



# ECON3000

## Public Economics

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

*Department of Economics*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>General Assessment Information</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Unit Schedule</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	6

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#### **Disclaimer**

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

#### **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

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### Credit points

10

### Prerequisites

130cp at 1000 level or above including (ECON110 or ECON111 or ECON1020) and 20cp at 2000 level

### Corequisites

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

This unit discusses the major traditional areas of taxation and public expenditure as well as emerging issues relating to public economics in a globalised world economy. Topics may include: taxation; public expenditure; public sector pricing; benefit-cost analysis; fiscal federalism; along with entirely new areas of research and inquiry that have recently emerged.

## 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:** Examine critical issues and processes evolving in the economics of the public

sector.

**ULO2:** Review changing local and global government intervention issues, structures and policies.

**ULO3:** Explain the working of the public policy issues in the wider democratic process.

**ULO4:** Analyse the requirements and roles of the public sector in a decentralised market economy.

**ULO5:** Evaluate the necessity and effects of government fiscal decisions.

## General Assessment Information

No extensions on within-session assessment tasks or the final examination will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the due date will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which a formal application for Special Consideration is made (via <http://www.ask.mq.edu.au>) and approved.

During Quiz weeks (Weeks 4, 8, and 12), Quizzes will be released on iLearn at 9 am on Monday and will close at 5 pm the following Sunday.

The Essay will be available on iLearn in week 3 and will be due by 3 pm on Friday of Week 8.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Online assessments</a>	30%	No	Weeks 4, 8 and 12
<a href="#">Essay</a>	20%	No	Week 8
<a href="#">Final exam</a>	50%	No	Exam period

### Online assessments

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **Weeks 4, 8 and 12**

Weighting: **30%**

There will be three online quizzes, each worth 10%.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the working of the public policy issues in the wider democratic process.
- Analyse the requirements and roles of the public sector in a decentralised market

economy.

- Evaluate the necessity and effects of government fiscal decisions.

## Essay

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **20%**

The 2,500 word essay is designed to develop your understanding of the different ways in which government policies affect the economy.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine critical issues and processes evolving in the economics of the public sector.
- Review changing local and global government intervention issues, structures and policies.

## Final exam

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 40 hours

Due: **Exam period**

Weighting: **50%**

A two-hour exam will be held during the end of session formal exam period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine critical issues and processes evolving in the economics of the public sector.
- Review changing local and global government intervention issues, structures and policies.
- Explain the working of the public policy issues in the wider democratic process.
- Analyse the requirements and roles of the public sector in a decentralised market economy.
- Evaluate the necessity and effects of government fiscal decisions.

<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

### Delivery and Resources

Prescribed textbook

Students are recommended to purchase the following textbook:

- Gruber, J, (2020) *Public Finance and Public Policy (6th edition IE)*, Macmillan Higher Education.

The text is available for purchase from Booktopia/Co-op by [clicking here](#).

Additional weekly readings and resources will be made available on the unit iLearn site during the session.

### Technology used and required

The unit uses the learning management system (iLearn) that can be accessed via [iLearn.mq.edu.au](http://iLearn.mq.edu.au).

The iLearn site is also used to post important notices. You should check this regularly. The iLearn web page has the facility to allow peer to peer discussion and also allows students to put questions the teaching staff.

Zoom will be used for all remote consultation sessions. More information about accessing your MQ student Zoom account can be found [here](#)

### Learning and teaching activities

Students are expected to attend the weekly three-hour class. These classes will consist of a mix of lecture material, tutorial questions and class discussions. It is suggested that lecture slides and/or any readings be read in advance.

## Unit Schedule

	Lecture Topic	Assessment Task Due
Week 1	The tools of public economics (guest presentation)	
Week 2	Preliminary theoretical concepts and externalities	
Week 3	Public goods and political economy	

Week 4	Redistribution, poverty and equity implication of tax incidence	Online quiz 1 (10%)
Week 5	Guest presentation	
Week 6	Public policy and education	
Week 7	Climate change and ecologically sustainable development	
Week 8	The creative economy	Online quiz 2 (10%) / Assignment (20%)
Week 9	Cultural heritage and the tourism industry	
Week 10	Public finance I	
Week 11	Public finance II	
Week 12	Policy making and implementation in the developing world	Online quiz 3 (10%)
Week 13	Revision	
Exam Period		Final exam (50%)

## 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 \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

## 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> 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>) 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>

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/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](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.