

WU

WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS



PHILOSOPHY

Logic & Ethics

BBE Specialization

What Is It All About?

The specialization “*Philosophy: Logic & Ethics*” in the BBE program of WU is an ideal choice,

... if you want to gain a deeper and more general understanding of the world around us: a deeper understanding of the foundations in virtue of which economic decisions are made or ought to be made, a broader knowledge of how one could determine the consequences of economic theories as their presuppositions.

... if you reflect upon the influence of certain decisions on “us”.
Philosophy: Logic & Ethics is not only a place to discuss methodological questions concerning science but a place, too, to discuss from a moral perspective current economic systems of the production and distribution of goods.

Questions

„Is economics a deductive science or and inductive, if neither what else?“

„Is the science of economics based on axioms or synthetic a priori judgements?“ „Does economics use or should use causal or counterfactual explanations?“ „Are there strict laws in economics or just tendencies?“

„Is economics a ‚positive science‘ or a normative one?“

„Is economics a social science?“

“Philosophy: Logic & Ethics”

Two Courses

Course I – Philosophy of Economics
(5 ECTS Points)

Course II – Theories in Ethics
(5 ECTS Points)

Course I – Philosophy of Economics

At the end of this course, you should be able to analyze and evaluate different accounts in the science of economics in respect to their validity, presuppositions, consequences, and relation to empirical notions.

Course I – Philosophy of Economics: 2 Parts

Part I: different conceptions of “confirmation” in the 20th century and the various questions and problems, which arise, if principles such as “verifiability” and “falsifiability” are applied. Karl Popper’s original conception of *falsifiability* and his later as well as Imre Lakatos’ view of falsification and of the infamous problem of „the empirical basis“, an overview of 21st century accounts in the philosophy of science: Bas van Fraassen’s „constructive empiricism“ and accounts in the tradition of Peter Lipton’s „instrumentalism“.

Part II: will be concerned with “applied philosophy of science”. How are ‘cause’, ‘laws’, ‘explanation’, ‘prognosis’, ‘confirmation’ used in the context of scientific reasoning?”, i.e., is and should economics be a science which formulates *laws*, invoke(s) “unrealistic assumptions” and/or verifiability or falsifiability as methods of confirmation?

Course I – Philosophy of Economics

Dates for the Fall 2022/23

5.10., 17:30-20:00; 12.10., 17:30-20:30; 19.10., 17:30-20:30; 22.10., 12:00-17:00; 02.11., 17:30-18:30; 09.11., 17:30-21:30 and 16.11., 17:30-21:30.

Course II – Theories in Ethics

At the end of this course participants will be familiar with the criteria of judging a maxim of action as “appropriate”, or “right”, or “good”; they will have acquired a thorough understanding of different theories in ethics and the problems involved in seeking to establish their foundations. They will also be able to apply different moral principles to questions concerning just distribution, f.e. inheritance regulations, unconditional basic income, eco-taxes, ...

Course II – Theories in Ethics: 2 Topics

We will begin with Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics", move on to Immanuel Kant's "Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals", and will then look at John Stuart Mill's criticism of Kant's approach in "Utilitarianism" and his own utilitarian approach. As in course I there will be an applied part concerning more current questions.

Course II – Theories in Ethics

Dates for the Fall 2022/23

23.11., 17:30-20:00; 30.11., 17:30-20:30;
07.12., 17:30-20:30; 14.12., 17:30-20:30;
21.12., 17:30-21:30 and 11.01., 14:30-21:30.

When Is It offered?

Enrollment is possible in fall terms only. Unlike 20 ECTS specializations, 10 ECTS specializations do not have an “access to”-course to enroll in. The courses (in this case, both the courses I and II in “Philosophy: Logic & Ethics”) can be chosen from a drop-down menu in LPIS (the course registration application). Please note that 10 ECTS specializations can be combined with the 10 ECTS “specialization abroad”.

Prospects?

There are specialized master's programs in *Philosophy and Economics* at leading universities in the UK (LSE, Warwick, London Business School), Switzerland (UZH, St. Gallen), Germany (LMU Munich, Bayreuth), France, and other universities in Austria (University of Vienna, Paris-Lodron University in Salzburg for example).

Philosophy Division Faculty And Staff



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Where you can find us

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<https://www.wu.ac.at/philosophy>