



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Applied Economics

Module Code: ECU44181

Module Name: Applied Economics

- **ECTS weighting:** 10
- **Semester/term taught:** Semester 1
- **Contact Hours:** 22 hours of lectures and 4 hours of tutorials
- **Module Personnel:** Lecturers – Martina Kirchberger

Module Content

We will start by exploring the theoretical foundations of agglomeration economies and empirical evidence. In other words, what are the forces that cause individuals and firms to cluster at high densities? Can we distinguish between different types of forces? We will examine the role of cities in economic growth and how urbanization processes in low-income countries nowadays differ from those experienced by now industrialized countries. We will talk about how transport networks shape the spatial distribution of economic activity. We will also examine how cities affect the environment, and how the environment influences urbanization. We will examine the role of the construction sector in providing essential structures to an economy. Across these topics, we will investigate the role of new sources of large datasets (often referred to as “big data”) in an urban context.

Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this module, students will be able to:

- Discuss the theoretical foundations of agglomeration economies and empirical evidence
- Understand transport infrastructure policies and how to empirically evaluate their impact
- Analyze how cities affect the environment and how the environment shapes city growth
- Evaluate the role of the construction sector in the provision of structures
- Examine the use of big data in an urban context



Recommended Reading List

A full reading list will be provided at the start of lectures. Here you can find some general background readings:

- Ed Glaeser, ***Triumph of the City***. Penguin, 2011.
- Jane Jacobs, ***The Death and Life of Great American Cities***, 1961.
- Rosenthal, Stuart S., and William C. Strange. 'Evidence on the nature and sources of agglomeration economies.' Handbook of regional and urban economics 4 (2004): 2119-2171.
- The Handbook of Regional & Urban Economics. Chapters are available at the following link <http://real-faculty.wharton.upenn.edu/duranton/handbook-of-regional-urban-economics-volume-5/>. – this will act as a useful starting point for many topics.

Module Pre Requisite

SF Intermediate Economics

Assessment Details

70% final exam + 30% continuous assessment

Module Website

Blackboard