

ULMA Economic Workshop

Information Handout for Applicant Universities and Students

The ULMA Economic Workshop (ULMA-EW) is a research-oriented international teaching format delivered by the Institute of Economics at Ulm University. Selected universities host the Three-Day On-Site Training locally, while Ulm lecturers provide the teaching and academic guidance. Students prepare via Moodle before the training and then collaborate with students from Ulm University on the replication of published empirical studies.

What Is the ULMA-EW?

The ULMA Economic Workshop is an international teaching format in empirical economics. It connects selected international participants with students from Ulm University enrolled in the master seminar Applied Data Science: Replication & Extension.

Timeline

1 University Application

Universities apply by 12 July 2026 and nominate 4 to 6 suitable students. No existing partnership with Ulm University is required.

2 Preparation via Moodle

From 3 August to 13 September 2026, selected students prepare with Moodle materials provided by the Institute of Economics at Ulm University.

3 Three-Day On-Site Training

Ulm lecturers deliver the training at the selected host university between mid-September and October.

4 Hybrid Research Phase

Students reproduce a published study, document deviations, check robustness, and prepare a transparent replication package.

5 Final Presentation

Teams submit their replication documentation and present their results in English in a hybrid Zoom session.

What Students Work On

- Each team works on one published empirical study.
- Students reproduce main tables or figures and document deviations from the original results.
- Where feasible, teams add robustness checks or a small extension.
- Deliverables are a transparent replication package with code, documentation, reproduced results, and a final Zoom presentation.

Replication in Economics

Replication is a core part of credible empirical economics. It asks whether published results can be reproduced from the available data, code, and documentation, and where results depend on choices in cleaning, estimation, or interpretation. In the ULMA-EW, students contribute to this quality assurance process by rebuilding existing research workflows, documenting deviations, and making results more transparent.

Tools and Collaboration

Preparation materials are provided via Moodle. During the on-site training and hybrid research phase, students collaborate with industry-standard tools such as GitHub for version control and reproducible code, Zoom for hybrid meetings, Discord for team communication, R and Quarto or R Markdown for analysis and documentation. Python may be used where appropriate.

AI Agents in Replication

A regular AI chat mainly answers individual prompts. AI agents can support longer, multi-step workflows: they help inspect unfamiliar code, trace data-processing steps, run or revise scripts, debug errors, compare outputs with published tables, document decisions, and prepare reproducible reports. Students use them critically and transparently as research assistants, not as replacements for their own reasoning.

Roles and Expectations

Applicant Universities

- Submit the application and nominate 4 to 6 students.
- Selected hosts provide rooms, internet, and local coordination.
- Indicate whether credits or formal recognition can be awarded.

Students

- Prepare with Moodle materials before the on-site training.
- Attend the Three-Day On-Site Training delivered by Ulm lecturers.
- Collaborate with students from Ulm University during the hybrid research phase.

More Information

[https://www.uni-ulm.de/en/mawi/mawi-wiwi/forschung-und-lehre/
ulma-economic-workshop/](https://www.uni-ulm.de/en/mawi/mawi-wiwi/forschung-und-lehre/ulma-economic-workshop/)

