

STAT6089 Evaluation and Monitoring 2017-2018

Pre-Module Information

Introduction

Welcome to the module STAT6089 Evaluation and Monitoring for 2017-2018! This document includes important Pre-Module Information. It is not the Module Outline, which will be distributed closer to the start date, but I hope it will provide you with an idea of what the module is about, and give you access to some preliminary reading. It also includes a provisional timetable. The timetable is provisional in the sense that we might amend the amount of time allocated to specific topics. **We shall not, however, change the start and end times of each day's teaching. These are not provisional: they are (metaphorically) cast in stone.**

I am looking forward to a jolly time studying Evaluation and Monitoring,

Objective of the module

By the end of this module, you should understand of the nature and aims of monitoring and evaluation, and of the contribution of statistical methods, using examples from government and other areas.

Things you will learn

On successful completion of this module, you should understand the broad principles guiding the choice between alternative methods of evaluation and monitoring and be able to apply these principles by designing a broad strategy for the monitoring and evaluation of a specific government programme or policy.

In particular, you should gain knowledge of:

- alternative experimental, quasi-experimental, and regression designs for evaluating programmes;
- statistical methods used in the analysis of data from such designs to estimate programme effects while allowing for potential confounding factors.

Skills to be developed

You will develop skills in data analysis, in understanding the difference between experimental and observational studies, and in designing research projects to maximise the chance of being able to establish cause and effect.

Staff

The module is taught by Dr Andrew Hinde of the Department of Social Statistics and Demography.

Dr Hinde lives in the historic market town of Alton, at some distance from the University, but he may be found from time to time in Room 4031 on Level 4 of the Murray Building (Building 58).

Dr Hinde's Office Hours during Semester 1 of the 2017-2018 academic year are

Mondays from 11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. (except 30 October and 27 November 2017)
Wednesdays from 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. (except 18 October, 1. 8 and 29 November 2017
and 17 January 2018)

These Office Hours are more than notional. Dr Hinde really will be in his office at these hours to answer your questions about the module. This means that if you want to see him urgently **THESE ARE THE HOURS TO CALL IN**. If you call at other hours he may not be there.

To see Dr Hinde at other times, it is best to make an appointment. This can be done by e-mail (Andrew.Hinde@soton.ac.uk). His telephone number is 023 80 599631.

The Administrator for the MSc in Official Statistics is Claire Woodley, who can be found in the Social Statistics and Demography Student Office on Level 2 of Building 58 (SocStatDemo.StudentOffice@soton.ac.uk).

Pre-requisites

The pre-requisite is STAT6095 Regression Modelling or an equivalent introduction to statistical modelling. Hence you should be familiar with basic statistical inference (confidence intervals and hypothesis testing), linear and logistic regression.

No prior knowledge of evaluation and monitoring will be assumed, but it may be helpful for you to do a bit of preparatory reading. Three good references are listed in next section.

You will need to be familiar with Excel and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Other computer packages will not be needed for this module.

Recommended reading before embarking on the module

Ravallion, M. (2001), 'The mystery of the vanishing benefits: an introduction to impact evaluation', *World Bank Economic Review* 15, 115-40 (World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 2153) http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=620612.

Government Social Research Unit (2005), *The Magenta Book: Guidance Notes for Policy Evaluation and Analysis*, background paper 7: 'Why do social experiments? Experiments and quasi-experiments for evaluating government policies and programmes', London, HM Treasury.

HM Treasury (2011) *The Magenta Book: Guidance for Evaluation*. London, HM Treasury. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/220542/magenta_book_combined.pdf

These readings are available on the module's Blackboard site (see below), in the content area called **Reading materials**.

A detailed bibliography will be included in the Module Outline.

Blackboard

You should automatically be enrolled on the module's Blackboard site. If you do not have access to the site, please let me or Claire Woodley know so that we can enrol you.

The Blackboard site is available now, and materials will be added to it between now and the start of the module on 30 October 2017. They will also be added during the module and afterwards.

You can log in to the Blackboard site at <http://blackboard.soton.ac.uk/>. The site will contain all the relevant course materials. Lecture slides will be posted on the site a few days before the module starts. Instructions and data sets for the practical exercises will be there. Reading materials and the Coursework Assignment will also be posted there. **NEARLY EVERYTHING IS ON BLACKBOARD**. Announcements about the logistics for the module will also be posted there. You should check regularly to ensure that you do not miss anything.

You will also need to submit your Coursework Assignment through Turnitin on Blackboard.

Assessment

Assessment is 100% by a single Coursework Assignment. The deadline for submission of the coursework is Tuesday 19 December 2017.

Andrew Hinde
13 October 2017

Provisional Programme

Summary

To assist with preparation, finding child care, etc., the start and end times of each day's sessions are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday 30 October 2017 | 10.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. |
| Tuesday 31 October 2017 | 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. |
| Wednesday 1 November 2017 | 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. |
| Thursday 2 November 2017 | 9.00 a.m.* – 5.00 p.m. |
| Friday 3 November 2017 | 10.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.** |

* If you cannot make it by 9.00 a.m. it will not be critical, as we start with a computer workshop. But Dr Hinde aims to be present from 9.00 a.m.

** Optional session (but highly recommended)

Monday 30 October 2017

| | |
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| 10.00 – 10.15 | Registration and coffee |
| 10.15 – 10.30 | Introduction to the module |
| 10.30 – 11.30 | 1. Evaluation and monitoring – types, aims and examples |
| 11.30 – 11.45 | Coffee/Tea |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | 1. Evaluation and monitoring (exercises) |
| 12.30 – 13.00 | 2. Data Sources and research methods |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | 2. Data Sources and research methods (continued) |
| 15.00 – 15.45 | 3. Some examples from performance monitoring |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | Coffee/Tea |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | 4. Conceptual framework for the evaluation problem |

Hallowe'en (Tuesday 31 October) 2017

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|---------------|---|
| 9.30 – 11.00 | 5. Randomised controlled trials |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Coffee/Tea |
| 11.30 – 12.15 | 5. Randomised controlled trials (exercises) |

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|---------------|---|
| 12.15 – 13.00 | 6. Quasi-experimental designs |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 14.45 | 6. Quasi-experimental designs (continued) |
| 14.45 – 15.30 | 6. Quasi-experimental designs (exercises) |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Coffee/Tea |
| 16.00 – 16.45 | 7. Matching |
| 16.45 – 17.30 | 7. Matching (exercises) |

All Saints Day (Wednesday 1 November) 2017

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| 9.30 – 11.00 | 8. Propensity score matching (design and analysis) |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Coffee/Tea |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | 9. Regression methods for adjustment |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 15.30 | 9. Regression methods (exercises) |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Coffee/Tea |
| 16.00 – 17.30 | Introduction to case study of United Nations Population Fund and China |

Thursday 2 November 2017

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|---------------|--|
| 9.00 – 11.00 | Case study (practical exercise) |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | Coffee/Tea |
| 11.30 – 12.15 | 10. Regression discontinuity design |
| 12.15 – 13.15 | 10. Regression discontinuity design (exercise) |
| 13.15 – 14.15 | Lunch |
| 14.15 – 15.45 | 11. Instrumental variables |
| 15.45 – 16.15 | Coffee/Tea |

16.15 – 16.45 Discussion of the Coursework Assignment

16.45 – 17.00 Module evaluation

Friday 3 November 2017

10.00 – 11.00 Tutorial on the Coursework Assignment (optional)