

Module Code	ECS3008
Module Title	Social Network and Labour Economics
Level	6
Credit	30
Owning Subject	Economics
Level Restrictions	

Aims

The module aims to provide students with a set of tools to analyse the effects of social networks on employment, inequality, productivity and labour mobility and migration. Students will become familiar with theories, methods and techniques used by labour economists and will have the opportunity to apply them to topics of interest. For example, students will learn techniques developed for social network analysis to identify the human resources strategies that would maximize productivity in the workplace. The first part of the course is designed to provide a broad overview of social network techniques and their applications to the labour market. The second part of the course will focus on human capital investment, employment, productivity, discrimination in the labour market and labour mobility and migration.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

On completion of this module the successful student will be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the main models of labour markets, their strengths and weaknesses;
2. describe and explain relevant empirical evidence on the operation of the labour market;
3. apply techniques developed for social network analysis to address problems in labour economics.

Skills

This module will call for the successful student to:

4. critically evaluate problems in labour economics in areas such as human resources management, labour mobility and migration, and labour market matching;
5. conduct critical assessments of and provide a presentation on contemporary research endeavours in the Labour Economics arena.

Syllabus

- Introduction to social network techniques: graphs and their properties, degree distributions, graph measures, centrality.
- Applications of social network analysis to the labour market: identifying the key workers.
- Labour supply decisions and the family.
- Demand for labour, minimum wages and labour market equilibrium.

- Human capital investment.
- Selection and wages.
- Labour market matching and unemployment.
- Externalities and peer effects.
- Labour mobility and migration.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

A one-hour lecture per week will introduce new material, explain theoretical concepts and guide students through the literature. A one-hour tutorial or computer lab per week will allow students to apply social network and econometric techniques using real data and the statistical software R. Real datasets will be used for all lab exercises.

In the first part of the course, the work will be relatively closely related to applications of social network methods to labour economics. In the second part, topics of labour economics such as human capital investment, labour market matching and labour mobility and migration, among others, will be introduced. Students will prepare a coursework on a topic in labour economics.

Summative short quizzes of 15 minutes duration will be conducted at regular intervals throughout the year during lecture or seminar sessions. This will form part of the learning and teaching as students will get into the habit of revising their learning materials at bitesize whilst clearing up any doubts about the materials that has been covered with the immediate feedback given to them straight after the quizzes.

Assessment Scheme

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment will take place during lectures and computer labs. Lab sessions will give students the opportunity to learn the statistical software “R” and its network package “igraph”. Students are expected to apply techniques developed for social network analysis to identify the key employees in a workplace, evaluate labour market mismatch and analyse the effect of connections in labour productivity and labour search. Feedback will be given on students’ lab work.

Summative assessment

1. Weeks 2-19: Quizzes once every three weeks, each worth 5%, to assess learning outcomes 1 to 5.

2. A coursework, worth 20%, to be submitted in week 22, will be based on a particular topic in labour economics in areas such as human resources management, labour mobility and migration, labour market matching, wage determination or discrimination in the labour market (learning outcomes 1,2 & 5). In support of the development of research and presentation skills, students will be asked to critically assess a published article in the Labour Economics arena and provide a

presentation on their understanding and outcomes. Both, analytical (50% weighting) and presentation skills (50% weighting) will be assessed.

3. An unseen examination, worth 50%, at the end of the course comprising unseen questions to allow students to demonstrate the necessary skills to produce written work and evaluate different viewpoints within a time constraint to assess learning outcomes 1 to 5.

An overall grade of 40% or better is required to pass the module.

Assessment Weighting

Quizzes: 30%; Coursework: 20%; Examination: 50%

Exam Duration

Examination, 2 hours

Learning Materials

Your online reading lists can be accessed from the My Study area of UniHub. They highlight essential and recommended reading for all modules you are registered on.

MODULE RUNS

Module Leader	Future Academic Year	Term	Campus	Part of Term	Start/End Dates	Max Nr of Students
Lorenzo Ductor Gomez	2018/2019	Autumn	HEN-Hendon Campus	AY-Academic Year	12-OCT-18 / 03-MAY-19	199
Lorenzo Ductor Gomez	2019/2020	Autumn	HEN-Hendon Campus	AY-Academic Year	07-OCT-19 / 11-APR-20	199
Lorenzo Ductor Gomez	2020/2021	Autumn	HEN-Hendon Campus	AY-Academic Year	05-OCT-20 / 09-APR-21	199
Lorenzo Ductor Gomez	2021/2022	Autumn	HEN-Hendon Campus	AY-Academic Year	05-OCT-21 / 09-APR-22	199
Lorenzo Ductor Gomez	2022/2023	Autumn	HEN-Hendon Campus	AY-Academic Year	03-OCT-22 / 10-APR-23	199