
UPgrade in “Advanced Macroeconomics” – Write your discussion paper

Dear all,

Welcome to winter term 2026/2027 at TUC. We offer you the opportunity to do an independent study project that will give you an insight into current research in macroeconomics, access to the scientific discourse in our academic community and possibly help you to UPgrade your final mark in the Master course “Advanced Macroeconomics”.

Your UPgrade¹

You may choose one presentation out of three Plenary sessions (each has 3 presentations + one final discussion), which will take place on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (22.10.2026 – 24.10.2026) as part of the **30th FMM conference: Shaping macroeconomics in times of global transformation**. The task(s):

Write a short scientific(!) discussion paper (2-3 pages) until **November 5, 2026**, addressing:

- the content of the presentation. Also place the topic within the relevant macroeconomic debate (theory / broader context).
- what you learned from that presentation (in connection with what you already knew)
- what was missing in the presentation and discussion/what was your “muddiest point”. Explain.

Then, prepare a short presentation (max. 5 minutes) of your discussion paper for which you can use supporting media (beamer, flip chart, blackboard). We will use your papers + presentations for a group discussion in the first tutorial session in winter term 2026/2027.

How do I get to the Plenary sessions?

You can follow the plenary sessions on site and immerse yourself in the professional life of a macro economist. We encourage you to join us on an excursion to the 30th FMM conference in Berlin. This event will be an excellent opportunity for you to deepen your own understanding of contemporary macroeconomic issues, network with leading and other young economists, and gain insights that will enhance your academic and professional career. The conference is free of charge and will also feature a one-day introductory workshop into pluralist economic topics.

Are you interested? Then please contact us by **e-mail** until October 5, 2026 to **secure one of the six available places** and to receive more information about the programme and the financial support.

In case you cannot make it in person, all Plenary sessions will be live streamed (and will also be available digitally later). So you may likewise work on your UPgrade by using the digital recordings.

We are looking forward to your papers and an exciting and insightful semester!

The Chair of Macroeconomics

¹This is a voluntary task. For very good written summaries and a very good participation in class, you will receive an upgrade of +0.7 on your final term grade, i.e., if you have a grade of 2.7 in the written exam and a very good discussion paper, you end up with a final mark of 2.0. If you have a good written summary and a good participation in class, you will receive an upgrade of +0.3 points on the final exam mark. Limitations: A grade better than 1.0 is not possible. In case of failing the final exam (grade 5.0) no improvement is possible. Handing in a piece of work does not guarantee an UPgrade.