

ECON0053: Economics of Tax Policy

Lecturer: Dr. Anne Brockmeyer

Module Description:

- This module is about the economic effects of taxation, and economic aspects of tax policy. It aims to give students an understanding of the key economic issues in tax policy, and to show how these can be analysed using standard tools of theoretical and empirical economic analysis.
- What can economics tell us about the effects of taxation? Can economics help us design better tax policy?

The subject matter of the course is set out in 10 weeks of teaching, which cover the following topics:

1. Introduction to key concepts in the economics of taxation.
2. Value Added Tax (VAT)
3. The optimal structure of commodity taxes.
4. How should alcohol and tobacco be taxed?
5. The Tax Policy Project.
6. Taxing energy.
7. The personal income tax.
8. Tax evasion and tax enforcement.
9. Taxing company profits.
10. Tax competition.

Tutorial classes and coursework

Students are expected to prepare answers to a set of short questions in advance of each class, and be ready to present or discuss these answers in class.

In addition, students submit two pieces of written work during the term, which will be read by the class teacher, and given an indicative grade. One of these pieces of written coursework is a set of short answers to questions about statistical data, designed to help you prepare for the data analysis component of the Tax Policy Project.

Typical Assessments

The overall mark in this module usually comprises the following assessments:

- 20% of the overall mark comes from the student group project ("Tax Policy Project"), of maximum 2500 words. Submission is due at the end of Term 2.
- 80% of the overall marks comes from a two-hour closed book invigilated exam. Students will have the opportunity to take a practice exam and receive feedback in the second half of Term 2.