Health & Development

Module Code: ECO00025M  Credits: 10  Term: 2
Contact Hours: 20 contact hours
Module Organisers: Professor Marc Suhrcke

Overview:

This module focuses on the application of economics to key topics in health policy in low and middle income countries. The course aims to equip students with the tools required to analyse and critically discuss these issues.

Aims:

- to introduce students to current policy debates on health systems in developing countries
- to provide students with the economic techniques needed to analyse and discuss them
- to demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of these techniques in fields such as health system financing, equity and the effectiveness of health programmes
- to illuminate the pros and cons of alternative policy directions

Objectives:

Having completed this module, students should be able to:

- identify and discuss the main topics of debate regarding the functioning of health systems in developing countries
- critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of techniques commonly used to analyse health systems and programmes in low and middle income settings
- understand how standard economic methods may need to be adapted in developing country contexts

Assessment:

A 3,000 word essay based on one of the course topics. The essay will be worth 90% of the final mark and is to be submitted by the end of the first week of the Summer Term. Students will also be expected to make one seminar presentation, worth 10% of the final mark.

Pre-requisites:

None.
Main References:

No one text fully covers the material required for the entire course. Key (and supplementary) readings will be provided for each topic. In addition, the following texts cover many of the topics discussed on the module:

