

M.Sc. Health Economics

New Student Handbook

Welcome to the M.Sc. Health Economics Program in Essen!

This handbook is meant to help answer questions and provide some direction, particularly for students new to the German education system.

(As usual, only the (German) documents published at the UDE homepage of the Master's programme are legally binding. The information displayed here is for orientation only.)

Quick Overview.....	2
Key Links.....	2
FAQ.....	2
What is a Semesterticket?	2
Which courses should I take?	2
How do I take a course I've found?.....	2
How do grades, credits, and exams work?.....	2
What do I do if I fail an exam?	3
How do I navigate German paperwork requirements?	3
Course Registration	3
Course Structure.....	5
Focus Areas and Departments	6
Thesis	6
Administration and Germany.....	7
Semester Ticket.....	7
Residence Registration and Visa	7
Banking.....	7
German Language Courses	8
More Opportunities	8
University Alliance Ruhr	8
Internships.....	8
International Exchange	8
More Links and Resources.....	9

Quick Overview

First, some key information about getting started. Everything here will also be repeated in the relevant sections later on.

Key Links

The **Program Website** (<https://www.healthecon-master.de/>) provides a collected summary of the degree program, including required and recommended coursework, and a directory of useful information.

Moodle (<https://lehre.moodle.uni-due.de>) is the main platform used for coursework.

LSF (<https://campus.uni-due.de/l sf/>) is the university's course catalogue.

The **Campus Portal** (<https://campus.uni-due.de/cm/>) or **HISinOne** is where registration, fees, documents, and exams are managed.

FAQ

What is a Semesterticket?

The main semester fee charged to students is actually for a public transit ticket. You can use this ticket to take most forms of local transport. More information can be found on the university's website, here: <https://www.uni-due.de/faq-studium/semesterticket.php>

Which courses should I take?

The courses required for the degree are given on the [Program Website](#). The courses offered in the semester are listed on [LSF](#). You may take whichever work for your schedule, interests, or requirements for a given semester.

How do I *take* a course I've found?

Once you have located a degree-relevant course on LSF, check for time, place, and link(s) to the department listing. *Typically*, you can simply show up to the first listed lecture. Additionally, LSF-listings usually contain links to the department website, where you can find the course listed with additional information, which may include more detail on course registration.

Most courses do not have formal registration until later in the semester, when you decide whether or not to take the final exam.

How do grades, credits, and exams work?

Most courses are structured in a particular way: a lecture (Vorlesung) from the professor once a week, ungraded homework, a tutorial (Übung) from an assistant once a week covering the previous week's homework, and a final exam. Exams are administered after the end of the lecture period, at fixed dates. The final exam gives the grade for the class.

About five weeks into the semester, exam registration opens up, and students will be able to register for the exam on HISinOne. Registration is usually possible until a month before the exam, and deregistration is possible until the week of the exam. Instructions and details are on the university's website, here: https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/pruefungswesen/e_volkswirtschaft_startseite.php

What do I do if I fail an exam?

There are two things to be aware of in exam failures:

1. Retakes: Each exam is administered twice in the exam period of a semester, and you can attempt both times. You can also attempt in a later semester, though course materials may change in different semesters.
2. Penalty Points: For a failed exam, the credits that would have been earned are recorded instead as penalty points. *The degree program is considered definitively failed if the candidate reaches more than 90 penalty points.*

How do I navigate German paperwork requirements?

With patience, determination, and potentially some help from experienced German speakers. At this point, you should have your visa and health insurance ready. As soon as possible, you will need to register your residence with the city you are living in, and get your residence permit. In Essen, this is done at the Welcome Center (https://www.essen.de/leben/migration_und_integration/welcome_center/welcomecenter.en.htm), which is notoriously difficult to schedule with. Email as soon as possible for an appointment. If you are unable to get a response, call them, ask a German speaker to call them on your behalf, or send a fax.

If you have particular or continued difficulty, AStA (the student council, <https://asta-due.org/>) may be able to refer you to help.

Course Registration

What courses do I take?

The courses required for the degree are given on the [Program Website](#), including an example (not required) schedule. The courses offered in the semester are listed on [LSF](#), the course catalogue. To find the courses for the program, go to the 'Courses' or 'Veranstaltungen' tab and

then the 'Course Overview' or 'Vorlesungsverzeichnis' menu, and follow the categories Wirtschaftswissenschaften -> Volkswirtschaftslehre -> M.Sc. Gesundheitsökonomik.

Under M.Sc. Gesundheitsökonomik, courses are listed by category:

- Pflichtbereich (Mandatory courses)
- Wahlpflichtbereich (Elective courses)
- Seminarbereich (Seminars)
- Berufspraktische Tätigkeit (Internships)

You can also use the course search. Put 'Gesundheitsökonomik' for the department to see all courses offered for the indicated semester. Make sure you select the correct semester, which is indicated in the top right-hand corner.

You may take whichever work for your schedule, interests, or requirements for a given semester. Note that you must earn at least 24 ECTS credits in economic courses.

As an example, you are recommended to take Health Economics I in your first winter semester, which is listed under 'Pflichtbereich', here on LSF: <https://campus.uni-due.de/lsf/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publishid=423787&moduleCall=webInfo&publishConfFile=webInfo&publishSubDir=veranstaltung>

Additionally, LSF-listings usually contain links to the department website, where you can find the course listed with additional information, which may include more detail on course registration or expectations.

For example, Health Economics I links to <https://amg.wiwi.uni-due.de/>, the website for the Health and Labour Chair. On this site, under 'Studium & Lehre' and 'Wintersemester 25/26', we can find a [list of courses at that chair in that semester](#).

More information on Health Economics I is here: <https://amg.wiwi.uni-due.de/amg/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/wintersemester-25-26/health-economics-i-lecture-vorlesung-17127/>

How do I take courses?

Most courses follow this pattern:

1. **Find the course** in LSF - note the time, location, and any special instructions
2. **Show up to the first lecture** - no advance registration needed for most courses
3. **Join the Moodle course** - link provided during first lecture, or email the instructor
4. **Decide by week 5** - five weeks into the semester, exam registration opens in HISinOne
5. **Register for the exam** - you have until a month before the exam date
6. **Deregister if needed** - possible until the week of the exam
7. **Take the exam** - course grade is determined by a final exam

Once you have located a degree-relevant course on LSF, check for time, place, and link(s) to the department listing. Lectures (Vorlesung) and Tutorials (Übung) are typically listed together on

LSF. For most courses, if you intend to take the course, you should simply show up to the first listed lecture. Formal 'registration' doesn't occur until later in the semester, when you decide whether or not to take the final exam.

Depending on the class, materials or communications may be provided in a Moodle room. A Moodle link and/or password may be provided on the listing or given during the first lecture, or you can email the given contact to be added.

Most basic courses are structured in a particular way: a lecture (Vorlesung) from the professor once a week, a tutorial (Übung) from an assistant once a week covering the previous week's homework, and a final exam. Exams are administered after the end of the lecture period, at fixed dates. The final exam gives the grade for the class.

How do grades, credits, and exams work?

Five weeks into the semester, exam dates are listed and you may register for exams. The exam department (https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/pruefungswesen/e_volkswirtsch_startseite.php) provides information on rules, dates, and registration on [HISinOne](#). Registration is usually possible until a month before the exam, and deregistration is possible until the week of the exam.

The Wintersemester lecture period ends around the end of January, after which there is an exam period, during which each exam is administered twice.

Each exam is administered twice in the exam period of a semester, and you can attempt both times. You can also attempt in a later semester, though course materials may change in different semesters.

For a failed exam, the credits that would have been earned are recorded instead as penalty points. *The degree program is considered definitively failed if the candidate reaches more than 90 penalty points.*

Course Structure

Not every course is structured in the same way. On LSF, you may see a 'Type' indicated for a class.

- **Vorlesung/Übung** is the 'standard' lecture-style course with tutorials, like Health Economics I. Some courses may instead have a final project or final paper, or grading that includes other components like attendance, homework, or presentations.
- **Seminar** courses tend to include minimal instruction, with a focus on a self-organized project on a provided subject, presented and delivered at the end of the semester.
- **Vorlesung/Seminar** can be a blend, including more regular work through the semester, but not a traditional lecture format. These classes usually have more information on their listings.

You will need at least 6 ECTS (probably one class) from seminar to complete the program.

Focus Areas and Departments

Health Economics is an interdisciplinary field, which has practical implications for selecting courses and navigating the administration.

There are multiple departments (or 'faculties') that are or may be relevant to your studies:

- **Business Administration and Economics** is the parent department, which administers the Health Economics program as well as many others.
<https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/en/>
- Economics faculties: <https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/die-fakultaet/fachgebiete/volkswirtschaftslehre/>
- Business Administration faculties: <https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/die-fakultaet/fachgebiete/betriebswirtschaftslehre/>
- Health Economics faculty: <https://goek.wiwi.uni-due.de/en/>

Elective courses are available in the Economics, Business Administration, and Medical Management department. Depending on your personal focus, you may take courses in one or more of these departments. Many electives, including all of Medical Management, are only available in German.

At UDE, separate departments offer and manage their relevant courses. Information for particular courses may be found on their department's website. Department operations and websites may not follow the same formats across departments.

Thesis

To complete your degree, after class requirements are met, you must submit and defend a thesis. You will propose a research investigation to a supervisor and, given preliminary approval, submit the proposal according to the instructions here: <https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/studium/studienorganisation/abschlussarbeiten/>

How do I find a supervisor?

Typically, a thesis will build on work done during the program--such as a project or topic initially encountered in homework or lecture which is of appropriate size for a thesis. Then, it may be natural to speak with the relevant professor about pursuing a topic for your thesis.

Often, at the conclusion of elective courses, professors who are open to supervising a thesis related to the subject of the course will mention this, and invite interested students to propose a thesis with them.

If no organic situations arise and you cannot find a supervisor, you can contact the thesis department directly for assistance.

Administration and Germany

UDE's website provides some information and resources for navigating practical aspects of living and getting around in Germany. In particular, there is information on Student IDs, deadlines, accommodations, grants, and resources, here:

<https://www.uni-due.de/international/international-admissions-en.php#afteradmission>

TU Dortmund, nearby, gives a list of administrative concerns for international students:

<https://international.tu-dortmund.de/en/incomings/degree-seeking-students/formalities/>

Semester Ticket

The main semester fee charged to students is actually for a public transit ticket. You can use this ticket to take most forms of local transport. It can be accessed through the [UDE app](#). More information can be found on the university's website, here: <https://www.uni-due.de/faq-studium/semesterticket.php>

Residence Registration and Visa

As soon as possible, you will need to register your residence with the city you are living in. In Essen, this is done at the Welcome Center, which is notoriously difficult to schedule with. Email as soon as possible for an appointment. If you are unable to get a response, call them, send a fax, or ask a German speaker to call them on your behalf.

This is also the office where you will convert your initial student visa to a longer-term residence permit. This process will likely take more time and multiple appointments.

UDE has some general information, here: https://www.uni-due.de/welcome-service/en/nde_registration.php

The Welcome Center can be contacted through their website:

(https://www.essen.de/leben/migration_und_integration/welcome_center/welcomecenter.en.html)

If you have particular or continued difficulty, AStA (the student council, <https://asta-due.org/>) or the International Office (<https://www.uni-due.de/international/>) may be able to refer you to help.

Banking

You may need to open a bank account in Germany. Depending on your nationality and circumstances, your options may vary.

If you have your Anmeldung (residence registration) and residence permit, you should be able to operate normally at most standard German banks.

If you need an account before you have registered residence, you can use an international online bank like N26 (<https://n26.com/en-de/free-bank-account>) or Bunq (<https://www.bunq.com/en->

[de/](#)). These tend to enable the basic ability to pay and be paid electronically, but are more difficult to deposit or withdraw cash with.

German Language Courses

The university offers German classes, 'Deutsch als Fremdsprache', 'German as a foreign language', or DaF, for German learners at all levels. Registration operates on different deadlines, and more information can be found at the section on LSF: <https://campus.uni-due.de/lsf/rds?state=wtree&search=1&trex=step&root120252=422502%7C419437%7C422283&P.vx=kurz>

Around the beginning of the semester, DaF registration will open. Levels higher than introductory A1 require either a past certificate, or placement through a test on Moodle that will be linked once registration is open. These classes operate separately from the degree program.

More Opportunities

University Alliance Ruhr

UDE has close ties with two nearby schools, TU Dortmund and Ruhr University Bochum. Students may take classes, work, or do sports across the Ruhr Alliance schools with relatively little complication. More information is on the alliance website: <https://www.uaruhr.de/en/>

Internships

An internship is not required to complete the degree program, but internships are possible, can be credited 6 ECTS towards the degree, and can be facilitated through university resources. Additionally, internships are a common feature of school-to-career transition in Germany, depending on the career path of interest.

UDE career and internship counseling includes counselors and some resources: <https://www.uni-due.de/abz/career/cs-international.php>

TU Dortmund offers some useful general information as well: <https://international.tu-dortmund.de/en/career/internships/>

To be eligible for credit, the Health Economics Chair must approve the internship one month beforehand.

International Exchange

Study abroad is an option if interested. Students may acquire credits at foreign universities. To do so, the courses must be verified in advance with the relevant lecturers in Essen.

Further information on stays abroad and partner universities can be found on the Studying Abroad pages: <https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/studium/wissenswertes/studieren-im-ausland/>

Note: the administrative timelines mean that exchange semesters should be planned a year in advance. If you're interested in study abroad, begin the process as soon as possible.

More Links and Resources

Many linked resources are only in German, and may need translation applied. Note that university-provided English versions of pages are sometimes broken or missing information, so you may get better information by using translate on the German versions.

There are 3 homepages for the program, due to administrative permissions. The content overlaps heavily:

The Economics Faculty page for the program

- <https://www.wiwi.uni-due.de/en/studium/volkswirtschaftslehre/msc-health-econ/>
- many useful links

The MSc Health Economics Program website

- <https://www.healthecon-master.de/>
- academic environmental context
- administrative, social, and cultural tips

The Uni-DUE page for the program

- <https://www.uni-due.de/studienangebote/studiengang.php?id=19>
- program overview, application instructions, and credit requirements
- addresses, emails, hours, and contact information for consultations and advisors

AStA, the student representation and advocacy group in the administration

- <https://asta-due.org/>
- social, community, and cultural events and organization
- legal and social advice

UDE Homepage: <https://www.uni-due.de/en/index.php>

The website is large and can be difficult to navigate, but if nothing else there are useful links at the bottom of the homepage.

Academic Advisory Center: <https://www.uni-due.de/abz/>

Exam information: https://www.uni-due.de/verwaltung/pruefungswesen/e_volkswirtschaft_startseite.php

Semester dates: <https://www.uni-due.de/studierendensekretariat/semestertermine.php>

Uni-DUE incoming student information:

- <https://www.uni-due.de/en/studying/incomings.php>
- <https://www.uni-due.de/en/studying/index.php>

myUDE, a campus app:

- <https://www.uni-due.de/myude/>
- Library catalog search;
- Germany semester ticket;
- Menus of the canteens and cafeterias;
- News from the university.

Family Services, for those with young children: <https://www.uni-due.de/familienservice/>

Student residences: <https://www.stw-edu.de/en/accommodation/onlineapplication>

Student Administrative Office: <https://www.uni-due.de/studierendensekretariat/>

International Office: <https://www.uni-due.de/international/>

Faculty pages of potential interest:

- Health Econ: <https://www.goek.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Medizinmanagement: <https://mm.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Public Econ: <https://pubecon.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Health and Labour: <https://amg.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Econometrics: <https://oek.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Macroeconomics: <https://makro.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Microeconomics: <https://mikro.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Statistik: <https://stat.wiwi.uni-due.de/>
- Work, Innovation & Organisation: <https://futureofwork.wiwi.uni-due.de/>

People to know about:

- Programme Advisor: Diem Hoang Xuan; info-goemik@wiwinf.uni-due.de
- Student Mentoring: Zoé Saalfeld; mentoring-goemik@wiwinf.uni-due.de

For course-specific questions, contact the relevant departments or ask after the classes