Economics

Master of Science (Single Subject)

Website: www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/econmaster/

English-taught degree program
Start
Winter semester and summer semester.

Regular period of study
4 semesters.

Application
Application required.

German and international applicants must follow the same application procedure (See “Application Process”)

Admission Requirements
Admission to the MSc in Economics is determined by a selection procedure that assesses a student’s suitability for the program. The examination board reviews individually whether applicants are able to fulfill the requirements for participation in the program. (see below).

In addition, since winter term 2015/16 on there is restricted admission according to grade (“Numerus clausus”). Based on the average grade (at a bachelor level), the best applicants will be selected for participation in the program.

The requirements for admission are:

- A bachelor’s degree in economics or a related discipline (business, statistics, mathematics, political science, international relations, etc.) with a regular period of study of at least six semesters (180 ECTS credit points). Currently, we require that applicants provide previous coursework in their bachelor’s degrees of at least 40 ECTS in economics and 15 ECTS in statistics/econometrics and mathematics.

- Good command of the English language, as the medium of instruction in the program is English. Accepted proof of English proficiency may be found at www.rub.de/econmaster

German language proficiency is neither required nor is it necessary to complete the program. However, students with German language proficiency may opt to take certain German-taught modules, such as German Economic Law.

About the Program
The Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Economics at the Faculty of Management and Economics is an accredited two-year degree program that provides students with thorough knowledge of modern economic theories, concepts and techniques. While the Department of Economics has a firm commitment to economic theory, the main focus is on applied economics and economic policy analysis. The program is designed to enable students to identify the economic content of a problem, develop hypotheses, apply appropriate analytical tools and models, and develop policy alternatives. The full-time program is taught in English and may be commenced twice a year, in the summer or winter semester. Apart from an administrative fee of approx. 300 Euro per semester, there are no tuition fees to study at Ruhr-University Bochum.

Flexibility is a key characteristic of the M.Sc. in Economics. Besides six core modules, students are offered a wide range of elective courses to choose from. The flexible, modular structure of the program allows for a significant amount of specialization in line with individual abilities and interests. For those students who wish to follow a certain study scheme during their master’s studies, the program offers two specializations, namely "International Economics and Finance" and "Economic Policy".

Advice / Assistance
Web-Site for further information:
www.rub.de/econmaster/Contact.html

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RUB International Student Services
Additional information and tips about studying and living in Germany; tutors, social assistance.
international.rub.de/rubiss/index.html.en

RUB International Office
The International Office (IO) is responsible for the university’s international activities. It offers advice and counseling for both foreign students studying in Bochum, and students at the university wishing to study or find an internship abroad. international.rub.de/intoff/index.html.en
The strong interaction between teaching faculty and students, as well as the small group size, guarantee a stimulating academic environment and optimal learning conditions. The M.Sc. in Economics provides students with both theoretical and practical knowledge that is essential to take up interesting positions in the private sector and in public institutions.

Moreover, the M.Sc. in Economics has a strong international orientation. As the program is taught in English, it gives local students the opportunity to develop professional English language skills necessary to work at international organizations, while at the same time attracting international students to study an English-taught program in Germany. Students also have the opportunity to study abroad at one of RUB’s partner universities and take part in the faculty’s international summer school.

Finally, the M.Sc. in Economics also serves as an excellent preparatory degree for those students wishing to move on to a PhD program.

Program Structure
The M.Sc. in Economics is a two-year (four-semester) degree program. The first three semesters are scheduled for coursework while the fourth semester is reserved for the master’s thesis. A total of 120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credit points have to be acquired, which implies a workload of 30 ECTS credits per semester. In order to graduate, students need to earn 90 ECTS through coursework and 30 ECTS through the master’s thesis. Considering the variety of courses offered the program differentiates between:

- **Core Modules**: Macroeconomics I and II, Microeconomics I and II (5 ECTS per module) and Econometrics and Microeconometrics (10 ECTS per module). Students have to obtain at least 30 ECTS out of the six core modules during their studies. The core modules provide students with a solid knowledge base in economics at master’s level which they can later complement with more specialized electives.

- **Specialized Modules**: Every year there are about 20 different specialized economics electives offered in the fields of Applied and Theoretical Microeconomics, Empirical Economics, Energy Economics, International and Development Economics, Macroeconomics and Finance, Economic Policy etc. The class size in specialized modules is usually small (10-30 students).

Furthermore, students have the option to take up to 15 ECTS in courses offered by the Department of Management or in economics-related courses offered by other faculties at Ruhr-University Bochum, Technical University Dortmund or University Duisburg-Essen (University Alliance Metropolis Ruhr, UAMR). If students opt for one of the two specializations, they need to complete 40 ECTS in electives that give credit to the respective specialization and write your master’s thesis in that specialization. Of course, you can also choose modules according to your own preferences without obtaining any specializations. All modules offered in the MSc in Economics are electives; not including the Core Modules. An overview of all economics modules may be found in the student handbook at www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/econmaster/Download.html

Career prospects
A master’s degree in economics provides you with a wide array of subject-specific and transferable skills, such as analytical, problem-solving, numeracy, communication and computing skills. All these skills are much sought-after by employers in the private sector and in public institutions alike, such as international organizations, ministries, banks, think tanks and research institutes. Employers will value your understanding of decision-making, your acquired skills and your experience of viewing problems in a domestic and international context.

Ultimately, our students will be equipped with the knowledge they need, in order to build exciting and fulfilling careers.

Application Process
Both, German and international applicants, have the same application procedure. In order to apply for the M.Sc. in Economics, you need to follow two steps:
1) Apply online through Ruhr-University Bochum’s online application system.
2) After applying online send all required documents by post to Ruhr-University Bochum’s admission office.

Applications via Email are NOT accepted!

The application deadlines are:
- July 15th for the winter semester starting October 1st
- January 15th for the summer semester starting April 1st

From winter term 2015/16 on there will be no option of late submission anymore!

Please refer to www.rub.de/econmaster for detailed information on admission requirements, the application process and the required application documents.

Admission Notification
Applicants will be notified through the online application system approximately three weeks after the application deadlines have passed. Applications are only reviewed after the application deadlines have passed, not on a first-come first-serve basis. For more information please refer to www.rub.de/econmaster.

Mandatory Counseling ("Obligatorisches Beratungsgespräch")
Mandatory counseling with the respective Program Coordinator is a stipulation by RUB without which you cannot enroll. It has to be conducted after applicants receive an admission letter in order to plan his or her studies. Prospective students can receive mandatory counseling on certain days during the enrolment period. The exact dates will be announced on our website and on your admission letters.

Additional Links
Faculty of Management and Economics - www.wiwi.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/
Economics department - www.economics.rub.de/
RUB international student services - international.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/rubiss/index.html.en
RUB international portal - international.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/index.html.en
University Sports Bochum - www.hochschulsport-bochum.de/hochschulsport/siteactive.html.en
AKAFÖ student service (accommodation, cafeterias, Bafög) - www.akafoe.de/index-lang-en.html