

Information on Courses in Department of Economics

We are very much aware that you are anxious about assessments, and I would like to share with you the information we have regarding upcoming online economics exams.

All undergraduate courses, all MSc/MRes core courses, and most of the other economics courses will be open book take home exams that can be downloaded and submitted within a 24-hour time period via Moodle, most likely on the day of the published exam timetable (conflicts for students may lead to changes). The 24 hour window is designed to accommodate different time zones and those who may face disruption of various kinds. The effort expected to complete each exam will be a few hours, typically in line with the originally scheduled exam.

Most likely there will be no change to the basic format of the exams. We recognize that the online exams will allow you to have access to books or materials, and some examiners may therefore replace simple recall questions that can be easily looked up with alternative simple questions appropriate for an open book exam. Your lecturers will give you more specific information for each course shortly. Let me be clear that it is definitely NOT our intention to make the exams harder. That wouldn't be fair given the challenging circumstances under which you have to study.

Thus, you should study for the upcoming exams in the usual way.

You are required to complete the exam by yourself. This clearly is an honour system type of situation. We will consider, however, a range of safeguards to ensure compliance. We do have experience with take-home assignments and expect to be again successful in detecting those who, by cheating, put their degree at risk.

The unusual circumstances may mean that the mark distributions are different than usual (for example because the exams are open book and open notes). I want to assure you that it will be absolutely no concern to us if this means that mark distributions look much more favourable than usual. You are part of the cohort that had to study and take exams under unusual and challenging circumstances and you will be recognized for that in better days to come.

Finally, hang in there and please get in touch with us if you think we can help you with anything.

PS Just to remind you of key info in the message of our pro-director for education, you are allowed to defer to the August IRDAP exam period (also online) and you are allowed to defer to next year's regular exam cycle when exams will be as usual. Both deferrals will be based on simple self-declaration.