mathematical Economics and Operations Research and Business Econometrics. However, it is not mandatory to specialize; it is possible to combine

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courses from either specialization to allow students to pursue their own interests. In that case, no specialization will be mentioned on the degree. For detailed description of the three variants, read the [full programme description](#).

Enrolment courses and exams

For all courses and all examinations you wish to take you are required to register in advance in order to be admitted. See VUNet for more information about [course enrolment](#), this information will be updated for 2015-2016.

Thesis

The aim of the Master's thesis is to practice the art of conducting independently applied academic research and to record the results of this work. The Master's thesis should involve more originality and personal contributions to science than the Bachelor's thesis. You can formulate thesis subjects for yourself. In addition, lecturers often have a list of themes suitable for use by interested students. [Read more >>](#)

Assessment, Examination regulations, Transition regulations

Assessment is based on papers and reports handed in during the course, on participation during lectures and tutorials and on a written exam. Examinations are held at the end of each teaching period. Resits are held at the end of the next period. Sometimes a course or exam is renewed or replaced. In such cases a Transition regulation may apply. For more information see the [Assessment, Examination regulations, Transition regulations](#).

Teaching

Tuition is carried out in plenary lectures and small groups. Much attention is paid to an active method of studying. This includes writing study papers, working out cases and preparing practical assignments. [Find out more](#) about forms of teaching in the Master's programme.

Learning outcomes

The Master's programme in Econometrics and Operations Research has formulated the following [learning outcomes](#), which describe the final attainment levels of graduates of the programme.

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Programme

	Specialization Econometrics and Mathematical Economics		Specialization Operations Research and Business Econometrics	
Period 1 (Sept- Oct)	Advanced Econometrics Optional course (from designated list)	See p.2 9 EC	Advanced Algorithms * Optional course (from designated list)	See p.2 9 EC
Period 2 (Nov- Dec)	Advanced Econometrics Strategic and Cooperative Decision Making Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC 6 EC 3 EC	Advanced Algorithms Strategic and Cooperative Decision Making Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC 6 EC 3 EC
Period 3 (January)	Case study	6 EC	Case Study	6 EC
Period 4 (Feb- Mar)	Time Series Econometrics Optional course(from designated list)	6 EC 6 EC	Simulation and Stochastic Systems Optional course (from designated list)	6 EC 6 EC
Period 5 (Apr- May)	Thesis and thesis seminar	See p.6	Thesis and thesis seminar	See p.6
Period 6 (June)	Thesis	18 EC	Thesis	18 EC

* Formerly know as Caput Operation Research

The master's programme takes one year. The academic year is divided into six teaching periods: four periods of eight weeks and two periods of four weeks. The programme's study load is 60 credits. Credits are expressed in EC: European Credit (Transfer System). Each credit amounts to circa 28 hours studying.

At the beginning of the programme, students can make a choice for a specialisation. There are two areas of specialisation: Econometrics and Mathematical Economics and Operations Research and Business Econometrics. However, it is not mandatory to specialize; it is possible to combine courses from either specialization to allow students to pursue their own interests. In that case, no specialization will be mentioned on the degree.

The programme allows students of all three variants of the MSc programme to elect three courses from economics, econometrics or mathematics/computer sciences. Choice of these courses depends on the specialisation chosen; view the list of [optional courses for Econometrics and Mathematical Economics and for Operations Research and Business Econometrics](#). Again, when a student does not wish to specialize, he or she can chose from either list. In all three variants, however, no more than two of the three courses may be from economics. Finally, after approval of the examination board, it is also possible to select other master's courses taught within the faculty or even to opt for a course taught outside the faculty.

Specialization Econometrics and Mathematical Economics

This specialisation adds to the fundamentals of a thorough knowledge of econometric and mathematical economic methods. By an appropriate choice of the optional courses, emphasis can be put on a specialization such as financial econometrics. The core courses belonging to this track are *Advanced Econometrics*, *Strategic and Cooperative Decision Making* and *Time Series Econometrics*. The final master's thesis can be written on a topic from either Econometrics or from Mathematical Economics.

Specialization Operations Research and Business Econometrics

This specialisation focuses on the analysis and optimisation of business processes and strategic and operational issues associated with this. Students can further specialize in various areas by appropriate choice of optional courses. The core courses in this track are *Simulation and Stochastic Systems*, *Strategic and Cooperative Decision Making* and *Combinatorial Optimization*.

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The final master's thesis is written on a topic from Operations Research and Business Econometrics.

Econometrics programme without specialization

In case a student does not wish to specialize, he or she can combine courses from the two specializations described above. The master's thesis can then only be written on a topic from mathematical economics.

In the first semester, students take the first two econometrics courses and two optional courses from a designated list. The first semester is concluded with a case study, in which students will apply the theory studied to practical cases in the field of the specialisation chosen. Students carry out a small research project in teams of two or three students. The results will be presented to an audience of staff and fellow-students, and must be adequately defended. Apart from honing the student's skills in practical application of advanced theory, the research project aims at strengthening the student's academic and professional skills such as writing, presenting and defending research. Students also receive further training in the use of quantitative and ICT-methods in solving problems.

In the second semester the student attends his third econometrics/OR course and has the possibility to choose his third and final optional course. This can again be chosen from the list provided. After approval of the examination board, it is also possible to select other master's courses taught within the faculty or even to opt for a course taught outside the faculty.

The larger part of the second semester is devoted to writing the master's thesis. To this end the student carries out an independent academic research project and reports on this in his thesis. Carrying out the research project and writing the thesis takes about three months. The master's thesis is written individually. Students are, however, required to take part in the concomitant thesis seminar, in which the research findings of the students are periodically presented and critically discussed. See paragraph 4 for detailed guidelines on writing the thesis.

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Optional courses

Selected optional courses for Econometrics and Mathematical Economics

Period 1 (Sept-Oct)	from Economics Advanced Corporate Finance Asset Pricing Consumer Marketing from Mathematics / Computer Science Asymptotic Statistics Stochastic Processes for Finance Mathematical Systems and Control Theory from Operations Research /Business Econometrics: Advanced Algorithms	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC See p. 2 See p. 2 See p. 2 See p. 2
Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	from Economics Advanced Macroeconomics Derivatives Environmental Economics Regional and Urban Economics from Mathematics / Computer Science Asymptotic Statistics Stochastic Processes for Finance Mathematical Systems and Control Theory from Operations Research /Business Econometrics: Advanced Algorithms	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 8 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 4 (Febr-Mar)	from Economics Customer Intelligence Financial Markets and Institutions Firm Behaviour and Market Structures Globalization, Growth and Development Labour Economics from Operations Research / Business Econometrics: Simulation and Stochastic Systems	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 5 (Apr-May)	from Mathematics / Computer Science Data-Mining Techniques	6 EC

Selected optional courses for Operations Research and Business Econometrics

Period 1 (Sept-Oct)	from Economics / Business Administration Asset Pricing Distribution Logistics & Supply Chain Management from Mathematics / Computer Science Evolutionary Computing Neural Networks Stochastic Optimization from Economics / Mathematical Economics Advanced econometrics	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC See p. 2 See p. 2
Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	from Economics / Business Administration Derivatives Environmental Economics from Mathematics / Computer Science Stochastic Optimization from Economics/Mathematical Economics Advanced Econometrics	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC

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Vakbeschrijvingen		from Econometrics / Mathematical Economics: Time Series Econometrics	6 EC
	Period 5 (Apr-May)	from Mathematics / Computer Science Data-Mining Techniques	6 EC

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 See VUNet for more information about [course enrolment](#).

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Thesis

Please consult the [Blackboard site](#) 'Thesis MSc EOR' for details.

Thesis coordinator: Dr. A.A.N. Ridder (a.a.n.ridder@vu.nl)

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Teaching

Tuition is carried out in plenary lectures and small groups. Much attention is paid to an active method of studying. This includes writing study papers, working out cases and preparing practical assignments. In this way students become familiar with the application of advanced theory to practical work. It also serves to integrate the theory studied in the individual courses into a comprehensive body of knowledge. Papers are written both individually and in groups of two or three students, thus furthering the students' ability to work in teams.

Much time is also devoted to presentation and discussion of one's work to fellow-students and staff and group discussion of e.g. research papers. The small-scale tuition environment provides an excellent opportunity for guidance and feedback by staff and other students. Apart from developing the student's communicative skills in oral and written presentation, much attention is paid to the development of critical judgement in assessing research work of others.

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Information about rules and regulations can be found on [VUnet](#), and under the [heading of education](#).

Informatie over reglementen en regelingen vind je op [VUnet](#), en onder het kopje [onderwijs](#).

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Learning outcomes

A graduate of the master's programme in Econometrics and Operations Research:

- has a thorough and practical knowledge of modern econometrics;
- has a sound grasp of the development of modern econometrics and has gained experience with research in a subfield of econometrics;
- is able to gain knowledge on other subfields of econometrics within a reasonable period;
- is able to formulate an action plan based on a broad question;
- is able to analyse and formulate research results and draw conclusions;
- is able to draw up a report and participate in a debate on a professional subject;
- is able to consult and make use of international professional literature on relevant subfields;
- is able to apply econometric knowledge in a broad, multidisciplinary context and is experienced in modelling problems from other scientific fields;
- is employable in positions which require knowledge and research skills taken from modern econometrics;
- has extensive knowledge and understanding of the use of modern econometrics in society and can make sound decisions with regard to career possibilities;
- has a wide sense of social responsibility and an eye for ethical aspects of the scientific and professional practice.

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For talented and ambitious students the master's programme offers an extra opportunity to distinguish themselves with the *MSc Honours Programme Operations Research*. This Honours Programme allows master's students to broaden and deepen their knowledge on state-of-the-art operations research techniques.

The programme has a study load of 18 EC and consists of two master's courses from the program of the LNMB (6 EC per course) and the 'OR research seminar' (6 EC) organized by the OR-group of the department of Econometrics and Operations Research at VU University. The LNMB provides a great variety of high-level courses on deterministic and stochastic operations research. Students can choose [LNMB master's courses](#) according to their interest. The OR research seminar will run from September to April. Form and contents of the OR research seminar will depend on the students interests and ambitions. The aim of this seminar is to train students to write a PhD grant proposal enabling them to continue their studies as a PhD.

The honours programme is successfully completed if the student has finished the master's programme within one year and, in addition, has successfully finished all courses of the honours programme. The successful completion of the honours programme will be recorded in the Diploma Supplement.

Schedule

Fall semester 2015	OR research seminar Choice from available LNMB courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to stochastic processes ■ Continuous Optimization ■ Discrete Optimization ■ Heuristic Methods in Operations Research
Spring semester 2016	OR research seminar Choice from available LNMB courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advanced Linear Programming ■ Scheduling ■ Queueing Theory

Admission

Students holding a bachelor's degree from VU University can apply for admission to the honours programme if their average grade for their bachelor's degree is at least 7.5. Students with a degree from another University should demonstrate that their degree is of an equivalent level. The admission will be based on an interview during which drive and motivation for research will be assessed. Applications and inquires should be sent to Prof. Dr. L. Stougie (e-mail: l.stougie@vu.nl).

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M Econometrics and Operations Research

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Course name	Code
M Econometrics - Econ and Math Ec	E_EORM_EME
M Econometrics - No specialisation	E_EORM_NOSP
M Econometrics - OR and Bus Ectr	E_EORM_ORBT

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