

Syllabus

**International Development Finance: Applied Research Using Stata
(Volkswirtschaftliches Hauptseminar)**

B.WIWI-QMW.0014

Bachelor

Summer semester 2025

(as of December 6, 2024)

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1. General Information

1.1 Course content

International development finance encompasses the financial mechanisms and strategies employed to support the economic growth and social progress of developing countries. This includes the study of various forms of development aid, international loans, and policy interventions aimed at addressing issues such as poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and sustainable economic growth. This seminar studies current issues in international development finance and equips students with the tools to carry out their own independent research project.

This semester we focus on Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Sustainable Development Goals highlight Official Development Assistance (ODA) as one tool to promote development around the world. The provision of development aid to the world's less developed countries is, by many, perceived as being guided by humanitarian motives. At the same time, donor countries themselves can benefit from their aid deliveries to other countries. For example, aid can promote geostrategic interests, help buy political support in international organizations, boost exports, improve the donor country's image, and contribute to regime changes in recipient countries that could align with donor interests. In this seminar, students carry out their own original research to assess the drivers of donor countries' aid allocations across the developing world. To do so, they collect data on aid commitments by one selected donor and run econometric regressions in Stata to study the cross-country correlates of this donor's aid allocation pattern.

1.2 Course goals

The aims of this seminar are to

- deepen the knowledge of participants on development finance in general and on the allocation of development aid in particular
- train participants to review the relevant literature, to critically reflect on it, and to undertake their own complementary empirical research
- train participants to carry out a regression analysis in Stata
- prepare a well-argued piece of research, well written and consistent in format
- present the outcome of this research in class and to engage in a discussion with other students and the teaching staff
- critically reflect on the research papers by other students.

1.3 Prerequisites

Students should have completed the orientation phase (Erster Studienabschnitt: Orientierungsphase) and have passed the course "B.WIWI-VWL.0007 Einführung in die Ökonometrie" (or a similar course). ***We strongly advise against participation without a basic understanding of econometrics.*** It is recommendable that students take the course "B.WIWI-VWL.0041 Einführung in die Entwicklungsökonomik" in preparation or as complement to the seminar.

1.4 Credit points

6 ECTS-LP

1.5 Registration

Please register via FlexNow by **Tuesday, April 29, 2025**. Attendance at the introductory meeting is compulsory for registration. The number of participants is restricted to 20. In addition, please send us the topic (i.e., the donor that you want to analyze) until **Tuesday, April 29, 2025** by e-mail (afuchs@uni-goettingen.de and felix.turbanisch@uni-goettingen.de).

2. Course overview

2.1 Description of the teaching and learning methods

The seminar meetings are supplemented by self-study based on the provided materials and literature. The introductory meeting briefly presents the state of the art of research on the allocation of international development finance. By writing an empirical term paper on the allocation of aid or other types of international development finance, students demonstrate their ability to master empirical analyses in Stata and apply econometric methods to the study of international development finance. By presenting the term paper, students demonstrate their ability to defend, but also to critically reflect upon empirical research. While knowledge on academic writing and econometric methods are prerequisites for this course, an accompanying Stata course will provide students with a refresher on the preparation of data sets and regression analysis using Stata. This exercise session is strongly recommended for students without significant previous experience with Stata. Students will have the possibility to attend two Q&A sessions to discuss problems and share experiences with their ongoing term project. **The course language is English.**

2.2 Scheduling

Introductory Meeting (Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 16:15-19:30, for seminar room see EXA)

- Introduction to the study of development aid and contemporary policy debates
- Allocation of topics (students must be present to register for the seminar and a maximum of 20 students can participate)

Accompanying Stata Course Part 1 (Wednesday, April 23, 2025, 16:15-19:30, for computer room see EXA)

- Stata at a Glance
- Data Import and Cleaning
- Descriptive Statistics and Graphs

Accompanying Stata Course Part 2 (Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 16:15-19:30, for computer room see EXA)

- Recap of Session 1 and Exercises
- Cross-Sectional Regressions
- Binary Outcome Variables
- Post-Regression Analysis
- Panel Data and Regressions

Deadline for draft outline and introduction (Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 23:59)

Please upload an electronic version of your draft outline and introduction (about 1.5 pages of introduction plus outline; use pdf format) on Stud.IP. We recommend that you also one page with your regression equation and list of variables with data sources. The draft outline and introduction of all participants will be available on Stud.IP, so that each participant can prepare discussions of other draft outlines and introductions. Please prepare short critical reviews of the two draft outlines and introductions that are assigned to you for the seminar meeting (no written version required).

Mid-term meeting (Monday & Wednesday, May 19 & 21, 2025, 16:15-19:30, for seminar room see EXA)

Each seminar participant presents his or her draft outline and introduction and comments on two other draft outlines and introductions. Please prepare slides for your own presentation; no slides are required for the discussion of other drafts. Presentations should take 6 minutes and discussions of other papers should not exceed 2 minutes. A maximum of 10 minutes is allotted for the following Q&A session and feedback on presentations. There will also be a short introduction into scientific writing and we will discuss common challenges and typical mistakes.

Stata Q&A Part 1 (Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 16:15-17:45, for computer room see EXA)

- Interactive session discussing the problems that students have encountered in their research as well as best practices
- Supervised work on individual projects

Stata Q&A Part 2 (Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 16:15-17:45, for computer room see EXA)

- Interactive session discussing the problems that students have encountered in their research as well as best practices
- Supervised work on individual projects

Deadline for final paper (Monday, June 30, 2025, 23:59)

Please upload on Stud.IP an electronic version of your final paper (see guidelines below in Chapter 3; use pdf format; add word count) and your Stata files (do, dta, log). The research papers and replication data of all participants will be available on Stud.IP so that you can prepare discussions of other research papers. Please prepare short critical oral reviews of the two research papers that are assigned to you for the seminar meeting.

Final meeting (Friday, July 4, 2025, 09:15-18:00, and Saturday, July 5, 2025, 09:15-16:00, for seminar room see EXA)

Each seminar participant presents his or her research paper and comments on two other papers. Please prepare slides for your paper presentation and upload them to Stud.IP prior to the final meeting. Presentations should take 15 minutes and discussions of other papers should not exceed 3 minutes (without slides). Nine minutes are allotted for the following Q&A session and feedback on presentations.

2.3 Examination and grading of the module

The grading consists of three components:

- Term paper [70%]
- Presentation of the term paper [20%]
- Peer discussions of two papers at the final meeting [10%]

Furthermore, in order to pass the course, participants must

- be present and actively participate during all seminar dates (with the exception of the accompanying Stata course)
- submit all written course requirements (draft outline and introduction, research paper) on time
- achieve a weighted average grade exceeding or equal to 4.0 on all components

2.4 Course materials

Research papers on the distribution of international development finance—examples:

- Alesina, Alberto and David Dollar (2000). Who Gives Foreign Aid to Whom and Why? *Journal of Economic Growth* 5(1): 33–63.
- Berthélemy, Jean-Claude (2006). Bilateral Donors' Interest vs. Recipients' Development Motives in Aid Allocation: Do All Donors Behave the Same? *Review of Development Economics* 10(2): 179-194.
- Dreher, Axel and Andreas Fuchs (2015). Rogue Aid? An Empirical Analysis of China's Aid Allocation. *Canadian Journal of Economics* 48(3): 988–1023.

- Dreher, Axel, Andreas Fuchs, Bradley C. Parks, Austin Strange and Michael J. Tierney (2018). Apples and Dragon Fruits: the Determinants of Aid and Other Forms of State Financing from China to Africa. *International Studies Quarterly* 62(1): 182–194.
- Dreher, Axel, Peter Nunnenkamp and Hannes Öhler (2012). Financial Dependence and Aid Allocation by Swiss NGOs: A Panel Tobit Analysis. *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 60(4): 829–867.
- Dreher, Axel, Jan-Egbert Sturm and James Raymond Vreeland (2009). Development Aid and International Politics: Does Membership on the UN Security Council Influence World Bank Decisions? *Journal of Development Economics* 88(1): 1–18.
- Dreher, Axel, Jan-Egbert Sturm and James Raymond Vreeland (2009). Global Horse Trading: IMF Loans for Votes in the United Nations Security Council. *European Economic Review* 53(7): 742–757.
- Faye, Michael and Paul Niehaus (2012). Political Aid Cycles. *American Economic Review* 102(7): 3516–3530.
- Fuchs, Andreas and Krishna Chaitanya Vadlamannati (2013). The Needy Donor: An Empirical Analysis of India’s Aid Motives. *World Development* 44: 110-128.
- Hoeffler, Anke and Verity Outram (2011). Need, Merit, or Self-Interest—What Determines the Allocation of Aid? *Review of Development Economics* 15(2): 237–250.
- Hoeffler, Anke and Olivier Sterck (2022). Is Chinese Aid Different? *World Development* 156: 105908.
- Kuziemko, Ilyana and Eric Werker (2006). How Much Is a Seat on the Security Council Worth? Foreign Aid and Bribery at the United Nations. *Journal of Political Economy* 114(5): 905–930.
- Maizels, Alfred and Machiko K. Nissanke (1984). Motivations for Aid to Developing Countries. *World Development* 12(9): 879-900.
- Metzger, Laura, Peter Nunnenkamp and Toman Omar Mahmoud (2010). Is Corporate Aid Targeted to Poor and Deserving Countries? A Case Study of Nestlé’s Aid Allocation. *World Development* 38(3): 228–243.
- Neumayer, Eric (2003). What Factors Determine the Allocation of Aid by Arab Countries and Multilateral Agencies? *Journal of Development Studies* 39(4): 134-147.
- Trumbull, William N. and Howard J. Wall (1994). Estimating Aid-allocation Criteria with Panel Data. *Economic Journal* 104(425): 876-882.

Recommended sources for those who need to build up Stata skills are:

- Cameron, Colin A. and Pravin K. Trivedi (2010). *Microeconometrics Using Stata* (revised edition). Stata Press.
- Kohler, Ulrich and Frauke Kreuter (2016). *Datenanalyse mit Stata: allgemeine Konzepte der Datenanalyse und ihre praktische Anwendung* (5th edition). Walter de Gruyter.
- Online tutorial: <https://data.princeton.edu/stata/>

Recommend resource for academic writing:

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Kate L. Turabian. 2018. *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. 9th Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Malmfors, Birgitta, Phil Garnsworthy, and Michael Grossman. 2004. *Writing and Presenting Scientific Papers*: 2nd edition. Nottingham, UK: Nottingham University Press.

3. Research paper requirements

The length of the term paper should amount to 15 pages. Main tables and main figures factor into the page count. The cover sheet, table of contents, list of figures, list of tables, bibliography and the appendix are excluded from the page count. Please use the following formatting: Font size: 12 pt, line spacing: 1.5 times, alignment: justification, margin (right, left, top and bottom margin): 2.5 cm each. Appendices may provide the details of the empirical approach, data sources, or some background tables and figures. Tables and figures that are essential for the research paper need to be included in the main text. Please make sure that you are consistent in your referencing and bibliography.

Every idea, statement, or fact taken from the literature or any other sources must be appropriately cited. Quotes need to be indicated as such. Plagiarism is sanctioned with the grade 5 (failed). The general rules of the Faculty of Business and Economics apply. The following signed declaration must be attached to each scientific work: “I hereby declare that I wrote this thesis paper independently, without assistance from external parties, and without use of other resources than those indicated. All information taken from other publications or sources in text or in meaning are duly acknowledged in the text. I give my consent to have this thesis checked by plagiarism software.” Additionally, please attach a declaration if you have used AI-based chatbots such as ChatGPT. Sample annex:

“Declaration on the use of ChatGPT and comparable tools: In this seminar thesis, I have used ChatGPT or another AI as follows.:

not at all

during brainstorming

when creating the outline

to write individual passages, altogether to the extent of ...% of the entire text

for the development of software source texts

for optimizing or restructuring software source texts

for proofreading or optimizing

further, namely: ...

I hereby declare that I have stated all uses completely.” Missing or incorrect information will be considered as an attempt to cheat.

Use a referencing style that is in line with basic conventions in the economics literature. Always quote within a work using the same method. The Chair recommends the in-text author-year citation style

(see, for example, this [information sheet](#)). All sources that you have cited in the text must appear in the reference list. Everything that you have only read but not cited in the text must NOT appear in the reference list.

A good research paper implies a clear initial presentation of the research question. Relevant concepts and theoretical approaches need to be adequately discussed. If applicable, the methodological choices need to be justified. The analysis needs to focus on the research question. The paper should end with a well-argued synthesis that supports the conclusions. A good research paper is also fluently written and is consistent in its form. Term papers need to be written in English. The work must be done independently by the student; the supervisor only provides advice on the outline and specific issues of the paper.

A complete set of Stata files consists of .dta, .do, and .log files. The Stata files you hand in should include a folder containing any original datasets you have downloaded and the final merged dataset as .dta files. If the files are too big for Stud.IP, upload them on a cloud drive of your choice and access them in your do-file by linking to their URL. There should also be a single .do file that describes how your data sources were merged and how your output (tables, regression results, graphs, descriptive statistics etc.) was derived from the original data. Please make sure that your .do file can be executed outside your own computer without further adjustments to the code (e.g. by using relative file paths). For that reason, set your working directory at most once and use only forward slashes (“/”) in file paths. Add comments to specify which part of the code corresponds to which part of your paper. Finally, include the corresponding log-file.