

Summary of Methods Evaluations 2015

ME121 – Tools for Macroeconomists: The Essentials

1. General

Survey response rate

	Enrolments	Responses	Response Rate
ME121	63	61	97%

2. Teaching General

How would you rate the programme overall?

Course	Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	% Excellent + Good	2014 rating
ME121	43	17	1	0	0	98%	100%
Prog. Average						86%	

Would you recommend the Methods Summer Programme to others?

Course	Yes	No
ME121	100%	0%
Prog. Average	95%	5%

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

Statement	ME121	Prog. Average
The teaching staff were good at explaining things	100%	91%
The teaching staff made the subject interesting	97%	88%
The staff were enthusiastic about what they were teaching	100%	94%
Classes were well coordinated with lectures	100%	90%
Sufficient topics were covered in the course	98%	87%
The course was at the right level	93%	77%
The techniques learnt will be useful to me in my work/research	97%	86%
The course was well organised and ran smoothly	100%	87%
Overall I was satisfied with the quality of the course	100%	87%

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

	Too little	Just right	Too much
ME121	8%	92%	0%

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

ME121	
1	I would be more strict in the number of participants for the group assignments: never more than 3 and never alone. I would recommend changing groups every day. Overall, excellent course and Wouter is a great professor in every sense.
2	The course was excellent. I would try to have the mathematical proofs in separate documents. Writing tons of formulas on the board for the course on the Kalman filter took a bit of time.
3	Wednesday's computer session was too long, and Thursday and Friday's computer sessions were too short.

	The course assumed more knowledge than was specified in course description.
4	Better initial overview of what we will learn and why we want to use those methods at the beginning would be good. The "big picture" became clear only at the end.
5	This course was impressive. Incredibly demanding but the exercise units made the abstract concepts mesh in practice and allowed us to experience parts of the implementation first hand. I am glad that I came
6	I would recommend that the course should have an additional hour per day for the theory.
7	Great course and great lecturers.
8	I would have preferred to have less topics covered, albeit more in-depth.
9	There could have been one or two more assistants in the exercise sessions. Four for 60 participants were not too many.
10	I really liked the "how to solve models" part that took the time to go in depth. A little bit less for the empirical part that was either too introductory or too fast to be really useful.
11	In some cases the slides were unclear when read in isolation. This could be improved, but having said this, almost everything became clear during the lectures.
12	I really have nothing bad to say about the course. It was fantastic!
13	The course was overall stellar. The teaching level was high. Lecturers were at the top of their respective research agendas and skilful at teaching; a rare combination. The slides and presentation styles were smooth, and each question was thoroughly and cleverly answered by the lecturers. The material covered in the morning was applied each afternoon in an informal setting, with helpful assistants supervising our progress. These afternoon sessions took both famous and new models as examples. The chosen examples were spot on for the methods we had to apply, and always contained some economic insights on workhorse models.
14	The course was very well organized and with a complete training covering all the topics necessary to understand basic model's solution methods. Professor Den Haan is an excellent pedagogue and one of the best researcher in this topic. Although the course was highly intense and technical, this was necessary to cover all the material in detail, and the course organization and the exercised were tailored to facilitate our training. Teaching and assistants were very well prepared, transparent in their explanations, helpful in their interventions, and very kind to students.
15	Nothing very important but it's just that the Lab had limited seats so we had to arrange chairs by ourselves almost everyday.

3. Teaching Staff

	Name	Role	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor	% Excellent / Good
ME121	Petr Sedlacek	Lecturer	29	29	3	0	0	95%
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	54	7	0	0	0	100%
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	29	18	7	0	0	87%
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	32	12	5	0	0	90%
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	33	13	5	0	0	90%
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	32	17	4	1	0	91%

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)
ME121 (only)	0%	4%	72%	24%	0
ME121 & ME122	0%	3%	89%	8%	2
Prog. Average	4%	16%	59%	21%	

Other responses:

ME121 & ME122 responses:

1. Refresh and expand my existing knowledge of the material

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

Course	Yes	No
ME121 (only)	24%	76%
ME121 & ME122	8%	92%

If so, where?

ME121 (only) responses:

1. CEMFI Madrid
2. "Advanced workshop for central bankers - Northwestern University - September 2012 & Advanced Time Series Methods at the Budapest School of Central Banking Studies - April 2014"
3. GSE Barcelona
4. I also applied for a summer course at CEMFI given by Nobu Kiyotaki.
5. "Advanced Macro II by A. Ludwig in UCL, Belgium Research Seminar by F. Kindermann in UCL, Belgium"

ME121 & ME122 responses:

1. Barcelona GSE
2. Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
3. Michael Reiter's course in heterogeneous agents at Humboldt in April 2015.

Did you consider attending any other courses at LSE?

Course	Yes	No
ME121 (only)	36%	64%
ME121 & ME122	11%	89%

If so, what?

ME121 (only) response:

1. Attended ME111: Factor Models in Time series.
2. Next year, the second part of the course.
3. Macroeconomics Summer Courses - Advanced Tools
4. Tools for Macroeconomists: Advanced Tools
5. The advanced macro course, but I was time-constrained
6. Real Analysis

ME121 & ME122 responses:

1. possibly for a PhD in Economics

5. ME121 - Actions for 2016 arising from comments