

University of Hohenheim
Institute of Economics
Dept. of Econometrics and Statistics
Institute of Financial Management
Dept. of Business Mathematics and Data Science

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS (5200-611)
(M.Sc. ECONOMICS WITH DATA SCIENCE)

WINTER TERM 2026/27

Professor Dr. Thomas Dimpfl and Professor Dr. Robert Jung are jointly offering the 12 ECTS module *Empirical Research in Economics* in the winter term 2026/27. The module provides students with the opportunity to apply modern empirical methods to real-world research questions in collaboration with industry and public-sector partners. The module consists of two data science hackathons conducted in collaboration with **AOK Baden-Württemberg** and **Festool GmbH**, as well as a semester-long empirical research project in cooperation with the **Ministerium für Landesentwicklung und Wohnen, Baden-Württemberg (MLW)**.

Semester Project

In the semester project, student teams develop and evaluate a prototype platform for the automated creation of qualified rent indices (*Mietspiegel*) based on empirical data. The project combines econometric modeling, data engineering, and interactive data visualization while addressing an important public policy challenge. Students work independently in teams, present their findings, and contribute to an exploratory proof-of-concept for a scalable digital solution.

Not milestones have been fixed for the semester project at this stage. However, there will be at least a final presentation of the results obtained together with representatives of the MLW. Dates will be discussed during the kick off meeting scheduled for **16.10.2026, 14:00**

Hackathons: Content and Schedule

Students work in teams on two real-world data science projects and are supervised by faculty members from the University of Hohenheim.

Preliminary project topics:

1. **AOK Baden-Württemberg:** A data classification challenge based on healthcare data.
2. **Festool GmbH:** Development of an AI-based decision support system for repair feasibility assessment.

Schedule:

1. In-person general kick-off meeting for the Hackathons : **16.10.2026, 14:00**.
2. In-person kick-off meeting at *Festool*: **23.10.2026, 14:00 - 15:30** in Wendlingen.
3. In-person presentations with *Festool* representatives: **04.12.2026, 14:00 - 17:00**.
4. In-person kick-off meeting at *AOK*: **07.12.2026, 14:00 - 15:30**, Downtown Stuttgart.
5. In-person presentations with *AOK* representatives: **28.01.2027, 14:00 - 17:00** .

Prerequisites

Students must have successfully completed the Principles of Data Science and Statistical Learning modules in order to participate in the module.

Grading

Although the projects are carried out in teams, assessment is based on each student's individual contribution. The two hackathons are weighted equally, each accounting for 25% of the final grade. The semester project accounts for 50% of the final grade. A final grade will only be awarded if all three components have been successfully completed.

Application

Students interested in participating in the module should write an email to econometrics@uni-hohenheim.de accompanied by a current transcript of records. Application deadline is **15.10.2026**.