

University of Amsterdam: Econometrics

In 2016 I started a Master program in Econometrics at **University of Amsterdam**. Here I share some of my experiences from the first 3 blocks of the program. I will be also happy to answer any questions regarding the application process, studies, or life in Amsterdam at hlousek.honza@icloud.com.

IES students @UvA

This year the IES community at UvA has been quite large, although I do not think it has been the same in previous years. The field of studies of our students ranges from business, economics to econometrics. It may be the combination of high rankings and decent tuition fees that attracts IES students. Also, some students enrolled in Prague visit the university as part of Erasmus program. Finally, there are IES alumni already working in Amsterdam – those I know of work in data analytics or finance.

Econometrics

The program in Econometrics takes 1 academic year and one does not get bored over the year. In fall, most of the attention is devoted to courses of Advanced Econometrics, General Equilibrium Theory, and Game Theory. Additionally one can take electives, such as Machine Learning or Non-linear Economic Dynamics. Most of the time is likely to be spent on assignments that are submitted in groups of two and they are quite demanding. In Advanced Econometrics, there are programming assignments in MATLAB – this program has been new to me, and also in STATA. In Machine Learning the assignments are done in R, so overall this program provides good introduction to programming. Nevertheless, I would say the program is still more theoretical than practical. At the end of each course, there is a written exam, which may take about 70% of the final grade. From April onwards there is also a thesis - to be submitted by the end of the program. One can choose a specialization, for instance Big Data Business Analytics or Financial Econometrics.

Community and Housing

There is a great atmosphere at the campus: teachers and staff is very friendly and helpful. Most of the students in the program are Dutch and there are only a few international students. However, this is not the same for the rest of the programs, where the international community appears to be larger. One can feel the international spirit especially in dormitories, where I barely recall meeting any Dutch students. Dorm applications are done prior to the arrival through one of the accommodation providers (for me it was De Key). This is a several-step procedure, one pays multiple fees and in the end gets to choose a single or shared room across multiple dormitories. The price ranges from 300-600EUR. After the application procedure is completed, the university sends out instructions with detailed information, including accommodation.

Application Process

The application deadline for international students is beginning of April, although I applied already in the Fall and received decision within 4 weeks. The process is straightforward with following requirements: English (IELTS above 6), GRE with no particular lowest score required. As far as I know, GRE can be omitted for IES students, but one should check beforehand with the director MSc. program / admissions office for details. Once admitted, I signed a participation agreement, which then guarantees place in the program.

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31. 1. 2017

**Roeterseiland Campus @
University of Amsterdam**

*Weather on the left picture
does not necessarily represent
usual weather conditions :))*

