Public Sector Economics: Microeconomic Applications

Module Code: ECO00036M  Credits: 10  Term: 1
Contact Hours: 9 Lectures (18 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Dr. M. Horvath

Aims:

The public sector is a major user of scarce resources and a source of a lot of intervention in the functioning of the private sector. This module investigates the issues involved in the design of policies to correct market failures and resolve equity-efficiency trade-offs. The aim is to equip students with the knowledge and analytical skills to be able to critically engage in the academic and non-academic debate on different aspects of government intervention.

More specifically, the aim is to give students the necessary theoretical background to

(i) follow the debate in the most relevant journals in the area of public economics;
(ii) use advanced analytical reasoning to advise on policy in different areas of government intervention such as public goods, environmental protection or social insurance;
(iii) be able to proceed towards doctoral study in public economics.

Assessment:

There will be a two-hour unseen examination scheduled at the start of the Spring Term. The examination comprises typically two questions from a choice of four questions.

Pre-requisites:

None.

Key references:


Gravelle, H. and Rees, R., 1992, Microeconomics, Prentice Hall, 2nd edition (or later)

Ljungquist, L. and Sargent, T.J, 2004, Recursive Macroeconomic Theory, MIT

