



# ECON8016

## Health Economics and Policy

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2023

*Department of Economics*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Kompal Sinha

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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

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.

## General Assessment Information

### Presentation

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 8.

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.
- 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.

### Research Report

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.

### Health policy debate

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.

<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

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Presentation</a>	25%	No	Week 8 (During scheduled lecture time)
<a href="#">Research Report</a>	50%	No	Week 11 (Monday 11:59pm)
<a href="#">Health policy debate</a>	25%	No	Week 13 (During scheduled lecture time)

### Presentation

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 18 hours

Due: **Week 8 (During scheduled lecture time)**

Weighting: **25%**

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.

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.
- 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.

## Research Report

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

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

Due: **Week 11 (Monday 11:59pm)**

Weighting: **50%**

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.

## Health policy debate

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 18 hours

Due: **Week 13 (During scheduled lecture time)**

Weighting: **25%**

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.

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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.
- Reading list for this unit (available on iLearn)

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

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of 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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

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

[dents.mq.edu.au/support/](https://dents.mq.edu.au/support/)

## The Writing Centre

The [Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## 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.