

WELCOME TO THE PHD PROGRAM

Methods and Models for Economic Decisions

Department of Economics · Insubria University
Cycles 40 – 41 – 42 · a.y. 2026/27



Duration of the PhD: three years

3 years

The PhD lasts three years. Plan your thesis backwards from the final exam and give every year a clear milestone. Extensions: only for proven reasons, up to 12 months, normally without scholarship.



YEAR 1 **Build the foundations**

- Courses, labs and seminars
- Find your supervisor
- Pitch your research idea (May/June)



YEAR 2 **Produce your first paper**

- Progress meeting (late spring)
- Working paper by Sept 15
- Conferences and mobility



YEAR 3 **Deliver the thesis**

- Present at the MMED workshop
- Board decides on admission
- Submit and defend

Staff and contacts



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PhD Office

School of PhD · Via O. Rossi 9, Pad. Rossi

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Information on the web

Most information is available online. Please consult these pages before contacting the staff.



Our program website

Courses, calendar, seminars, rules and news of the PhD in MMED.

phd.eco.uninsubria.it



School of PhD

University-wide rules, deadlines, forms and regulations.

uninsubria.eu/phds



Information for enrolled students

English certification, final exam, regulations and procedures.

uninsubria.eu › [course catalogue](#) › [phd-doctoral-programs](#) › [information-enrolled-students](#)

Program structure

180

ECTS over three years

8 h

of lectures = 1 ECTS

100%

taught in English

In person

attendance is compulsory

What makes up your 180 ECTS



Teaching activities

Mostly Year 1: economics, quantitative methods, labs



Transferable skills

At least 3 ECTS over three years



Research activities

Your thesis work, mainly Years 2–3



Study abroad

Optional, strongly encouraged

Year 1 courses · Nov–Dec 2026

Course	Instructor(s)	Hours	ECTS
Advanced Econometrics for Decision Making	Seri	12	1.5
Applied econometrics: causality and policy evaluation	Castelnovo, Porro, Sonedda, Vezzulli	30	3.75
Transport decision making and sustainability	Maggi	12	1.5
Introduction to Macro Agent Based models	Caverzasi	12	1.5
Introduction to MATLAB	Moretto	8	1
STATA Laboratory for financial and economic analyses	Tanda	10	1.25
Advanced Mathematical Methods for Economic Decisions	Tarsia	10	1.25

Every course ends with a final assessment. Period total: 11.75 ECTS. Timetable on the program website (updated throughout the year).

Year 1 courses · Feb–May 2027

Course	Instructor(s)	Hours	ECTS
Decision making in historical-economic perspective	Brambilla	12	1.5
The economics of altruistic decisions and charitable giving	Galmarini	10	1.25
Applied econometrics: Health Economics	Prado, Robone, Orso	18	2.25
Optimization with applications to finance and economics	Rocca	16	2
Networks: Theory and Applications	Vanni	12	1.5



Period total: 8.5 ECTS. Together with the 11.75 ECTS above, the Year 1 core courses add up to 20.25 ECTS. Complementary courses and seminars come on top (next slide).

Other teaching activities



Complementary courses

Year 1 · Feb–May 2027 · compulsory

- Structural Estimation · 4 h · 0.5 ECTS
- Economic growth theory · 8 h · 1 ECTS
- Microeconometrics for Experimental Economics · 10 h · 1.25 ECTS
- Optimal control theory · 8 h · 1 ECTS

- Academic writing and publishing



Visiting seminars

Open to all · Feb–May 2027

- Mendonça · 2 h · 0.25 ECTS
- Borisov, corporate finance · 4 h · 0.5 ECTS
- AI as a Research Tool · 4 h · 0.5 ECTS (provisional)
- Research Perspectives: From Ideas to Job Market · 2 h · 0.25 ECTS (provisional)



Transferable skills

At least 3 ECTS over three years

- Academic writing and publishing · 5 h
- Artificial intelligence · 8 h
- Innovation Camp · 36 h (Years 1–2)
- Public speaking · 20 h
- Safety in the laboratory · 14 h (Year 1)

Free choice: at least 1 ECTS in other PhD courses, also at other universities (STAT-04 inventory on the AMASES website).

Seminars and scientific events



PhD MMED Seminars

Monthly, Nov 2026 – Jun 2027. Informal talks by 2nd/3rd-year PhD students, post-docs and junior researchers. Organised with the PhD representatives.



Brown Bag Seminars

Monthly, Nov 2026 – Jun 2027. Senior faculty present; ideal to meet potential supervisors.



MMED Workshop · spring 2027

One day with Calabrese (Edinburgh), Sala (ESADE) and Calvia (Politecnico di Milano). Talks in the morning, PhD presentations in the afternoon.



Bioeconomy School

7–11 June 2027, Villa del Grumello, Como. Interdisciplinary summer school with the Lake Como School of Advanced Studies.

Attendance requirements

YEAR 1

Mandatory

- All lectures, in presence
- PhD MMED Seminars
- Brown Bag Seminars
- Reminders with date and time are sent by the administrative staff a few days before

YEARS 2 – 3

Strongly encouraged

- At least 4 Brown Bag seminars
- At least 4 Department seminars
- Report your attendance in the annual report
- In-person MMED workshop, even from abroad

Choice of the supervisor



1

Explore

Attend Brown Bag and PhD MMED seminars.
Talk to faculty.



2

Pitch

Present your research idea to the Board (May/June 2027).



3

Agree

Choose with support from the Director, Vice-Director and Year 1 teachers.



4

Communicate

By Sept 15, 2027, email the PhD administrative office with the Director in cc.

Then the Board formally assigns. You have a main supervisor and at least one co-supervisor, also external; one of them must meet the academic requirements of Board members. The Board approves your research topic, and the supervisor reports on your progress at least once a year. Always agree plans with your internal supervisor.

Research milestones and annual review

Year 1 to 2

- Present research ideas to the Board (May/June 2027)
- Choose and communicate your supervisor by Sept 15, 2027
- Submit your annual activity report by Sept 15, 2027

Year 2 to 3

- Discuss research progress with the Board in late spring
- Develop a working paper by the end of Year 2
- Submit your annual activity report by Sept 15, 2027

Year 3 research

- Present and discuss thesis-related research at the MMED workshop
- Continue thesis research with your supervisor
- Submit your annual activity report by Sept 15, 2027
- Follow the University rules for the final exam

Key dates 2026–2027

Nov 2026 – Jun 2027	Monthly PhD MMED and Brown Bag seminars
Nov – Dec 2026	Year 1 courses, period 1
Feb – May 2027	Year 1 courses, period 2 · complementary courses · visiting seminars
21 May 2027	MMED workshop: Year 3 students present · Year 2 progress meeting in late spring
May/June 2027	Year 1: oral presentation of your research idea
7–11 June 2027	Bioeconomy School, Como
Sept 15, 2027	Annual report (all) · supervisor (Year 1) · exams and essays (Year 1) · working paper (Year 2)
Oct 15, 2027	Year 1 exam retakes

Also: mobility requests at least 1 month before leaving · final exam registration typically by end of November.

Thesis guidelines

3+

chapters, each written
with a journal in mind



Collection of papers

Chapters linked by an introduction and a concise literature review.



At least one single-authored chapter

Recommended, to show your individual contribution.



Copyright-safe

Use a preprint version when including published work.



Supervisors decide

Follow their advice on structure and conclusion of the thesis.

Research periods abroad and cotutelle



Research period abroad

- At least 10 days, authorised in advance by the PhD Board
- Request at least 1 month before leaving
- +50% of scholarship for each month abroad, up to 12 months
- Department of Excellence funds can co-finance visits



Cotutelle

- Double PhD degree with a foreign university, approved by the Board
- Up to 18 months at the partner, with scholarship increase
- Examples: LISER, SKEMA, Bordeaux
- The procedure must start within 3 months of enrolment

Hosts so far: Bordeaux · Nottingham · LSE · King's College London · Birkbeck · ISER Essex · Jena · Mainz · TUHH · UPNA · Barcelona · Hohenheim · UWE

Research budget and missions

+10%

of the annual scholarship for research activities in Italy and abroad, consistent with your project

+50%

of the scholarship for each month abroad (up to 12 months; up to 18 in cotutelle)

Whole PhD

The extra funds you receive each year go into an individual fund that stays available for the entire course



Use the budget with your supervisor's prior authorisation and only for expenses consistent with the PhD. Missions go through U-Web Missioni and need the authorisation of the Director and the Department Director. Questions: Francesca Grignaschi.

Research outputs and visibility



Register in IRIS

Record your publications following University guidelines.



Share your ORCID

Send it to the PhD office; it links your outputs to your profile.



State your contribution

In co-authored work, add an Author Contribution Statement, in case this is common in your area.



Deposit your thesis

Open-access deposit is required for the title; embargo up to 18 months on request.



Create your web page

UniFind / IRInSubria personal page. Step-by-step guide to follow.

Use of generative AI

AI use must be transparent and must not replace independent scientific thinking.



Expected practice

- Be transparent about any use of AI tools
- Follow the University principles governing AI use



Not acceptable

- Replacing your independent development of research ideas
- Replacing your own elaboration of scientific content
- Presenting AI output as independent research

You remain responsible for your scientific work. Detailed PhD guidelines will follow.

English language requirement

Certify B2 (CEFR) before obtaining the PhD degree with a recognised certificate, or ask the PhD Board for an exemption:

- 1+ year of college in English-speaking countries
- 1+ year of academic mobility in English
- 6+ months abroad during the PhD in non-Italian-speaking countries
- Master's degree entirely taught in English
- Language degree with 3+ years of English studies



University support

- Optional courses via MacMillan English Campus
- B2 preparation course
- Details on the School of PhD website

Resources and facilities



Common room

Dedicated space with workstations for PhD students.



Labs and software

Department and University IT labs; MATLAB Campus licence.



Computing server

The Department's own server for heavy computation.



Library and databases

SiBA central library system, with online access.

Also: InExEc experimental economics centre · PhD SDC (our lessons are open to its students) · Interreg and Fondazione Cariplo projects

Representatives and who to contact



PhD representatives

Process feedback and issues that affect many students. They meet the Director regularly.



Your supervisor

Non-trivial questions about your PhD career, including personal issues.



The Director

Institutional problems, and anything the steps above cannot solve.

Your representatives: Francesca Antinori · Emre Kurt · Marina Piuri · Bibi Fiza Shah · Tania Sofia Vanegas Espinosa



Fill in the questionnaires. The national ANVUR survey (26 questions) and our internal annual questionnaire drive the improvements we make. We also meet students at least twice a year.

Recommendations



Be ambitious from day 1

Work hard and set the bar above the minimum.



Talk to people

Supervisors, faculty and seminar speakers.



Read the frontier

Top journals in your field and working paper series.



Present often

At least once a year internally; apply to PhD and larger conferences.



Aim beyond the minimum

Published or accepted papers are highly appreciated.



Monitor your milestones

The PhD lasts three years: check your progress every term.