ECON2041
Introductory Econometrics
Session 1, Special circumstances 2021
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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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.
Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Chris Heaton
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TBA on iLearn

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Credit points
10

Prerequisites
50cp at 1000 level or above including ((STAT150 or STAT1250 or STAT170 or STAT1170 or STAT171 or STAT1371) and (ECON110 or ECON111 or ECON1020))

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces some basic econometric techniques employed by economists in the analysis of economic relationships. These techniques are also used extensively in marketing and finance. Topics covered will usually include: estimation and hypothesis testing; simple and multiple regression; prediction; the interpretation and evaluation of regression models, including an elementary discussion of nonlinear modelling, heteroscedasticity, autocorrelation, multicollinearity and specification error; and the use of categorical or qualitative data in regression models.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

ULO1: Analyse and apply key statistical concepts, including probability distributions, parameters and estimators, the sampling distribution of an estimator, point and interval
estimation, and hypothesis testing.

**ULO2:** Specify, estimate and interpret a regression model.

**ULO3:** Summarise and interpret the estimation results, and draw valid inferences utilising hypothesis tests.

**ULO4:** Critically evaluate the assumptions of a classical (or standard) regression model and the consequences of violation of the assumptions.

**ULO5:** Employ an econometric software program to solve an econometric problem.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial exercises</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Weeks 2-13, Monday 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8, Monday 7am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 12, Monday 7am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online final examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Scheduled by the University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tutorial exercises

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours

Due: **Weeks 2-13, Monday 9am**

Weighting: 10%

Each tutorial assessment covers material from previous lectures, with an emphasis on the most recent work.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Specify, estimate and interpret a regression model.
- Summarise and interpret the estimation results, and draw valid inferences utilising hypothesis tests.
- Employ an econometric software program to solve an econometric problem.

### Assignment 1

Assessment Type 1: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task 2: 16 hours

Due: **Week 8, Monday 7am**
Weighting: 20%

A set of questions requiring both calculation and short written answers. It will be based on material covered in the lectures prior to the submission deadline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Specify, estimate and interpret a regression model.
- Summarise and interpret the estimation results, and draw valid inferences utilising hypothesis tests.
- Employ an econometric software program to solve an econometric problem.

Assignment 2

Assessment Type 1: Problem set
Indicative Time on Task 2: 16 hours
Due: Week 12, Monday 7am
Weighting: 20%

A set of questions requiring both calculation and short written answers. It will be based on material covered in the lectures prior to the submission deadline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Specify, estimate and interpret a regression model.
- Summarise and interpret the estimation results, and draw valid inferences utilising hypothesis tests.
- Employ an econometric software program to solve an econometric problem.

Online final examination

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 35 hours
Due: Scheduled by the University
Weighting: 50%

A 2 hour open book examination, consisting of short answer questions that require both calculation and written responses, will be held during the University Examination Period.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse and apply key statistical concepts, including probability distributions, parameters and estimators, the sampling distribution of an estimator, point and interval estimation, and hypothesis testing.
- Summarise and interpret the estimation results, and draw valid inferences utilising hypothesis tests.
- Critically evaluate the assumptions of a classical (or standard) regression model and the consequences of violation of the assumptions.

1 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 Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 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**

**Classes**

- Online lectures will be available each week. Lecture slides and the data sets used for examples in the lectures will also be available on iLearn. The lectures cover all the material necessary to pass the unit, including some material that is not available in other formats. Consequently, students are expected to study the lectures closely.
- There is a tutorial class held in each week except Week 1. Students must register in a tutorial class and generally will **not** be permitted to attend a tutorial class other than the one in which they are registered. Changes to tutorial enrolments may only be made using the online system subject to available capacity. The Unit Convenor cannot make enrolment changes on behalf of students. Changes to tutorial enrolments generally take up to 24 hours to be reflected on iLearn.
- Students must complete and submit the tutorial exercises each week before the deadline, which will be prior to the first scheduled class each week. The tutorial exercises will be discussed in class. After the completion of the last scheduled class of the week, students will be permitted to re-attempt the tutorial. Details of the marking scheme will be made available on iLearn.
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University website:
Students are expected to study all lectures, attempt the tutorial exercises, attend the tutorials and discuss the unit material, read the text, and attempt the set exercises. It is important that students identify problems that they are having with the unit material each week. If a reasonable but unsuccessful effort has been made to solve a problem, then the student should seek help from the tutor during the tutorial. Outside class time, the best way to get help with a problem is to post it on the online discussion forum.

It is expected that students will spend an average of approximately 10 hours per week working on ECON2041 (including class time).

**Required and Recommended texts and/or materials**


**Additional useful textbooks and resources.**


- A list of prescribed reading will be developed on the website as the unit progresses.
- The data sets used in the textbook and in lectures will be provided on the website.

**Technology Used and Required**

- The main software package used in ECON2041 is Gretl (http://gretl.sourceforge.net/). This software is available for use in the 06EaR computer labs and may be freely downloaded for use elsewhere. The Microsoft Windows version is available at http://gretl.sourceforge.net/win32/. A Mac version is available at http://gretl.sourceforge.net/osx.html. Linux users should check their repositories or download the rpm or source from http://gretl.sourceforge.net/.

- The use of a spreadsheet will often be helpful for tasks in this unit. Microsoft Excel will be used during tutorials and is available for students to use off-campus at https://wiki.mq.edu.au/display/microsoftstu/About;jsessionid=E26834FF0E276C3384E93466EE687514. For students who don’t wish to use Microsoft Excel, free alternatives include

- Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn).
- Announcements will be made regularly on iLearn. Students should ensure that these announcements are forwarded to their email account, which they should check regularly. Staff may also occasionally directly email students. Students should check their email daily.
- Students are strongly advised to check the unit web page regularly for new material and announcements.
- Students will need access to an internet-connected computer capable of streaming video and participating in Zoom meetings.

**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). 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). 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).

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct.
Unit guide  ECON2041 Introductory Econometrics

Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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

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 Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit 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.