

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

## Specialized Master's degree program

Master of Science: MSc in Economics and Public Policy

The Master of Science in Economics and Public Policy focuses on the economic analysis of markets, political processes, institutions, and government interventions. Public policy challenges are everywhere: How can we combat climate change and shape the economy towards a more sustainable future? Does the rise and dominance of new firms in the digital sector call for strict anti-trust measures? Does increasing concentration of incomes and wealth call for more redistribution or intervention on the labor market? How much government intervention is needed in a crisis like the 2020/21 Covid-19 pandemic?

### Focal Area of Teaching and Research

The curriculum of the Master in Economics and Public Policy provides students with the tools that they need to understand public policy challenges and to develop effective solutions. A series of core courses teach them fundamentals of economics and quantitative methods essential for the analysis of public policy using real-world applications. Moreover, they can specialize in one of three economic policy fields: Energy & the environment, competition & regulation, and health & labor markets. This will sharpen their profile and foster their skills directed towards problem solving in the manifold areas of economic policy. The lecturers are internationally renowned scholars, dedicated researchers, and policy advisers active in these areas.

**Competition and Regulation** Competition is a fundamental force in a market economy. It provides incentives to invent, improve and excel and can be the “rising tide that lifts all boats”. However, competition does not naturally arise in some markets, and firms may have incentives to act strategically to manipulate prices and quantities in their favor. In the field Competition and Regulation, we investigate threats to competition and discuss how rules can be designed to improve market outcomes. Competition is also crucial for the public domain, as political parties compete for voters and local governments for firms and taxpayers. The rules for public competition are determined in the political process and have important implications for taxes, the functioning of markets and our overall wellbeing. This policy field provides you with the tools to understand and analyze various forms of competition and regulation and is an excellent preparation for a career in the private or public sector.

**Environment and Energy** Environmental and energy policy has become one of the most hotly debated policy fields in most industrialized countries. How do we answer the challenge of climate change? Which policies and market designs can be used to facilitate the transition to renewable energy? How can we handle the side effects of an increasing demand for mobility? Such questions are widely discussed in public and policy. How we answer these questions has huge important implications for many firms and strongly influences trade patterns and international relations. In this context, economists provide advice both to public agencies designing policies and to firms deciding on future market strategies that are

policy measures influence firm and consumer behavior, how policies and market designs interact, and how the political process shapes environmental and energy policy.

**Health and Labor** Ageing populations, digitalization and the Corona pandemic have dramatic impacts on the health care system, social security systems, insurance and labor markets. Coping with these impacts is therefore high on the priority list of many countries' political agendas. How can we ensure the sustainability of the health care and pension system with increasing shares of older people? How can we cope with rapidly changing work environments? How can we make sure that workers keep up with changing skill requirements? Such questions are widely discussed in public and policy. How we answer these questions has significant implications for many dimensions of society. Sound answers require a profound understanding of how supply and demand of labor and health care are intertwined with public regulation. Economists provide advice to all relevant players, from policy makers to citizens, firms to unions, and public to private institutions. In this policy field, you can gain detailed insights into how health and labor market policies influence insurance providers, providers of health care, employers, workers and individual behavior in other dimensions. You learn how policies and market designs interact and how the political process shapes policies.

### Course Structure Master Studies

The study program entails achievements totaling 90 credit points of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) and a statutory period of study of three semesters. Part-time study increases the duration of the program accordingly.

Master's degree program Economics and Public Policy	ECTS
Fundamentals in Economics	15
Core Courses in Public Policy	15
Policy Field Policy Field: Competition and Regulation or Policy Field: Environment and Energy or Policy Field: Health and Labor	9
Field Electives	12
Preparation Master Thesis	9
General Electives (only if the master's thesis includes 18 ETCS)	12
Master Thesis	18 or 30
Total	90

One ECTS credit point roughly equals 30 hours of studying

### Course Language

Most lectures are taught in English, some in German. However, the program can be completed by taking only English courses. A level of at least C1 in English is expected.

### Exams

The form of assessment at the Faculty of Business and Economics varies depending on the course. There are primarily end-of-semester examinations, but also seminars and colloquia in which term papers are written and presented. Credit points are only awarded for successful completion of the course.

### Language Stays / Internships

No language stays or internships are required.

### Combination of Subjects

There is no possibility to combine this master with other master programs.

## Start of Program

The Master in Economics and Public Policy is designed as a 3 semester program starting in fall. However, registration is possible either in fall or spring semester. Starting in spring semester may result in an extension to the regular period of study.

## Duration of Study

The master in Economics and Public Policy is designed as a 3 semesters program, which requires 90 ECTS points.

## Career Opportunities

The Master of Economics and Public Policy prepares you for positions in private sector companies that are subject to public policy, in public administration that prepares and implements policy measures, in non-governmental organizations, international organizations and political parties that develop strategies for public policy, and in think tanks or policy consulting agencies that support all of the above actors. The program also serves as a preparation for a career in research and a possible academic track in the broad field of Economics and Public Policy.

By focusing on modern methods and gaining insight into several policy fields, you will be prepared to work in dynamic environments where priorities often change rapidly and where interfaces between policy fields become increasingly important.

## Admission

Holders of a bachelor's degree from a Swiss university will be admitted without additional requirements/conditions provided they can prove the following:

- At least 75 CP of undergraduate knowledge in business and economics, of which 50 CP in economics (microeconomics, macroeconomics, finance, applied economy and econometrics)
- At least 6 CP of undergraduate knowledge in mathematics
- At least 6 CP of undergraduate knowledge in statistics.

In the case of all other bachelor's degrees from recognized higher education institutions, the examination committee will evaluate the equivalence of the required undergraduate knowledge, with the bachelor's degree program in business and economics at the University of Basel being the reference.

The following condition must also be met: The bachelor's degree relevant for admission must have an average grade of at least 5 / unrounded (Swiss grading system 1 to 6, where 6 = max./4 = pass).

As an alternative, holders of a bachelor's degree from a recognized university-level higher education institution may present a current Graduate Record Examination® General Test (or GRE® Test) or a Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT®), provided the results in the areas of "Quantitative Reasoning" and "Analytical Writing" are among the top 30% at least.

For bachelor's degrees that do not have a grade or grade average, the equivalence of the grade to the average grade of at least 5 / unrounded (Swiss grading system 1 to 6, where 6 = max./4 = pass) will be reviewed by the examination commission.

Please see the Study Regulations and the General Study Regulations of the University of Basel for detailed information on admission requirements. Binding information under: [www.unibas.ch/admission](http://www.unibas.ch/admission)

## Application

Application under [www.unibas.ch/application](http://www.unibas.ch/application); the application fee amounts to CHF 100.-. Application deadline for the fall semester is April 30, for the spring semester 30 November.

## Enrollment

The letter of admission also informs students on the procedure of enrollment. In general, students with a Swiss educational background do not have to be present in person for enrollment.

## Tuition fees and scholarships

**Tuition fees** per semester (also for examination semesters): CHF 850.-  
Individual costs of living etc. are not included.

**Scholarships and student loans:** Applications should be sent to the responsible office of the canton in which the parents are eligible to pay their taxes.

## Mobility

Semesters abroad are possible and supported by scholarship programs. The mobility programs facilitate the stay at other Swiss universities or foreign universities. Further information: Student Exchange, Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel, T +41 61 207 30 28, [mobility@unibas.ch](mailto:mobility@unibas.ch)

## Further Information

### Further information concerning the studies

General Information, including the Study Guide for the Master of Science in Economics and Public Policy can be found at: [www.wwz.unibas.ch/de/mepp](http://www.wwz.unibas.ch/de/mepp)

### Information about the University of Basel

- The course directory («Vorlesungsverzeichnis») can be found at: [www.unibas.ch/vv](http://www.unibas.ch/vv)
- Basler Studienführer: [www.studienberatung.unibas.ch](http://www.studienberatung.unibas.ch)
- Homepage: [www.unibas.ch](http://www.unibas.ch)

### Advisory Service MEPP

Rahel Fritz, Peter Merian-Weg 6, 4002 Basel, [mepp-wwz@unibas.ch](mailto:mepp-wwz@unibas.ch)

## Contacts

### Dean of Studies' Office / Faculty of Business and Economics

Peter Merian-Weg 6, 4002 Basel

[www.wwz.unibas.ch/de/studium/studiendekanat/](http://www.wwz.unibas.ch/de/studium/studiendekanat/)

e-mail: [studiendekanat-wwz@unibas.ch](mailto:studiendekanat-wwz@unibas.ch)

### Student Administration Office of the University of Basel

Petersplatz 1, 4001 Basel, T +41 61 207 30 23

[www.unibas.ch](http://www.unibas.ch)

Enquiries: [www.unibas.ch/studseksupportEN](http://www.unibas.ch/studseksupportEN)

### Student Advice Center Basel

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[www.studienberatung.unibas.ch](http://www.studienberatung.unibas.ch)

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