

What is the difference between EPID and ADE Specialism?

The EPID (Economics Policy for International Development) is a specialist MSc degree that is specifically tailored for students who wish to focus on quantitative economic policy analysis for international development, deeply immersing themselves in the theory and empirics of economic analysis and writing a quantitative dissertation. ADE (Applied Development Economics) specialism is affixed to another MSc from International Development to signal that a student has taken three courses in economic policy analysis as part of a broader degree. ADE students can write their dissertation on any topic, with any methodology, that they choose.

More specifically, EPID students are required to take two methods courses, DV494 (Econometrics) and DV496, a course in more advanced methods and research design. They also attend further coding workshops. EPID students take at least two courses from DV490 (Macroeconomics), DV491 (Microeconomics), and DV492 (Public Economics) and may also take a fourth DV49* course as an option, meaning that EPID students are uniquely able to take all three Economic Development Policy courses if they choose. All EPID students are mentored by the ID economics faculty and are required to write a quantitative dissertation on a topic related to economic development.

In contrast, to earn the ADE specialism students take *one* methods course, DV494, and two (and only two) courses from among DV490, DV491, DV492. ADE students are mentored by faculty from across the ID department and are not required to write a quantitative dissertation.

Overall, EPID is a more specialized route focused on quantitative methods and economic analysis.

I am a student at IDHE. Can I opt for ADE specialism?

No. ADE specialism is available only to DS, DM, DM/Sci Po, and HID.

Can I switch to the EPID program if I am currently enrolled in a different program?

EPID is usually full and transfers are very unlikely, but may be possible if a space opens up; please enquire with the EPID programme director during the first week of the academic year.

Can I be successful in the ADE specialism if I have no background in quantitative reasoning?

While a background in quantitative reasoning can be beneficial, it's not an absolute necessity for success in the ADE (Applied Development Economics) specialism. The course DV494 focuses more on building your intuitive understanding of quantitative analysis. You will be introduced to basic concepts before transitioning into analyzing cutting-edge research papers, where you will see how economics tools are applied in real-world contexts.

To further support your learning, the program offers workshops and coding exercises designed to help you grasp the quantitative aspects of the course material. These resources aim to guide you through the learning process.

Additionally, postdoctoral fellows (Bookang) are available as a resource for extra assistance. They can help clarify any doubts you may have and offer personalized guidance as you navigate the course.

Overall, although a background in quantitative reasoning could be advantageous, the program is structured to accommodate students with varying levels of expertise in this area.

Can I skip DV494 if I have prior experience in econometrics and still earn the ADE specialism?

No.

What courses can I take to learn econometrics more deeply, beyond DV494?

If you're interested in delving deeper into the subject of econometrics, there are several courses across different departments that you can consider in the department of Methodology. In addition, there are other methods-based courses, such as the GIS course (GY476), offered by the Department of Geography and Environment.

How is enrollment decided for over-subscribed courses in the ADE specialism, and how can I increase my chances of getting in?

Enrollment for over-subscribed courses within the ADE specialism is determined through a priority system and, in some cases, a lottery process. Here is how it works:

- Students enrolled in EPID program are given top priority for enrollment in all economic development courses.
- Students taking DM-ADE are guaranteed that they will be able to take DV494 and two of the three topics courses (DV490/91/92) but we cannot guarantee they will always get their first choices. DM-ADE students are **not** generally allowed to take all three topics courses.
- Any remaining places on DV494 and the topics courses will be allocated to students from other degree programmes in ID by lottery.

I have never written a research paper. Where can I find more resources?

- Mentors: They provide ongoing guidance and support throughout the research and writing process.
- Course-Specific Support: For EPID students, the DV496 course is designed to prepare you for dissertation writing. For other students, the DV410 Moodle page offers links and resources tailored for conducting research.
- LSE Life: The LSE Life Moodle page provides useful resources that cover various aspects of conducting research, including formulating research questions, data collection, and analysis methods.
- Learning Modules and Courses: The Methodology Institute offers specialized courses and learning modules that teach research methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative analysis.