

Summary of Methods Evaluations 2016

ME421 – Tools for Macroeconomists: The Essentials

1. General

Survey response rate

	Enrolments	Responses	Response Rate
ME421	58	54	93%

2. Teaching General

How would you rate the programme overall?

Course	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	% Excellent + Good	2015 rating
ME421	39	11	4	0	0	93%	98%
Prog. Average						87%	86%

Would you recommend the Methods Summer Programme to others?

Course	Yes	No
ME421	100%	0%
Prog. Average	95%	5%

Would you recommend the course to others?

Course	Yes	No
ME421	98%	2%
Prog. Average	91%	9%

% 'Definitely agree' & 'Mostly agree' with the following statements

Statement	ME421	Prog. Average
The teaching staff were good at explaining things	96%	89%
The teaching staff made the subject interesting	98%	85%
The staff were enthusiastic about what they were teaching	98%	89%
Classes were well coordinated with lectures	96%	90%
Sufficient topics were covered in the course	98%	90%
The course was at the right level	94%	85%
The techniques learnt will be useful to me in my work/research	98%	89%
The course was well organised and ran smoothly	96%	90%
Overall I was satisfied with the quality of the course	93%	88%

How would you rate the number of contact hours your course had?

	Too little	Just right	Too much
ME421	7%	91%	2%

Do you have any other comments on the teaching or the course?

ME421 only	
1	1. Just great! 2. I only took essential course, but I hope to participate this course in the winter too! (Please open the course twice a year!)
2	The combination of lectures and practical seminars with great TAs makes this course a unique learning environment. Would be great if it was run twice a year
3	I like the way Petr Sedlacek teaches the material as he always brings back how things are put in a broader context and how one topic relates to each other. It really helps a lot given the amount of material that we received in a very short time.
4	There was too much to be covered in one week, maybe a two-week program is better.
5	I had difficulty adjusting to Peter's teaching style. He asked incessant questions before even allowing any material to sink in. Also, he would just move on once someone answered the question. It would have been helpful to rephrase the student's answer for everyone's benefit-something that [REDACTED] did most of the times. This is especially important given the diversity of accents and audibility of students from all over the world! TA's were fabulous and their enthusiasm infectious :)
6	Excellent course. I would have liked to see value function iteration.
7	The course has tremendously increased my skill, particularly the computer exercise. Having a direct practical experience is an amazing opportunity. However, the computer lab is too small. It may create a closer relationship but sometimes it's difficult to move around. All in all, thanks for the amazing opportunity.
8	I am so grateful to join the course...wish I could attend the next week module
9	Please hold this twice a year.
10	I find the Tools for Macroeconomists very useful for me. There are a lot of materials to cover within 5 days but I understand that we can further go back to the materials in our own time after the program completed. So I have no complain about materials. In fact, distributing the soft copy of the materials one week before the program started was very very useful as we could prepare ourselves beforehand. I find the problem set for the second and third day of computer lab too difficult as I think almost none of us could solve the problem. If the problems are too difficult I think we don't really learn the techniques. My suggestion is to give the student medium level problem set to be solved in the computer lab, and the harder problem is provided for us to solve in our own time.
11	Include a class on Python and Julia.
12	Hopefully the answer of all assignment will be posted so we can learn again at home.
ME421 and ME422	
1	The lecture theatre was stuffy and hot initially until reported and resolved thank you for quick response by admin staff. The computer sessions were in rooms insufficient for the size of the group, we ended up in the hallway. Petr introduced new slides that were not immediately downloadable, the content was great, would be useful next time to post them the night before and make printed copies available.
2	One of the best learning experiences I have ever had
3	The computer assignments were challenging (but therefore also very rewarding). One TA more could be an advantage since everybody needed a TA at the same time.
4	It's been a great experience.
5	Would be great if expanded in terms of time (to incorporate more topics additionally to those covered).
6	[REDACTED] is an excellent and approachable lecturer, kindly make the material available to students online. All staff are excellent teachers and deliver high quality teaching. This is an excellent Programme.
7	Challenging material.
8	Excellent programme, great value (about two semesters worth of material). Practical exercises were very good, teaching was on current developments and not stale.
9	Very well paced course with just enough complexity to challenge but not too much to overwhelm you. Great cohesion between professors and teachers. Ver knowledgeable and helpful class teachers. More than enough material to go back to and digest once the two weeks are over. Highly recommend to take both the ME421 and the ME422 in the same session.
10	Challenging course material. Intensive for two weeks of training, exhausted after two weeks... Worthy of time for any serious macroeconomist and the earlier the better.

3. Teaching Staff

	Name	Role	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	% Excellent / Good
ME421	[REDACTED]	Lecturer	38	12	3	1	0	93%
	Petr Sedlacek	Lecturer	37	13	3	0	1	93%
	[REDACTED]	Class Teacher	43	6	2	0	0	96%
	[REDACTED]	Class Teacher	24	20	4	0	0	92%
	[REDACTED]	Class Teacher	31	14	1	0	0	98%
	[REDACTED]	Class Teacher	29	13	3	0	0	93%

4. Application process

What was your main reason for applying to the course?

Course	For credit towards another programme of study	As preparation for another programme of study	To assist with my research	As training for work	Other (responses below)
ME421 & Both Macros	2%	0%	94%	4%	0%
Prog. Average	6%	16%	55%	18%	

Did you apply to any similar courses at any other institution?

Course	Yes	No
ME421 & Both Macros	89%	11%

If so, where?

- Zurich Initiative on Computational Economics, University of Zurich
- BGSE
- Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
- Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
- University of Surrey
- Basic course on DSGE modelling at the University of Surrey.

Did you consider attending any other courses at LSE?

Course	Yes	No
ME421 & Both Macros	46%	54%

If so, what?

- I have taken the essential course for macroeconomist. I would like to take the advance course next time.
- Advanced course
- Tools for Macroeconomists: Advanced Tools, Factor Models in Time Series with Applications in Macroeconomics and Finance
- The advanced course of the Tools for Macroeconomists.
- Macroeconomics: the Advanced

- The follow up second week on heterogenous agents. Mostly will do next year if offered.
- The second part of this course (advanced tools for macro).
- ME422 Tools for Macroeconomists: Advanced Tools
- The advanced one next year probably
- Tools for Macroeconomists: Advanced Tools
- Advanced course
- Real analysis in the past - but too expensive.

5. Actions for 2017 arising from comments