

# EC348-15 Research in Policy Evaluation

**26/27**

**Department**

Economics

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Jo Turrall

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

Multiple

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This is a research-led module and will give students an insight into how economists evaluate policy implementation. The module begins with a review of the evaluation problem and discusses methods that are used to evaluate the outcomes of various interventions. The substantive portion of the module will take a series of recent research papers which are evaluating a policy that has been implemented and explain how the authors used appropriate statistical techniques in order to evaluate the policy.

### Module aims

Students find that the methodological tools at their command often fall short of the problems that economists analyse. This shortcoming sometimes hampers their ability to understand empirical papers in journals and restricts their ability to undertake their own research projects. The aim of this module is to give students a greater appreciation of the range of techniques available for tackling policy implementation questions and to understand how one might choose between alternative solutions.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1 (2 hours Lecture)

Topic: Introduction to the evaluation problem.

Objective: This session will discuss the need for monitoring and evaluation, key concepts of monitoring and evaluation (causality, identification problems, selection on observable and unobservable characteristics), various elements that comprise a sound impact evaluation, data collection strategies, difficulties and limitations.

Week 2-10 (18 hours total)

Topic: Identifying the impact of an intervention

Objective: Within these eight weeks the lectures will take recent policy evaluation research papers and discuss the approach the papers took in order to evaluate the impact of the policy intervention and discuss the relative merits of alternative approaches. The approaches used for policy evaluation will include instrumental variables, differences-in-differences, matching methods, regression discontinuity design, synthetic control methods and randomized control trials, endogenous switching regression models, heterogeneous treatment effect models, Quantile Treatment Effect and event studies.

Students will also be taught to how to implement some of these procedures within appropriate statistical packages, such as STATA.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand published empirical papers focused on policy evaluation.
- Demonstrate the ability to appreciate and implement empirical research using suitable techniques.
- Have developed the skills needed to understand, conduct and present empirical research related to policy evaluation.

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Research element

Apply critical econometric analysis to a policy, formulate concepts and hypotheses, and show how they are tested in the relevant policy context.

## Interdisciplinary

The specific econometric skills concerning policy evaluation can also be extended beyond the economics discipline. Particularly, this module heavily interacts with policy evaluation's political and sociological aspects.

## International

As a policy evaluation module, this module will introduce a whole host of public and social policies and their impact from different parts of the world, more particularly from the global South.

## Subject specific skills

- Applied Economics
- Economic information
- Economic principles
- Research and debate
- Analysis of incentives
- Analysis of institutions
- Analytical reasoning
- Analytical thinking and communication
- Creative thinking
- Critical thinking
- Policy evaluation
- Strategic thinking
- Sustainability

## Transferable skills

- Data-based skills
- IT skills
- Research skills
- Information
- Statistical, data-based research skills
- Written communication
- Coding Skills (Stata)

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## Study

### Study time

| Type              | Required                     |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Lectures          | 10 sessions of 2 hours (13%) |
| Practical classes | 6 sessions of 1 hour (4%)    |
| Total             | 150 hours                    |

| Type          | Required        |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Private study | 124 hours (83%) |
| Total         | 150 hours       |

## Private study description

Private study will be required in order to prepare for practical class, to review lecture notes, to prepare for forthcoming assessments and examinations, and to undertake wider reading around the subject.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

## Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group D2

|                                                                                                                           | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Assessment 1: Reproducing results                                                                                         | 20%       |            | No                              |
| Reproducing results from a published empirical paper and generating replicable 'do' and 'log' files of empirical results. |           |            |                                 |
| Assessment 2: Policy Evaluation Report                                                                                    | 20%       |            | No                              |
| Writing a 2000 words policy evaluation report from a given data set.                                                      |           |            |                                 |
| Centrally-timetabled examination (On-campus)                                                                              | 60%       |            | No                              |
| Standard exam                                                                                                             |           |            |                                 |

- Students may use a calculator
- Answerbook Pink (12 page)

### Assessment group R2

|            | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|
| Final Exam | 100%      |            | No                              |

## Feedback on assessment

The Department of Economics is committed to providing high quality and timely feedback to students on their assessed work, to enable them to review and continuously improve their work. We are dedicated to ensuring feedback is returned to students within 20 University working days of their assessment deadline. Feedback for assignments is returned either on a standardised assessment feedback cover sheet which gives information both by tick boxes and by free comments or via free text comments on tabula, together with the annotated assignment. Students are informed how to access their feedback, either by collecting from the Undergraduate Office or via tabula. Module leaders often provide generic feedback for the cohort outlining what was done well, less well, and what was expected on the assignment and any other common themes. This feedback also includes a cumulative distribution function with summary statistics so students can review their performance in relation to the cohort. This feedback is in addition to the individual specific feedback on assessment performance.

[Past exam papers for EC348](#)

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## Availability

### Pre-requisites

EC203-30 Applied Econometrics OR  
EC226-30 Econometrics 1

To take this module, you must have passed:

- Any of
  - [EC203-30 Applied Econometrics](#)
  - [EC226-30 Econometrics 1](#)

### Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- PO22Q-15 Introduction to Causal Inference in Quantitative Political Analysis

## Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants

This module is Core optional for:

- UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
  - Year 3 of L100 Economics
  - Year 3 of L116 Economics and Industrial Organization
- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 3 of UMAA-GL11 Undergraduate Mathematics and Economics

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of TECA-L1PA Postgraduate Taught Economics (Diploma plus MSc)
- Year 3 of UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
- UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
  - Year 4 of L103 Economics with Study Abroad
  - Year 4 of LM1H Economics, Politics & International Studies with Study Abroad
- Year 3 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- UPHA-L1CA Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of L1CA Economics, Psychology and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of L1CC Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway)
  - Year 3 of L1CD Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway)
  - Year 3 of L1CE Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway)
  - Year 4 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- UPHA-L1CB Undergraduate Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CG Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Behavioural Economics Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CH Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Economics with Philosophy Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CJ Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (Philosophy and Psychology Pathway) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of L1CB Economics, Psychology and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- Year 3 of UMAA-GL11 Undergraduate Mathematics and Economics

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- Year 3 of USTA-Y602 Undergraduate Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- Year 4 of USTA-Y603 Undergraduate Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Economics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list C for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

- Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics