

MODPHD Activity – Training 4_1 in Prishtina

Teaching methodology for the PhD studies at JKU Linz

Johann K. Brunner

"Modernizing the 3rd cycle at the University of Prishtina and Developing a
PhD Program at the Faculty of Economics"

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Ambitious concept

Goal of PhD-program: Students acquire the following competencies

1. Being able to write scientific papers according to the publication standards of international journals.
2. Being part of an international network.
3. Developing own research programs and writing grant applications.
4. Communicating with others (colleagues and general society) the essence of own research.

These goals should be attained by elements of the program emphasizing

1. Teaching of advanced research methods
2. Critical discussion of recent research on an international level.
3. Conveyance of additional skills (e. g., project management, theory of science, communication skills).
4. Using new media for communication and teaching.
5. Jointly authoring short (seminar) papers in small groups

In reality, fairly standard program of compulsory courses, elective courses and seminars

Compulsory courses

- Econometrics
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics

Elective courses (1 has to be chosen)

- Statistics
- Game Theory
- Financial Economics

Field courses (core competencies)

(3 courses)

- Environmental Economics
- Behavioral Economics
- Identification in Applied Microeconomics
- Advanced Theory of International Trade
- Political Economy Modelling
- Advanced Econometrics
- Advanced Monetary Theore
- ...

Actually, topics vary quite a lot

Generic competencies for PhD-students

Theoretical and practical skills to efficiently perform own scientific research activities and present them properly.
Courses on gender equality can be taken.

PhD-Seminar

Opportunity for students to properly present research ideas, theoretical and methodological principles and results of their own research.

PhD-Thesis

Write a book or three papers, (134 of 180 credits).

Teaching methodology

- No specific guidelines on teaching methodology. Teacher can choose own teaching method.
- Courses are so-called "Lectures including Exercises", meaning that in addition to lecturing by the teacher, students need to actively participate by solving exercises.
- Typically, problem sets are distributed. Solutions have a (minor) influence on grades.
- Especially in econometrics, practical training on the compute with appropriate software (e. g., STATA) is essential.

- Obviously, compulsory courses are closer to advanced textbooks, while field courses reflect research interests of the teachers.
- In the field courses just a number of important (and recent) publications in this field might be discussed, in order to bring students to the frontier of research. Could even essentially be a reading group.

Conclusion

- No specific teaching methodology involved in the JKU-PhD-Program.
- Field courses as a means to present ongoing research.
- It seems that in economics, there is generally not so much emphasis on teaching techniques (as opposed to, say, humanities). Some research found little discussion of this issue in economic programs.