

MA Economics Collaborative Programme with the African Economic Research Consortium - SH540

1. Context and Objectives

This is a high-calibre, 2-year part-time Masters programme in Economics offered by the University of Mauritius in close collaboration with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC – website: www.aercafrica.org), a public, non-profit-making organization devoted to advanced economic research and training, based in Nairobi, Kenya. Students will spend the first year at the University of Mauritius, where they will take 4 core modules and sit for the examinations. On successful completion of the core modules, students will travel to Nairobi around late June to take 2 elective modules over one semester (3 months) at the Joint Facility for Electives (JFE). Finally, they will return to the University of Mauritius to prepare their MA thesis during the 4th semester.

All fees relating to the programme are payable to the University of Mauritius. However, the AERC, as per past practice, will meet tuition costs for all students at the JFE, Nairobi. In addition, the AERC will take care of the travel and accommodation costs for students not sponsored by their employer. The JFE is a modern campus, complete with dorms, computer labs and sports facilities, including a swimming pool, and is well secured. All meals are provided free of charge in buffet style, catering for a variety of dietary preferences. The AERC provides health coverage to all students and offers a modest stipend for incidental expenses.

This programme offers solid training in economics and is targeted to those who intend to work as economists, teachers/lecturers or consultants in the private or public sector as well as those who wish to pursue a PhD in economics. It provides an excellent opportunity for Mauritians to mix with students of different cultures and interact with African and international professors.

The objectives of the MA Economics programme are:

- To provide advanced training in economic theory and methods to prepare individuals for key positions of responsibility in policy analysis and economic management in Government as well as in the private sector and institutions of higher learning.
- To prepare a select group of individuals for doctoral-level work through rigorous training in theory, methods and applications.
- To develop the ability to identify problems and the capacity for decision-making, leading to practical solutions.
- To enhance the individual's capacity to meet emerging challenges within an organisation with a view to increasing domestic and international competitiveness in a rapidly changing global environment.

2. Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, students should be able to:

- Relate to advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics principles.
- Apply quantitative techniques and research methods.
- Formulate mathematical economic models and quantify model parameters from data.
- Use econometric and mathematical techniques.
- Evaluate existing economic models for theoretical and practical problem solving.
- Undertake applied work and research projects in economics.

- Analyse relevant literature in different areas namely international and financial economics, public economics, development economics, labour and monetary economics, amongst others and draw the connection between theory and empirical conditions.

3. Teaching and Learning Methods

As far as possible, a blended approach will be used. These might include among others: face to face lectures, e-learning (moodle), problem based learning, case studies, document analysis, practical lab sessions (where applicable), assignments, seminars, tutorials, open learning materials, textbooks and independent study as well as collaborative learning.

4. Entry Requirements

General

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with

- (i) at least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable or
- (ii) a GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognised higher education institution.

Or alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius

Programme Specific

At least a Second Class Honours Degree in Economics, or any other social science discipline of which Economics is a major component, or alternative qualifications acceptable to the Department of Economics and Statistics, from a recognised University.

General and Programme Requirements - Special Cases

The following may be deemed to have satisfied the general and programme requirements for admission:

- (i) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations above but who submit satisfactory evidence of having passed examinations which are deemed by the Senate to be equivalent to any of those listed.
- (ii) Applicants who do not satisfy any of the requirements as per Regulations above but who in the opinion of Senate submit satisfactory evidence of the capacity and attainments requisite to enable them to pursue the programme proposed.
- (iii) Applicants who hold a full practising professional qualification obtained by examination.

5. Programme Duration

Minimum: 2 years; Maximum: 4 years

6. Minimum LCCS Credits Required for Degree Award: 90

	Core	Electives	Dissertation	Total
Master Degree	48	24	18	90
Postgraduate Diploma	48	24	-	72
Postgraduate Certificate	48	-	-	48

For Each Academic Year

Year	LCCS Credits
1	48
2	42
Total	90

7. Assessment and Deadlines

Continuous and Written Assessment of Modules

All core modules will be taught over the course of two semesters, and examined at the University of Mauritius at the end of the academic year. Upon successful completion of the core modules, students will, in the month of July, travel to Nairobi to take two elective modules over one semester in a centralised facility, called the Joint Facility for Electives (JFE). The continuous assessment and written exams for the two electives will take place at the JFE.

Students are expected to return to the University of Mauritius to commence work on their thesis or research paper, the successful completion of which may take between 6 to 12 months.

For the core modules taken at the University of Mauritius:

- (i) Continuous assessment can be based on seminars and/or assignments and shall include at least 1 class test.
- (ii) The continuous assessment will count for 40 to 50% of the overall percentage mark of the module(s). Examinations will count for 50 to 60% of the overall percentage mark of the module(s).
- (iii) No retake examinations will be organised. Instead, students will be allowed to carry forward a maximum of three modules at any point in time and will be allowed to sit for the examinations with the next cohort of students.
- (iv) All modules carry their own credit value.
- (v) All modules will be run after 2.00 p.m.

Electives Modules taken in Nairobi

For a student to pass a module, a minimum of 50% should be attained.

Submission Deadlines for Dissertation

- First Draft: End of July in the Final Year
- Final Copy: Last working day of August in the Final Year by 4 p.m. at latest

Three copies of the dissertation (two spiral-bound copies and one soft copy in a single PDF text file on electronic storage media) should be submitted to the Faculty/Centre Registry and in addition, a soft copy of the dissertation in a single PDF text file should be uploaded on the “Turnitin Platform” in the final assignment submission link indicated by the Programme/Project Coordinator.

Repeat and Termination of Registration

If the CPA of a student is $< 40\%$ for an academic year, s/he will have to repeat the entire academic year, and retake modules as and when offered. However, s/he will not be required, if s/he wishes, to retake modules for which **Grade C** or above has been obtained.

Students will be allowed to repeat **only once** over the entire duration of the Programme of Studies.

Registration of a student will be terminated if

- (i) the CPA $< 40\%$ at the end of an academic year and the student has already repeated one year of study; or
- (ii) the maximum duration allowed for completion of the Programme of Studies has been exceeded.

8. List of Modules

CODE	MODULE NAME	Contact Hrs L + P+T	Self Study	Other learning	LCCS Credits
CORE MODULES					
ECON 5013	Advanced Microeconomics	60	120	180	12
ECON 5022	Advanced Macroeconomics	60	120	180	12
ECON 5023	Quantitative Methods	60	120	180	12
ECON 5024	Research Methods and Computer Applications	60	120	180	12
ECON 6000	Dissertation				18
ELECTIVES (offered at the JFE Nairobi)					
AERC 6001	Agricultural Economics				12
AERC 6002	Corporate Finance and Investment				12
AERC 6003	Econometrics Theory and Practice				12
AERC 6004	Environmental Economics				12
AERC 6005	Game Theory and Information Economics				12
AERC 6006	Health Economics				12
AERC 6007	Industrial Economics				12
AERC 6008	International Economics				12
AERC 6009	Labour Economics				12
AERC 6010	Managerial Economics				12
AERC 6011	Monetary Theory and Practice				12
AERC 6012	Public Sector Economics				12

Note: Contact hours for the electives vary from one elective to another. On average, they range from 7 to 8 hours a week over 14 weeks.

9. Programme Plan – MA Economics (Collaborative)

YEAR 1

CODE	MODULE NAME	Contact Hrs L + P+T	LCCS Credits
CORE MODULES			
ECON 5013	Advanced Microeconomics	30	12
ECON 5022	Advanced Macroeconomics	30	12
ECON 5023	Quantitative Methods	30	12
ECON 5024	Research Methods and Computer Applications	30	12
SUB TOTAL			48

YEAR 2

CODE	MODULE NAME	Hrs/Wk L + P+T	LCCS Credits
ECON 6000	Dissertation		18
ELECTIVES	<u>Choose ANY 2 from the following 12 electives (Note: These electives are offered at the JFE in Nairobi):</u>		
AERC 6001	Agricultural Economics		12
AERC 6002	Corporate Finance and Investment		12
AERC 6003	Econometrics Theory and Practice		12
AERC 6004	Environmental Economics		12
AERC 6005	Game Theory and Information Economics		12
AERC 6006	Health Economics		12
AERC 6007	Industrial Economics		12
AERC 6008	International Economics		12
AERC 6009	Labour Economics		12
AERC 6010	Managerial Economics		12
AERC 6011	Monetary Theory and Practice		12
AERC 6012	Public Sector Economics		12
SUB TOTAL			42
TOTAL			90