UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 1
PANTHÉON SORBONNE

Filière Francophone
d'Économie et de Sciences
Politiques-Université du Caire

MASTERS IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF PARIS 1 PANTHÉON-SORBONNE

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, CAIRO UNIVERSITY

THE FRENCH SECTION OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, CAIRO UNIVERSITY
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS 1 PANTHÉON-SORBONNE

Objective:

The aim of the Masters in Development Economics is to prepare highly qualified analysts of economic development issues. Its purpose is to reflect the growing demand for experts capable of addressing the challenges of economic development, evaluating the economic policies of developing countries and analyzing the economic relations between unequally developed countries.

The Masters' program offers rigorous training in analytical and quantitative economic methods. Its goal is indeed to equip talented students with a solid foundation for applied research. The program is however geared to both future academics and future practitioners in the field of development economics and international economics.

Structure:

The Masters' lasts for two academic years. Each academic year is divided into two fourteen-week semesters. The Master comprises 16 courses (7 in the first year and 9 in the second year). There is also a thesis seminar where each student presents the work related to his or her thesis.

The Masters' thesis is an original research piece in the field chosen by the student. Each student is assigned an adviser who helps him or her in identifying a suitable research topic and oversees the whole process. The Masters' thesis defense takes place at the end of semester four.

Entry requirements:

- The program is intended for students with a "Licence d'Economie de l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne" or a bachelor in economics from other universities (with a minimum duration of four years).
- Applicants must demonstrate competence in economics and quantitative analysis and the potential for learning the analytical and quantitative tools.
- Computer literacy is essential.
- Excellent command of the English Language.

General rules:

- Students who are not enrolled at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science (Cairo University) have to get at least 50% in each course of Paris 1 University to pass from the first year of the masters to the second one.
- In case a student fails to obtain this grade, they can have a make-up exam in the corresponding course.
- Attendance is compulsory. If a student has a repetitive absence (more than two times), he cannot take the final exam.
- No make-up exams in M2.

Degrees:

- At the end of the first year, students obtain a certificate of M1 (first year of Masters').
- At the end of the second year, students obtain a Masters' degree in development economics from University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Duration:

Four semesters (two semesters M1 and two semesters M2).

Teaching Language:

Courses are delivered by professors from Cairo University and University Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne in English.

Tuition fees:

For the Master 1:

- 1200 euros paid online to the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- LE 7500 paid in cash to the FEPS.

For the Master 2:

- 1400 euros paid online to the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- LE 9000 paid in cash to the FEPS.

List of courses*

First year: M1

Semester One

- Advanced International Trade (36 hours) - 5 ECTS
- Econometrics II (36 hours) - 6 ECTS
- Development Economics (36 hours) - 5 ECTS
- M1 thesis seminar (18 hours)

Semester Two

- Development policies (36 hours) - 5 ECTS
- Mathematical economics II (36 hours) - 5 ECTS
- Open macroeconomics (12 hours) - 3 ECTS
- Labor economics (24 hours) - 4 ECTS
- M1 thesis seminar (18 hours) – 4 ECTS

In addition to these courses, external students are required to take the following courses offered by the faculty of economics and political science:

- Three courses among the following electives: -5 ECTS each
  - Environmental economics (36 hours)
  - Transportation Economics (36 hours)
  - Game theory (36 hours)
  - International Finance (36 hours)
  - Political economy (36 hours)
  - Digital Economics (36 hours)
- Two courses among the minor courses offered by the faculty (this includes courses of statistics, political science, social science computing, public administration) -3 ECTS each

Notes regarding the five additional courses

- Students who are currently enrolled at FEPS are required to complete the course requirements imposed by Cairo University.
- Students who were previously enrolled at FEPS and successfully completed any of these courses after the 2017/2018 academic year are exempt from the corresponding course(s).
- Students who were enrolled in another university and who have completed any of these courses may apply for course equivalency at the beginning of the academic year to obtain an exemption.
- Students must validate these courses by the end of M1

Timetable for M1:

Lecture times depend on the faculty timetable. Some sessions may be held on Saturdays and weekdays from 6 pm to 9 pm, while others may be scheduled in the mornings.

Second year: M2

Semester Three

- Development theory (36 hours) – 6 ECTS
- Microeconomics of development (36 hours) – 6 ECTS
- Methods in empirical development economics (36 hours) – 6 ECTS
- Econometrics (36 hours + 18 hours tutorials) - 6 ECTS + 3 ECTS
- M2 thesis seminar (18 hours)

Semester Four

- Population, Migration and Development (12 hours) - 3 ECTS
- Human capital and development: Education and health (12 hours) - 3 ECTS
- Institutions, governance and development (12 hours) - 3 ECTS
- Macroeconomics and development (36 hours) - 6 ECTS
- Inequality, Development and Gender (36 hours) - 3 ECTS
- M2 thesis seminar (18 hours) – 12 ECTS

Timetable for M2:

- lectures take place on weekdays from 6pm to 9pm.

***(Between brackets the number of teaching hours per course)**

**** The ECTS is the grading system utilized in Paris 1.**

Courses outlines

M1 – First Semester:

Economic Development

The course deals with the principal issues of economic development, with the objective of preparing students for policy-oriented research in this subject area. Emphasis will be on economy-wide aspects of economic development, with special references to international dimensions and cases studies. The course is mostly a theoretical course with case studies and is not intended to focus on econometric techniques.

International Trade

This course introduces students to the theories of international trade, with a special emphasis on the role of firms. The course starts with a deep understanding of traditional theories of international trade and their empirical validity. Second, we move on to study the most recent work in international trade at the firms' level.

Econometrics II

This is a course in applied econometric methods. The emphasis is on modern techniques appropriate for the econometric analysis of both time-series and cross-sectional data. The purpose of this course is to provide the students with the necessary econometric theory and concepts, and practical training to know what econometric methods to use in different circumstances and how to interpret and appraise the results of the empirical analysis. The emphasis in this course is on applied methods, not on econometric theory. The course is made up of two main parts. Part I is related to discrete choice models in which we will cover the binary choice models. The importance of such models in the economic applications, their specifications, and estimation methods are presented. STATA will be used for practical examples of estimating some of the models. Part II is related to new directions in time-series analysis. It starts with univariate analysis including stationarity tests, autocorrelation function, and unit root test. This is followed by the multivariate analysis including cointegration, vector autoregression analysis and vector error correction models. E-Views will be used for computer-based calculations for this part.

Feasibility studies

The Feasibility Studies course is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to evaluate investment projects and make informed comparisons to select the best options. Through comprehensive market, technical, and financial studies, students will learn to assess the viability and profitability of various projects, choosing the best option. The first half of this course focuses on the market and the technical analysis. The rest of the course focuses on the financial analysis of the proposed project and the mechanism of future evaluation and decision making.

Research Seminar

This course introduces foundational methods and techniques of academic research in economic development. It helps students understand the main components of a research framework and develop their own term paper. By the end of this course, the student will be able to: develop an understanding of various research designs and techniques, write a critical literature review, identify various sources of information for literature review and data collection, and appreciate the components of scholarly writing.

International finance

The course presents the principle of international finance, with special focus on macroeconomic issues of international economics such as the balance of payments, capital flows, exchange rate determination, foreign exchange market and the relationship between interest rates and exchange rates. This is in addition to studying the foreign exchange market and various foreign exchange derivatives. The course is divided into two main parts; the first one covers the concepts related to open economy macroeconomics, and the second covers the international macroeconomic policy. Moreover, part of the course is devoted to covering developing countries' crises.

Environmental economics

This course is designed to help students understand the essence of environmental economics; ecosystems, the trade-off between environmental quality and economic activities and the economic principles behind different environmental policies such as green taxation. The Environmental Economics course aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the fundamental concept of externalities, which are crucial in analyzing environmental issues. Students will learn to determine the optimal level of environmental quality and explore various instruments for pollution control. The course also covers different approaches for valuing the benefits of the environment, equipping students with the necessary knowledge to assess and manage environmental resources effectively.

M1 – Second Semester:

Development Policies

This course starts by reviewing up to date world indicators and facts. It studies also inequality and redistribution policies. It then moves to understanding the role of industrialization from a development point of view as well as the urbanization policy. After it analyses in general terms birth control and good governance policies. To add additional value, it finishes up with a detailed analysis of the development policy of China in the last century.

Labor Economics

The « labor economics » course presents the main microeconomic and macroeconomic theoretical and empirical/application approaches with a special focus on the evolution of the Egyptian labor market. The labor market microeconomics theories that are studied are the following: the neoclassical microeconomic model, the human capital theory, the job search theory, the implicit contracts' theory, the efficiency wages' theory, and the labor market segmentation. The Keynesian approach, the correlation between inflation and unemployment and the labor market disequilibrium are also presented.

Mathematical Economics II

This course introduces students to the dynamic methods commonly used in economics. The aim is to provide students with various methods used to solve difference and ordinary differential equations. Particular emphasis is placed on learning about how to use these methods in order to analyze economic issues and problems.

Open macroeconomics

The course begins with a presentation of the balance of payments and gives some stylized facts related to global imbalances: very high external debt for some countries and large holdings of assets for others. The trade and current account deficits are studied: the question of their long-term sustainability, the determinants, the impact of various economic shocks such as income and global interest rate variations. The determination of savings and investment, and their effects on the current account at the aggregate level are particularly taken into account. Theories on the determination of the real exchange rate are presented: assumption of the PPP, Balassa-Samuelson model, model TNT. Debt crises are the subject of a chapter that considers the effects of various possible solutions: debt forgiveness, redemption, debt swap.

Game theory

The course aims at explaining the basic concepts of game theory. The main objective of this course is to train students to understand and apply game theory notions in different applications and to be able to find the equilibrium state or the outcome of the game. The course illustrates the main game theory terminologies and the mathematical tools used to find the equilibrium of the game.

Digital economy

This Digital Economics course provides a comprehensive examination of the development and global scope of the digital economy. It explores contemporary and potential challenges arising from global digital transformation, and studies future opportunities and implications related to digital economy expansion. Through this course, students will gain a deep understanding of the fundamental concepts, new business models, and cutting-edge technologies driving the digital economy. By analyzing the various challenges and opportunities presented by the globalization of the digital economy, students will develop the skills to evaluate its impact on economic growth. They will also explore the implications of digital economy development at both global and national levels, preparing them to propose effective policies and frameworks for technological advancement.

Political economy

This course will introduce students to the contemporary study of political economy, or how politics and economics interact at the national, regional and global levels. Upon completion of this course, the student will be familiar with basic theories of Political Economy: capitalism, liberalism, socialism, and Marxism. The course will also focus on the political economy analysis of the role of the government, international trade, fiscal governance and monetary policy. Additionally, the student will acquire a good knowledge about the real reasons of variation between normative economic policies and those adopted and implemented in real life.

Transportation economics

This course is designed to help students understand the different aspects of transportation economics. The transport sector has to confront various issues such as congestion on the roads and in cities, environmental pollution and a shortage of infrastructure. Transport Economics relates to the optimal allocation of scarce resources within the transport sector and between the transport sector and other sectors in the economy. In this course, the principles of domestic and international transport are studied in order to gain the biggest advantage from transport provision while minimizing resource consumption. The course will focus on three main themes: main concepts and theory of transportation economics, transportation and economic development, and evolving of the transport sector in Egypt.

Dissertation

Students select a research topic in relation with their professional project and choose a tutor among the Master's professors. Discussions and progress follow up are organized regularly within the Master seminar. Students defend their thesis in front of a committee set by the director of the Master.

M2 – Third Semester:

Advanced Development and Growth theory

By the end of this course, it is anticipated that, by the end of this semester, students taking this course will be familiar with the best know theories in each of the thematic areas covered and will have obtained an appreciation of past research and recent evidence. It starts with an overview of development and underdevelopment in historical perspective, the concept and reality of economic development, the measurement of economic development. Then, it presents theories of development (Traditional Theories of Economic Growth and Development, Heterodox and Neoclassical Theories of Economic Development, Modern Theories of Economic Development). Third, it analyzes structural transformation of the urban sector, rural sector and industrialization and development. Finally, it examines how development is financed (foreign and domestic).

Microeconomics of development and Gender

The goal of this course is to understand the microeconomics underlying key international development problems and the tools researchers use to study them and to design related policy interventions. It focuses on both theoretical interpretation and empirical estimation of microeconomic models of individual, household, farm, market and non-market institutions that relate to a range of issues attracting both researchers and policy makers.

Econometrics III

The course deals with econometric methods and applications designed for the analysis of cross-section and panel data models. It can be viewed as a course in micro and macro-econometrics, since we cover methods that are most often used in empirical microeconomic research. The main topics covered are maximum likelihood & generalized methods of moments, panel data models, limited dependent variable models, and qualitative response models in a time series panel framework. Other topics such as pooled mean group, mean group estimators and an introduction to big data are studied. Important topical applications will be treated.

Methods in empirical development economics

This course applies the empirical methods that are presented in the econometrics course. Hence, it presents some development topics from an applied perspective with a special focus on the following themes: OLS and panel in development economics, instrumental variables, program evaluation, propensity scores matching and regression discontinuity design, selection and Heckman procedure, differences in difference and randomized experiment, gravity and migration, poverty and local development, foreign aid, migration, culture and institutions.

M2 thesis seminar

This course deepens techniques of academic research in economic development. It helps students work on their research framework and develop their own masters' thesis that will be submitted in the second semester.

M2 – Fourth Semester

Population, Migration and Development

This course introduces students to the main problems of the discipline, the existing literature and to the state of research on the topic; to introduce them to variations both in state approaches to the problems of migrants and ethnic minorities and their self-organization; to give the students the basic methods for comparative analysis of migration policies.

Human capital and development: Education and health

Education is tightly interlinked with, and plays a key role in enabling progress towards other development dimensions, from infrastructure and health, to reducing poverty and vulnerability to disasters. At the same time, while the education sector is often one of the single largest positions in domestic public expenditure, its share in development aid has been declining. This course introduces key aspects, concepts, challenges and controversies in international educational and health development with a special focus on the history of mass schooling, structural adjustment policies, sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda, international educational development system, its diverse actors and stakeholders, policies and governance, education aid architecture, health issues and health problems in Africa and their effect on human capital.

Macroeconomics and development

This course is intended to present some of the main ideas underlying development and macroeconomics. Thus, it introduces students to the growing body of studies, theoretical models and research on macroeconomics policies and development, public finance, and international economics and finance. Using theoretical models, empirical studies and case histories, it hopes to enhance understanding of development-aware macroeconomic models, analysis of fiscal policy, development and credit markets; and the link between development and trade and investment policies. It is a survey course and will not present deeply each topic during lectures. Yet, participants are expected to explore and deepen a topic on their own in the term paper.

Inequality, Development and Gender

The course is set up around a series of major policy questions central to the gender equality agenda. Following an introduction lecture about regional and global patterns, each of the following lectures will tackle gender inequality in terms of poverty, economic opportunities, labor market, education, and health. Students will be asked to work on a specific policy challenge in a developing context, applying and developing the findings discussed in class and in the readings.

Institutions, Governance and Development

Students should be able to understand the role and significance of governance and institutions in development with a special focus on the role of formal (laws and

constitutions) and informal institutions (traditions and norms) and their nexus to corruption.

International Economics, Globalization, and Development

On completion of this course, students should be able to understand trade policies, the role and significance of international organizations and international institutions; analyze the difference between different organizations and identify the types and expressions of international organization. It also focuses on the role of firms in international trade by shedding the light on the determinants of their performance.

Dissertation

Students select a research topic in relation with their professional project and choose a tutor among the Master's professors. Discussions and progress follow up are organized regularly within the Master seminar. Students defend their thesis in front of a committee set by the director of the Master.

The Application Process:

Submit the following documents:

a. Completed Post-Graduate application form
b. Cover letter with regard to why you wish to join this Master's program (approximately 500 words in English)
c. Two passport size photos
d. Copy of national identity card or Passport for foreigners
e. Curriculum vitae
f. Copy of Bachelor's degree or its equivalent for candidates who studied abroad
g. Copy of academic transcripts
h. A proof of English proficiency (only for those who don't have a degree from a University program entirely taught in English)
i. Recommendation letters from two referees who hold senior academic or managerial positions

All these documents must be sent by email to filierefrancophone@feps.edu.eg in one pdf file as written in the application requirements named with "Yourfirsrname_yourlastname" with email subject "MDE Admission 2026/2027". A hard copy must be submitted in the office of the French section (at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Third floor). If necessary, candidates will be assigned a slot for an interview in August 2026.

Application Deadline: July 31st, 2026.

Academic coordinator of the program

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