

Econ 613: Research Projects

Instructions

Overview

The research project is the culminating activity of Econ 613: Applied Econometrics. The goal is to demonstrate your ability to formulate a research question and apply your econometrics skills.

General Steps

1. Draft a written proposal (see proposal guidelines) and submit it before March 22.
2. Sign up for a meeting to discuss your proposal on March 24.
3. Upon approval, you have until May 1st to complete the research project.
4. Both the proposal and the final project should be available on your github account.

Proposal Guidelines

The proposal is intended to outline your research idea and provide a good starting point for developing your final research. The proposal should be one/two pages long with the following information.

1. Title page and abstract
2. **Motivation** A brief background and a concise rationale for the motivation of the analysis. A clear statement of your research question.
3. Very brief literature review.
4. **Research Design:** Describe the plan for the research project. Questions about data and econometric models should be addressed. Finally, an identification strategy should be outlined.
5. Include an outline, which is a plan of the research, including specific dates for conducting data work, estimation, and write-up.

Final Project

The final project is a scholarly paper on a topic of your choice. I urge you to invest in Latex, which is the standard writing tool for researchers. The final output should be between 15/20 pages, written in English, free of typos and grammatical errors.¹

1. Title page and abstract

2. **Introduction**

- Background and importance
- Research question
- Brief description of the empirical strategy
- Brief description of the findings

3. Literature review: cite a couple of papers to situate your work in the general literature.

4. Empirical strategy

- Data: Describe the data. Provide some empirical regularities and potentially supports your thesis (tables, figures).
- Describe your empirical strategy; which empirical model are you using? How are your parameters of interest identified? Which variation do you use in the data?

5. Results: Describe your findings and conclude.

Set aside a least one week to proofread and correct your final manuscript. Ask yourself if your words and thoughts are in line. Check Grammarly to correct after yourself.

¹Please do not ask about spacing!