

# Ph.D. and Quantitative Master Programs

## First-year orientation

### October 18, 2011



# Agenda

- Program goals and expectations
- Do's and Don'ts
- Overview of the program structure
- Key elements of the Prüfungsordnung (Rules and Policies)
- Qualifying exams and transfer into Ph.D. program

# Program goals and expectations

- Ultimate goal: To prepare you for a research-oriented career, be that in academia or in research-focused international and national government institutions
- Unique feature: Breadth of course offerings, room for interdisciplinary research
- The program is very resource-intensive: You have been carefully selected, and your success is as important to us as it is to you.
- The program is rigorous – much is expected from you

# Do's and Don'ts

- The program is a full-time study program. The chances of successfully completing the first year while working more than one day per week are in our experience slim.
- Work continuously: No time to take vacations until you have passed the qualifying exams, you need the time to prepare. Very difficult to catch up once you have fallen behind.
- Work together with fellow students, do not free-ride.

# Program structure: First year

First-year

## Methodological courses: Winter semester

Three out of **AMI 1, AMA 1, AEC 1, AFE 2, AMM 1, or LE 1**

**Mathematical Methods (MAME)**

Each course 8 CP, midterm and final exams.

## Methodological courses: Summer semester

Three out of **AMI 2, AMA 2, AEC 2, AFE 2, AMM 2, or LE 2**

**Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics (HNFE)**

Each course 8 CP, midterm and final exams.

## Qualifying examinations (mandatory for Ph.D.)

Each of three examinations (Micro, Macro, Econometrics, Finance, Management and Marketing, or Law and Economics) has to be passed with a grade of at least 2.3 or better, early August or early October.

# Program structure: Master, second year

## Field courses

**22 CP in total out of at least two of the seven fields**

Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and Management, Econometrics, Finance, Development and International Economics, Marketing, or Law and Economics.

**Minimum 8 CP per field.** Choice of one field determined by choice of program.

## Seminar courses

**One course (6 CP).** Ph.D. or Master.

## Master Thesis (28 CP)

# Program structure: Ph.D. second year onward

## Field courses

### **32 CP in total out of two to four of the seven fields**

Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Development and International Economics, Financial Economics, Microeconomics and Management, Marketing, Law and Economics

**Min 8 CP, max 16 CP per field.** Choice of one field determined by choice of program. Courses have to be passed with 2.3 or better.

## Seminar courses

**Two courses (12 CP).** Have to be passed with 2.3 or better

## Thesis requirements

Third-Year Research Paper, Job Market Course, Independent Studies Course, Dissertation, Dissertation Defense

Second-year

Third-year onward

## Key elements of the Prüfungsordnungen (PO)

- Disclaimer: This is a selective summary of a few key points. The only legally binding documents are the Ph.D. Ordnung 2011 and the Master Ordnung for tracks QE, QF, QM, QM and LQE 2011.
- Official English translations in the works; Ph.D. Rules and Policies dated October 1, 2010 are a good guide to Ph.D. Ordnung. In doubt, consult with the GSEFM examinations office (Mr. Schneider).

# Key elements of the Master Ordnung

- Three attempts to pass any first-year course examination, except two attempts for HNFE.
- First-year courses plus at least one seminar must have been passed before you can register for Masters thesis.
- At most 7 semesters to complete the degree (except for absences approved by the Studierendensekretariat or extensions approved by the Prüfungs- und Promotionsausschuss).

## Key elements of the Ph.D. Ordnung

- Three attempts to pass any first-year course examination, except two attempts for HNFE. All first-year courses must have been passed by the beginning of classes of WS of second year.
- At most two attempts to pass any qualifying exam. Qualifying exams must have been passed by the beginning of classes of WS of second year, with an average of 2.3 in each of three areas (e.g. for Economics: Micro, Macro, Econometrics), in order to continue in (or change from Master into) Ph.D. program.

# Key elements of the Prüfungsordnung (2):

## Exam schedule for first-year courses

- First-year courses („Econometrics/Quantitative Methods“ and „Specific Foundations“) usually involve a 60-minute midterm, 60-minute final, plus problem sets that may enter course grade.
  - Instructor will provide specific requirements at beginning of semester.
- Typical exam schedule for first-year courses:
  - Winter semester: Midterms (week 8 of classes), finals (first three weeks of semester break) in MAME, AEC1, AMI1, AMA1, AFE1, AMM1, or LE1; repeat exams for MAME in late March and October;
  - Sommer semester: Midterms (week 8 of classes), finals (first three weeks of semester break) in HNFE, AEC2, AMI2, AMA2, AFE2, AMM2, or LE2.

# Key elements of the Prüfungsordnung (3):

## Repeat exams

- A failed exam must be repeated no later than in the semester when the same course is being offered the next time.
- Qualifying Exams (see below) can be used as repeat exams for AEC1, 2, AMI1, 2, AMA1, 2, AFE1, 2, AMM1, 2, LE 1, 2.

## Qualifying exams

- The qualifying exams are not part of the Master PO (except indirectly, by serving also as repeat exams for course grades). But Masters students are strongly encouraged to sit for the QEs.
- Two rounds: First typically in the fourth week of summer break, second typically in the second-to-last week before start of winter classes.
- Each exam consists of two 120-minute blocks corresponding to the Winter and the Summer semester courses of a field (AEC, AMI, AMA, AFE, AMM, or LE).

# Qualifying exams: Transfer to Ph.D. program

- Master students have exactly one opportunity to change to Ph.D. Program, at the end of the first year, by
  - passing each of the three qualifying exams corresponding to your track with 2.3 or better, and
  - passing the course „Historical and Normative Foundations of Economics“ and „Mathematical Methods“.
- Two attempts, must be completed before start of WS classes of second year to be eligible to transfer into Ph.D. program.

## Key elements of the Ordnungen: Beyond first year

- Field courses („Specialisation“): 32 CP for Ph.D. students, 22 CP for master students
- A minimum of two of the fields Macroeconomics, Microeconomics and Management, Finance, Development and International Economics, Marketing, or Law and Economics; at least 8 CP per field.
  - For Master students who are also Ph.D. students, only a certain set („research track“) of field courses count towards Ph.D. requirements.
- Seminars: Ph.D. students take two Ph.D. seminars, Master students one Master or Ph.D. seminar.