



# ECON8016

## Health Economics and Policy

Session 2, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Department of Economics*

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#### Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor and Lecturer

Kompal Sinha

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Room 442 Building E4A

By appointment

Moderator

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MActPrac or ECON632 or ECON6032 or ECON649 or ECON6049 or ECON991 or ECON8091

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ECON7016

Unit description

This unit is aimed at students interested in pursuing careers in the field of health economics, health policy or health technology assessment, or students interested in understanding the economics of health and health policy. The unit will introduce students to economic tools and their application relevant to the understanding of the economics of health and health care. Adopting a microeconomic approach, the unit will cover economic and statistical concepts and techniques relevant to the understanding of health economics. Topics covered will include supply and demand for health, information and insurance markets, key players in the health care sector, social insurance, the economics of health innovation (pharmaceuticals, technology and health technology assessment), health policy, health systems around the world, the economics and policy of bads, public health economics, behavioural health economics, health and economic development and the case of Aboriginal health.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to health systems.

**ULO2:** Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.

**ULO3:** Evaluate health as a unique economic good, and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.

**ULO4:** Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.

**ULO5:** Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

## Assessment Tasks

| Name                                 | Weighting | Hurdle | Due                           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Research Report</a>      | 40%       | No     | Week 12                       |
| <a href="#">Presentation</a>         | 15%       | No     | Week 10                       |
| <a href="#">Health policy debate</a> | 15%       | No     | Week 13                       |
| <a href="#">Final exam</a>           | 30%       | No     | University examination period |

## Research Report

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Report

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are required to prepare a 4000-word research report on the assigned policy topic. Alternatively, students may formulate their own topic for the report, but this will need to be negotiated with the lecturer.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to health systems.
- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
- Evaluate health as a unique economic good, and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.
- Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

## Presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 8 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **15%**

Each student is assigned a task of preparing and presenting a literature review on the pre-assigned topic. The suggested topics will be posted on iLearn in Week 1. Each student is required to prepare and present a power point aided presentation in Week 10.

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- Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

## Health policy debate

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Debate

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 8 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **15%**

Students will be assigned a health policy question in week 2. Each student will be required to work on this health policy topic throughout the session, and participate in the class debate in Week 13. A short 2 page summary of their case should be handed in at the beginning of the

debate in Week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to health systems.
- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
- Evaluate health as a unique economic good, and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.
- Effectively communicate theories and knowledge of health economics in technical and non-technical language.

## Final exam

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Examination

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **University examination period**

Weighting: **30%**

A two-hour final exam will be held during the University Examination Period. The exam will cover all material and topics covered during the unit. The exam format will be discussed in class during week 13.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate the importance of health economics and its relevance to health systems.
- Apply theoretical knowledge of applied microeconomics to health economics.
- Evaluate health as a unique economic good, and the role of market players, market imperfections and the government.
- Critically analyse the role of health economics in the design of health policy across the world.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

Required and recommended text: Bhattacharya, J., Hyde, T., & Tu, P. (2013). Health economics. Macmillan International Higher Education.

Folland, S., A. Goodman and M. Stano, The Economics of Health and Health Care, (8th Ed), Pearson.

These textbooks are available for purchase at Co-op Bookshop. A small number are available on reserve in the library. Earlier editions are similar but page references may change.

Teaching and learning resources

- Course material is available on the iLearn unit page.
- Students will be required to read journal articles every week.
- The list of these articles will be posted on iLearn unit page.
- Students will need a PC/Tablet.
- Students will use MS-Office for this unit.
- Students will need to be familiar with platforms for online communications such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams.

## Unit Schedule

Check unit iLearn space for weekly schedule for this unit.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/)

[offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](#).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#).  
The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.