

Overview of Economics Courses offered at the JFKI and in the 30LP Economics Minor

Disziplinäres Orientierungsmodul ( <i>disciplinary orientation module</i> )	Vertiefungsmodule ( <i>advanced modules</i> )	
	A (Macroeconomic Theory and Applications)	B (Economic History/ Thought, Economic Policy and Case Studies)
An Introduction to Economic Reasoning (Proseminar)	Monetary and Fiscal Policies	Wall Street and Finance in the US
An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning (Seminar)	Topics in Macroeconomics	An Introduction to American Economic History

Semester	Modules
1	Einführung in die Volkswirtschaftslehre (6 LP)
2	Grundlagen der Mikroökonomie (6 LP)
3	Mathematik für Wirtschaftswissenschaftler (6 LP)
4	Wahlpflichtmodul* (6 LP)
5	Grundlagen der Makroökonomie (6 LP)
6	*The „Wahlpflichtmodul“ can also be taken here.

(taken from the Studienordnung VWL-30LP 2012)

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

If you choose economics as one of your three main disciplines at the JFKI, you will usually have to take the courses “Introduction to Economic Reasoning” and “Introduction to Statistical Reasoning,” since they are both part of the disciplinary orientation module (Disziplinäres Orientierungsmodul) in economics. Both courses require no prior knowledge or training in economics and are perfect for beginners.

This is especially true for “Introduction to Economic Reasoning.” This course is very similar to “Einführung in die Volkswirtschaftslehre,” which is offered in the 30LP economics minor. Both courses are always offered in the winter term. It hence makes sense to take both courses at the same time, preferably during your first semester.

In the following summer term, the JFKI always offers the second part of the disciplinary orientation module, “Introduction to Statistical Reasoning.” It is important to know that this course does not presuppose particularly advanced knowledge in mathematics. It simply offers a good introduction to the most basic and fundamental statistical methods for the field of economics and for the social sciences. Since this course will help you better understand scholarly articles (whether in economics, political science or other disciplines), it is best to take it as early as possible. The second semester is usually the ideal time.

In the 30LP economics minor, the course “Grundlagen der Mikroökonomie” is suggested for the second semester. This certainly makes sense, since it is always offered in the summer term and essentially builds upon “Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre.”

### 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

Once you have passed both courses of the disciplinary orientation module in economics at the JFKI, you do not really have to worry in which order to take the remaining courses in the advanced modules (Vertiefungsmodule). The courses of the advanced modules do not build upon one another and can be taken independently. However, you should remember to look up which course is offered in what semester to make sure you can pick the combination that interests you the most. It can also be useful to take courses from the JFKI together with similar courses from the 30LP economics minor at the same time.

In the 30LP economics minor, the course “Mathematik für Wirtschaftswissenschaften” is suggested for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester. This course is offered every winter term. It teaches basics in mathematics that can be useful for other courses at the economics department, e.g. “Grundlagen der Mikroökonomie.” Therefore you could as well take it right in your 1<sup>st</sup> semester. However, you should keep in mind that the course comprises a lecture, a lecture recitation and a review session every week. Therefore, it can be very time-consuming and quite a challenge for the first semester. If you feel like you have deficits in mathematics or forgot many of the basics from school, you should definitely consider taking the “Mathematik Brückenkurs.” It is offered by the department of economics shortly before the start of each winter term as a short preparatory course for “Mathematik für Wirtschaftswissenschaften.”

After the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester, the order in which you take the remaining courses in the 30LP economics minor also becomes less important. Whether you first take your “Wahlpflichtmodul” or “Grundlagen der Makroökonomie” does not make a big difference.

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Semester

Of course, most BA students at the JFKI spend their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semester abroad. If you want to finish your studies within the regular time frame (6 semesters), you should think ahead and see which courses you must have completed at the FU before your exchange begins and what courses you could also take at the exchange university. It is best to check the course list of your exchange university early on and ask whether the FU Berlin will give you credit for the courses you want to take abroad.

### Suggested Course of Study

	<b>Economics as primary focus discipline within the BA North American Studies</b>	<b>30LP Minor in Economics</b>
1 Semester	„An Introduction to Economic Reasoning“	„Einführung in die Volkswirtschaftslehre“
2. Semester	„An Introduction to Statistical Reasoning“	„Grundlagen der Mikroökonomie“
3. Semester	Vertiefungsmodul (of your choice)	Mathematik für Wirtschaftswissenschaftler
4. Semester	Vertiefungsmodul (of your choice)	(Wahlpflichtmodul <i>or</i> „Grundlagen der Makroökonomie“)
5. Semester	Vertiefungsmodul (of your choice)	(Wahlpflichtmodul <i>or</i> „Grundlagen der Makroökonomie“)
6. Semester	Vertiefungsmodul (of your choice)	