



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE

School of Economics  
and Management

master of science

**Economics and development**

# MSc in **ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT**



**Master Program**  
***(LM56 Scienze dell'Economia)***

# Info on the web

- **MSc website:**  
<https://www.development-lm.unifi.it/>  
select Master Programme and then Presentation
- **Enrollment info**
- **Booklet 2025-26 (in page Presentation in the website)**
- **Testimonials curriculum Development Economics:**
- **Testimonials curriculum Economics**
- **The platform FEDERICA offers videos on MSc presentation, brief lectures from a few courses: International Trade, Computational Economics, Behavioural and Social Evolution, Agriculture Development and Poverty (access to FEDERICA through the page Presentation in the website)**



# MSc main features (1)

- **All teaching takes place in English**

- **International environment**

Only 47% students currently enrolled are Italian (83 out of 177).

International mobility: Erasmus+, Double degrees.

- **Interdisciplinary approach to teaching Economics**

Courses and laboratories in

Economics, Econometrics, Statistics, Mathematics, Finance, Matlab, Python, R, Stata, Law, Economic History, Political Science, ...



# MSc main features (2)

- **2 curricula:**
  - Economics
  - Development Economics
- **Best course of study** of the School of Economics and Management at Unifi in terms of evaluation of courses by students.
- **Excellent student to staff ratio**
- **2 grants** awarded to first-year students, 1 per curriculum



# Job opportunities LM-56

- International organizations (WB, IMF, OECD, EU, etc)
- Finance (banks, insurance companies, etc.)
- Private Sector Companies (multinationals, consulting firms, etc.)
- Public servants (central and local administrations)
- Central banks (national and European)
- National and international NGOs
- Economic research centers
- Teaching Economics and Law in high school
- PhD, Academic career



# Job Placement (I)

Graduates of the MSc have very good job placements, for instance:

## Private sector

Capgemini S.p.A, Deloitte, Findomestic Banca SpA, Accenture, MedTech Europe-Brussels, CCH® Tagetik, Menarini, Monte dei Paschi di Siena Capital Services, Fincantieri, ATMOSphere-Brussels, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)-Brussels, Starkmacher e.V.-Germany, Pagasa Social Center-Philippines, Lilly, General Electric, Louis Vuitton, Amazon, Alten Italia, Baker Hughes, JSB Solutions, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Unicoop...

## International Organizations and Central Banks

European Central Bank, Bank of Italy, UNCTAD-WTO, UNICEF, FAO, World Bank,...



# Job Placement (II)

## Social sector

Starkmacher e.V.-Germany,  
Pagasa Social Center-  
Philippines, AMU Azione  
Mondo Unito, Action Aid,  
PerMicro,...

## Research centers and Public sector

CNR, Sace Simest Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Centro Studi Confindustria, RAI - Radiotelevisione italiana S.p.A., European Institute of the Mediterranean, School of Public Health (UofA – CUP)-Canada, MEF- Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies-European University Institute, ARCO research center, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)-Brussels, IRPET, IFEL,...



# PhD admission

## Graduates of the MSc have entered PhD programs at the following Universities

### In Italy

University of Bologna  
Delos University of Florence  
Pegasus University of Florence&Pisa&Siena  
IMT Lucca  
Università Politecnica delle Marche  
Bicocca University -- Milan  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Milan  
Università Federico II -- Naples  
University La Sapienza Rome  
University of Roma Tor Vergata  
University of Pisa  
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna – Pisa  
University of Trento  
Collegio Carlo Alberto -- University of Turin  
University of Insubria -- Varese  
University Ca' Foscari – Venice  
PhD Statistics University of Florence

### Abroad

European University Institute (Florence)  
Toulouse School of Economics (France)  
Goethe University of Frankfurt (Germany)  
University of Goettingen (Germany)  
University of Mannheim (Germany)  
TUM School of Social Sciences and  
Technology (Germany)  
Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute and  
University of Groningen (Netherlands)  
University Carlos III, Madrid (Spain)  
University of Hertfordshire (UK)  
University of Reading (UK)  
University of Surrey (UK)  
Brown University (US)

One MSc professor organizes meetings with students interested in entering a PhD program (one meeting hosts current PhD students who graduated in the MSc) and is available to advise and help them in preparing their applications

# Admission Requirements

- 1 For holders of an Italian BA, BA grade not below 99/110; for holders of non-Italian BA, a threshold is identified by the Admission Committee**

Candidates who do not satisfy this condition may be asked to sit for an interview with the Admission Committee, based on a syllabus available with suitable advance.

- 2 ECTS earned during bachelor studies: At least 18 ECTS in Economics, 6 in Math, 6 in Statistics, plus 18 additional ECTS in Business / Economics / Law / Math / Pol Science / Stat, plus B2 English**

Bachelor graduates from Unifi in Economia e Commercio, or Seci, or Economia Aziendale, or SusBus satisfy these conditions.

Missing ECTS can be earned by enrolling in single courses of UniFi indicated by the Admission Committee.

# Two curricula

- \* **Curriculum Economics**
- \* **Curriculum Development Economics**
- \* **Free study plan: Intermediate between the curricula**



# Curriculum Economics

## For whom?

**Track in Economics** For students who want to learn the tools of economics and econometrics to analyze major economic issues, to formulate or evaluate economic policies at micro or macro level, and to conduct theoretical and applied research in economics.

**Track in Behavioural Economics** For students interested in theoretical and experimental analysis of individual behaviors and institutions, taking into account the effects of psychological, cognitive, emotional, cultural and social factors.

### **Two double degree programs:**

One with the MSc in European Economic Studies of UBamberg, Germany  
One with the International Master in Public Policies of URennes, France.

**Career opportunities** Ideal background for work as a professional economist in a wide range of positions in private economic consultancy agencies, business, finance, central banking, national and international organizations and governments, or for pursuing a PhD program in Economics.



# Curriculum Economics

## Both Tracks in Economics and Behavioural Economics

<b>First year</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Ects</b>	<b>Sem</b>
	Game Theory and Microeconomics	9	1
	Advanced Microeconomics	6	2
	Advanced Macroeconomics	9	2
	Mathematics for Economics	9	1
	Statistical inference	6	1
	Corporate governance & Financial Markets	12	2
	<i>Choose one course from</i>		
	Economic Law	6	1
International Law	6	1	

## Curriculum Economics

## Track in Economics

Second  
year

Course	Ects	Sem
Political Economy	6	1
<i>Choose two courses from</i>		
Behavioural and Social Evolution	6	1
Macroeconometrics	6	1
Microeconometrics	6	1
<i>Choose one course from</i>		
Behavioural Economics	6	2
Coding for Economists	6	2
Computational Economics	6	2
International Trade	6	1
Labour Economics and Gender	6	1
Regulation and Digital Markets	6	1
<i>Choose 6 ectS from</i>		
Econometrics Lab	6	2
Economics Lab	6	2
Mathematics Laboratory	6	1-2
R Lab	3	1
Stata Lab	3	2
Statistics Lab	3	1
<i>Optional courses and/or Traineeship</i>	12	
Final Exam (thesis)	21	

# Specializations (12 ects optional courses)

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

## FINANCE

COMPUTATIONAL FINANCE

QUANTITATIVE RISK MANAGEMENT

## STATISTICS

FUNDAMENTALS OF MACHINE LEARNING

STATISTICAL LEARNING FOR DATA SCIENCE

# Curriculum Economics

## Track in Behavioural Economics

		Course	Ects	Sem
<b>Second year</b>		Political Economy	6	1
		Behavioural and Social Evolution	6	1
		Behavioural Economics	6	2
		Microeconometrics	6	1
		<i>Choose 6 ect</i> s from		
		Econometrics Lab	6	2
		Economics Lab	6	2
		Mathematics Laboratory	6	
		R Lab	3	1
		Stata Lab	3	2
		Statistics Lab	3	1
	<i>Optional courses and/or Internship</i>	12		
	Final Exam (thesis)	21		

# Double Degrees for curriculum Economics

Jointly with MSc in European Economic Studies at UBamberg  
International Master in Public Policies at URennes

- 1<sup>st</sup> year students can apply to enter these programs.
- Five + five positions are available each year.
- Selection occurs in February, based on BA final grade, 1<sup>st</sup> semester exams, motivation letter.
- The selected students spend their 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Bamberg / Rennes. By completing the program, they earn 2 MSc degrees.

**Why apply?** Standard answers Gain international experience, Become more competitive in labor market, Build international networks.

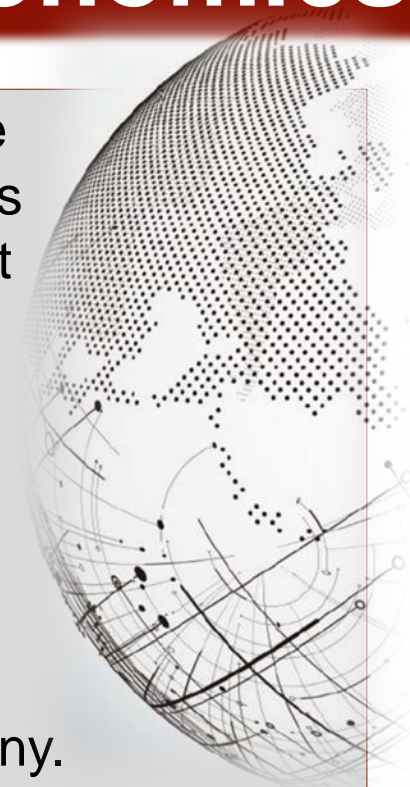
Specific answer for UBamberg: Rich offer of courses in 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Bamberg;  
for URennes: Specialization in Public Economics.

# Curriculum Development Economics

**For whom?** For students interested in understanding the economies of less developed countries, why some countries manage to grow and reduce poverty but others do not, what are the drivers of successful economic development and the causes for stagnation, the design and evaluation of policies that promote sustainable/inclusive growth, education for all, global health, food security, reduce income inequality, gender inequality, conflict, ...

**Double degree** Offered jointly with the MSc in Development Economics of University of Göttingen, Germany.

**Career opportunities** Ideal background for work as a professional development economist in national/international agencies, civil service appointments, NGOs, and private sector companies with interests in developing countries, or for pursuing a PhD program in Development Economics.



# Curriculum Development Economics

	Course	Ects	Sem
<b>First year</b>	Development Microeconomics	9	1
	Health and Education Economics	6	1
	Development Macroeconomics	9	2
	Statistical Inference	9	1
	<i>Choose one course from</i>		
	Mathematical Methods for Economic Analysis	6	1
	Measurement and Causes of Poverty	6	2
	Human Development and International Cooperation	6	1
	Corporate governance & Finance for Development	12	2
	<i>Choose 6 Ects from</i>		
	Econometrics Lab	6	2
	Economics Lab	6	2
	English for Economics	6	1
Mathematical Methods Lab	3	1	
R Lab	3	1	
Spanish	6	1	
Stata Lab	3	2	

# Curriculum Development Economics

	Course	Ects	Sem
<b>Second year</b>	International Trade	6	1
	<i>Choose one course from</i>		
	Economic Law	6	1
	International Law	6	1
	<i>Choose two courses from</i>		
	Agriculture Development and Poverty	6	1
	Agri-food Economics	6	2
	Economic History of Globalisation	6	1
	Economics of Innovation	6	2
	Elements of Policy Evaluation Methods	6	1
	Environment and Development	6	2
	History of Economic Thought	6	2
	International Conflict Transformation	6	1
	Labour Economics and Gender	6	1
	Local and Industrial Development	6	2
	Microeconometrics	6	1
	Politics of Globalisation and Human Rights	6	2
<i>Optional courses and/or Internship</i>	12		
Final Exam (thesis)	21		

# Double Degree for curriculum Dev. Economics

## Jointly with MSc in Development Economics University of Göttingen, Germany

- 1<sup>st</sup> year students can apply to enter this program.
- Five slots are available each year.
- Selection occurs in February, based on BA final grade, 1<sup>st</sup> semester exams, motivation letter.
- Selected students spend their 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Göttingen. By completing the program, they earn two MSc degrees.

**Why apply?** Standard answers: Gain international experience, Become more competitive in labor market, Build international networks.

Specific answer: Rich offer of courses in 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Göttingen.

# Some students engage in traineeship: Examples



BANCA D'ITALIA



A Mathematica Company



# Erasmus+ program

Exams, traineeship, and thesis abroad

## Destinations

- EU countries: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Spain, ...
- non-EU countries: Australia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Turkey, UK, US, ...



# Titles of some MSc theses

- **Democratic Backsliding – The Subnational Impact of Chinese Development Aid on Democratic Values in Sub-Saharan Africa**
- **Climate-Conflict nexus: A microeconomic analysis of causal pathways in Burkina Faso**
- **The impact of populist regimes in net foreign direct investment inflow**
- **Pandemics as health shocks: The dynamics of health and economic activities over time**
- **Fiscal Federalism and Tax Competition. The Case of the Italian Intergovernmental Transfers**
- **Social Networks and Labor Market: a Model of Job Search and Information Transmission through Word-of-Mouth Communication**
- **Gender Gaps and the Sandwich Generation in the Italian Labor Market**
- **Collusion in times of Shrinkflation**
- **On the individual incentives to bundle in oligopoly, published in Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization 2021**
- **General equilibrium and altruistic preferences, published in Decisions in Economics and Finance 2025**
- **Brexit: the economic consequences of leaving Single Market**
- **Heterogeneous expectations in a behavioural New Keynesian model with fiscal policy**
- **The impact of monetary policy on the financial market: Evidence from the UK**
- **Gaussian mixture models to assess the convergence of EU regions**

# Additional international activities

- **The Econometric Game**
- **SIMUVACTION on Artificial Intelligence**
- **Syracuse University in Florence**

# UniFi at the Econometric Game

UniFi has been selected to participate in the latest editions of the Econometric Game, held in Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
Each year, one of our students is in the Unifi team

**Our Team  
for year 2024**



**Our Team  
for year 2023**



**Our Team  
for year 2025**



**Our Team  
year 2026**

# Universities participating in the Econometric Game 2025

Aarhus	Leibniz (Hannover)
Aix Marseille	Maastricht
Amsterdam	Orleans
Antwerp	Oxford
Athens	Institut Polytechnique de Paris
Bologna	Poznan
Cambridge	SciencesPo (Paris)
Carlos III (Madrid)	Seoul
Copenhagen	Shg School of Economics (Warsaw)
Erasmus (Rotterdam)	Singapore
Florence	Southampton
Gent	St. Gallen
Groningen	Stockholm School of Economics
Harvard	Toronto
Lausanne	Warsaw

# Simuvaction on Artificial Intelligence

Some students of the MSc participated in years 2023, 2024, 2025 in  
**SIMUVACTION on Artificial Intelligence**  
In year 2026: AI and Education on a Global Stage,  
in Paris-Versailles (France), March 22-27

## SIMUVACTION 2023



Students from across the world  
write, debate, and vote about  
global governance of AI

## SIMUVACTION 2024



## SIMUVACTION 2025



# SIMUVACTION on Artificial Intelligence: List of partners and participants



## SIMUVACTION on AI, 2026 AI and Education

### Academic Partners

- Emory University, GA, USA
- University of Florida, FL, USA
- Georgia State University, USA
- Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada
- Université du Québec à Rimouski, Canada
- Polytechnique, Montréal, Canada
  
- Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil
  
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Al Buraimi University College, Oman
- Karunya University, India
- Presidency University, India
  
- Institut Catholique de Paris, France
- ISEP, Ecole d'Ingénierie du Numérique, Paris, France
- Université de Tours, France
- University of Florence, Italy
- Leiden University, Netherlands
- International Digital Dialogues Fellowship Program, Germany
- Ecole Hexagone, Versailles, France



# Syracuse University in Florence



**Two courses of the MSc in  
Economics and Development are  
given at SUF**

*International Conflict Transformation  
History of Economic Thought*

**Some SUF Students attend  
the courses of the MSc  
in Economics and Development  
at UNIFI**



# The Team

- **Director:** Domenico Menicucci (domenico.menicucci@unifi.it)
- **Admissions:**  
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- **Administration:** Barbara Brunelli (english.msc@economia.unifi.it)

# Speeches by 4 students

Sara Dominici

Chiara Musano

Martina Piccardi

Alessandro Guazzini

# Sara Dominici

Graduated in April 2025 (curriculum Development Economics) with a thesis on an index on measuring poverty and deprivation in Tuscany.

Now is research assistant at

Bocconi University (Milan)

working on educational poverty and the economics of education.

# Chiara Musano

Graduated in October 2025 (curriculum Development Economics) with a thesis on Agriculture Productivity in Tanzania.

She is about to start an internship at  
FAO (Rome)

The Food and Agriculture Organization is an agency of the United Nations (headquartered in Rome) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger, improve nutrition, ensure food security.

# Martina Piccardi

Graduated in April 2025 (curriculum Economics) with a thesis on integration policies for migrants.

Now is

Junior Researcher and Data Scientist at PPMI

PPMI (<https://ppmi.it/>) is a Vilnius-based research center mainly working for the European Commission.

Martina works from remote as data analyst and performs theoretical analysis on innovation and sustainability. She is happy with the knowledge of Econometrics she earned in this MSc.

# Alessandro Guazzini

Graduated in October 2025 (curriculum Economics) with a thesis on collusion among firms and shrinkflation.

Now is applying to enter a PhD program in Economics