

A small Student's Guide to the «Economics» Specialization in the Master of Climate Sciences

This guide is for students enrolled in the Master's of Climate Sciences at the University of Bern who are interested in Environmental and Climate Economics. In fact, the Department of Economics offers a considerable variety of both theoretical and empirical courses in the field of Environmental and Climate Economics. All courses offered from the Department of Economics that can be credited for the Master in Climate Sciences are listed the Course List available in Annex 1 of the Studies Program and on the website of the Graduate School of Climate Sciences (http://www.climatestudies.unibe.ch/study_programs/msc/curriculum/index_eng.html).

In the following, we give some guidance on how to plan your economic education in the Master's of Climate Sciences depending on your personal educational background.

1. Students **without Economics major or minor** in the Bachelor's Degree

For students without a Bachelor's degree in Economics, we offer a self study online course "Microeconomics for Non-Economists". This course does not require an economic background and teaches the necessary microeconomic theory to be able to follow the course "Environmental Economics: Introduction" If you are more interested in empirical environmental economics, we offer the course "Economic Evaluation of Environmental Goods". However, for this course we recommend some basic knowledge in statistics/econometrics. Some basic knowledge in programming in R is also helpful.

If you wish to go even further, we recommend that you consult either Prof. Eric Strobl (eric.strobl@vwi.unibe.ch) or Prof. Ralph Winkler (rwinkler@vwi.unibe.ch). We are happy to advise you on your personally tailored curriculum.

2. Students **with Economics minor** in their Bachelor's Degree

If you did a minor in Economics during your Bachelor's degree it depends on whether you want to write your Master's thesis in the field of Climate Economics. If so, please consult Section 3 of this guide. Otherwise, we recommend to take the courses "Environmental Economics: Introduction" and/or "Economic Evaluation of Environmental Goods" if you have not done so already in your Bachelor's Degree (or comparable courses if you did your Bachelor's degree at another university).

How to proceed from there strongly depends on your own interests and in which field you will write your Master's thesis. You may want to consult either Prof. Eric Strobl (eric.strobl@vwi.unibe.ch) or Prof. Ralph Winkler (rwinkler@vwi.unibe.ch), as we are happy to advise you on your personally tailored curriculum.

3. Students **with Economics major** in their Bachelor's Degree

If you passed your Bachelor's degree with a Major in Economics and you want to specialize in Environmental/Climate Economics in your Master's of Climate Sciences, we strongly recommend to take the courses "Microeconomics II" and "Econometrics II" as soon as possible. These courses lay

the conceptual and methodological foundations in Microeconomics and Econometrics on Master's level. This will be very helpful for your successful participation of Master courses in Environmental and Climate Economics, and is indispensable for writing a Master's thesis at the Department of Economics. If you have not taken "Environmental Economics: Introduction" and/or "Economic Evaluation of Environmental Goods" (or comparable courses if you did your Bachelor's degree at another university) we also recommend to take these courses, as they lay a sound foundation in theoretical and empirical concepts of Environmental Economics.

How to proceed from there strongly depends on your own interests and the topic of your Master's thesis. Depending on whether you want to write an empirical or theoretical thesis, we advise you to consult either Eric Strobl (empirical) or Ralph Winkler (theoretical). We are happy to advise you on your personally tailored curriculum.

4. Students considering a Ph.D. in Environmental/Climate Economics

If you specialize in Economics, write your Master's thesis in Economics and you can see yourself in writing a Ph.D. thesis in Climate/Environmental Economics (and graduate with a Ph.D. in Economics) after successful completion of your Master in Climate Sciences, everything said in Section 3 also applies to you. However, we would strongly recommend that you take, in addition and as a part of the 10 ECTS 'Courses upon approval', the course "Macroeconomics II", which is offered at the Department of Economics every fall semester. While this course is not an official course (Annex 1) for the Master's in Climate Science, the regulations allow to credit up to 10 ECTS from other programs (10 ECTS upon approval by the Studies Director). If you take the Economics specialization in the Master's in Climate Science this approval is generically granted for the course "Macroeconomics II". The reason why we advise to take this additional course is that you fulfill the necessary criteria, with respect to your educational background, for admission to the PhD program in Economics if you have at least 60 ECTS in Economics on Master's level and successfully taken "Microeconomics II", "Macroeconomics II" and "Econometrics II".

If you have any questions about pursuing a Ph.D. in economics after your Master's in Climate Science, please feel free to consult either Eric Strobl or Ralph Winkler.