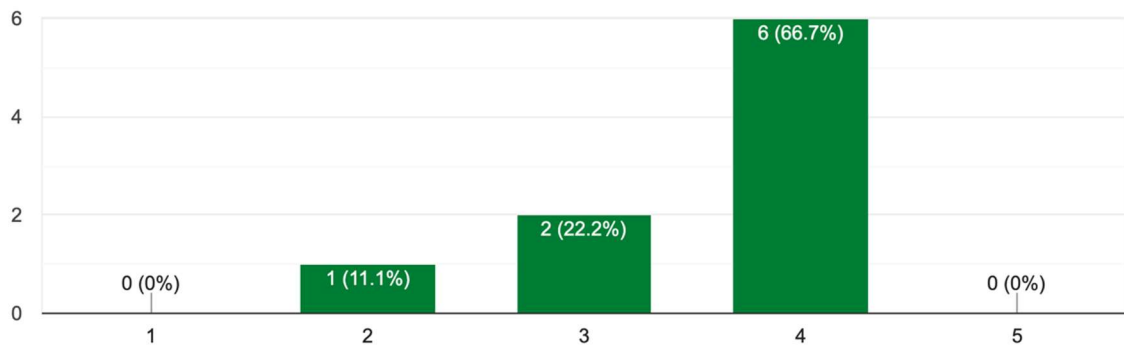
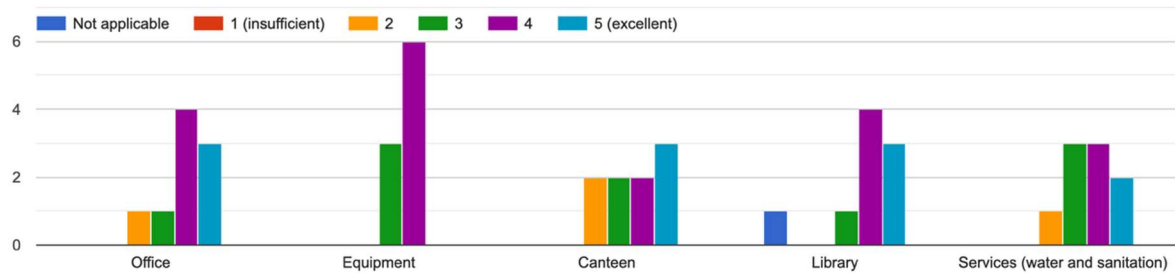


How would you rate the overall experience as a 2nd year PhD student?

9 responses



Please rate the university infrastructures made available to you:



Do you have additional comments regarding the university infrastructures?

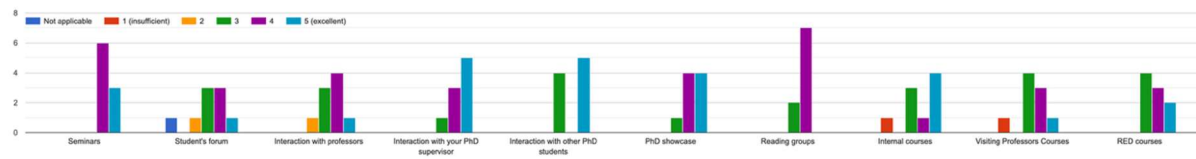
3 responses

Nel mio ufficio le finestre sono rotte e lo sono state per tutto l'anno. Nonostante i reclami, nessuno è mai venuto ad aggiustarle. Il servizio di logistica non ha mai appeso neanche le lavagne nuove che ci sono state date in dotazione diversi mesi fa.

Mr. Rocca is never available and he does not like to work.

We run out of paper from printer often, our door is busted and probably needs replacement. The office is stuffed with old things no longer used and makes it hard to concentrate sometimes since I prefer a tidy environment

Please rate the PhD activities:



Do you have additional comments regarding the PhD activities?

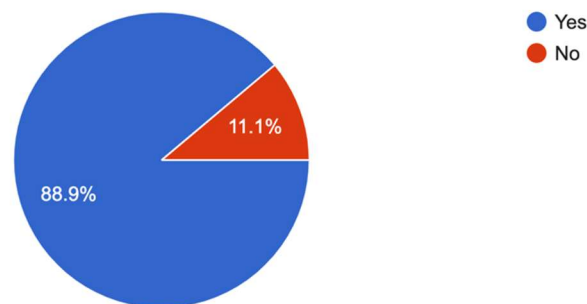
2 responses

No course exam for PhD student after the first year. Better to have a final project, such that we can learn but with a focus on research.

Courses this year were more relevant to my research. I might need to look for a co-supervisor as my supervisor seems to be TOO busy

Were the topics relevant for your interests?

9 responses



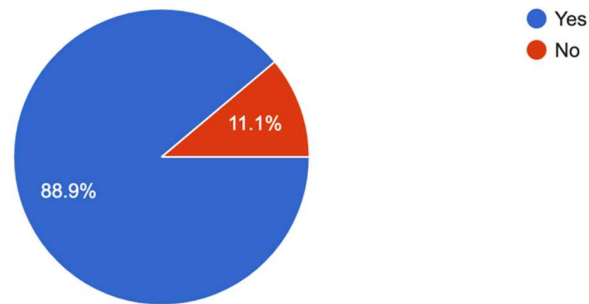
If no, please explain.

1 response

From the perspective of my own research interests, the only two courses that were truly relevant and valuable were Text Analysis and Structural Political Economy, both offered by EIEF. These courses were more aligned with current research debates and provided useful tools and frameworks directly applicable to my work.

Was the number of hours devoted to each topic sufficient?

9 responses



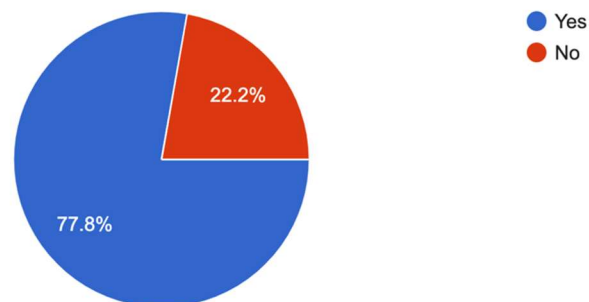
If no, please explain.

1 response

In the EIEF courses, I think that there are too many topics compared to the number of hours.

Were the courses balanced in terms of contents and duration?

9 responses



If no, please explain.

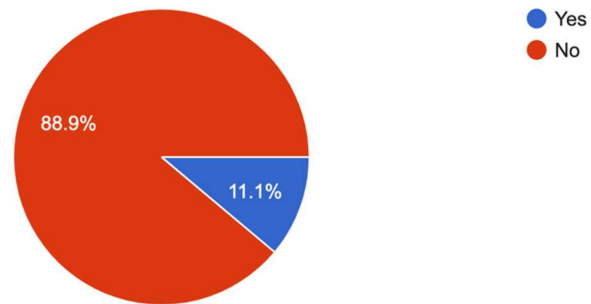
2 responses

In the EIEF courses, I think that there are too many topics compared to the number of hours.
Nothing to signal with respect to Tor Vergata classes.

Some courses, such as Industrial Organization by Prof. Iozzi, were too basic for the level expected at this stage and did not engage with the frontier of the field. Conversely, others—like Policy Evaluation by Prof. Arduini—were overly theoretical, with limited emphasis on practical implementation or empirical applications.

Did you find repetitions?

9 responses



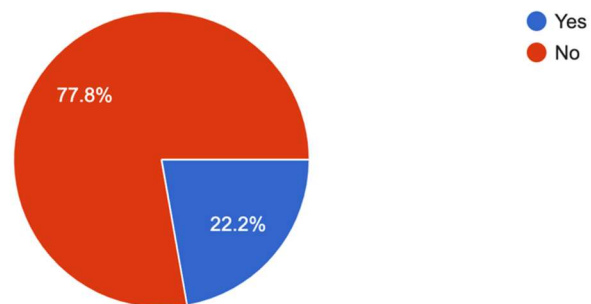
If yes, please explain.

1 response

vedi commenti sotto

Did you find missing topics?

9 responses



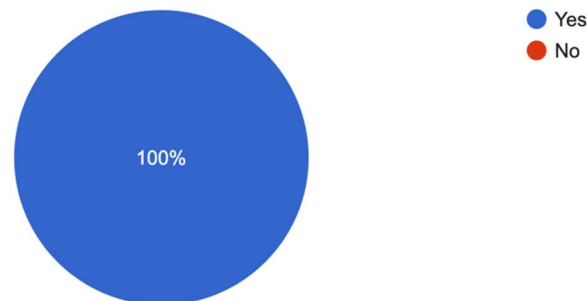
If yes, please explain.

1 response

No courses offered on Labor Economics and Political Economy.

Were the assignments (homework, presentations, case studies) useful and added value to the courses?

9 responses



Please share your thoughts about the course schedule.

9 responses

I think that in general too many hours are devoted to courses. The second year feels really similar to the first one in terms of effort for courses, but with the addition of the activities related to the final thesis (collecting data and reading papers for example). Maybe assigning some credits for attending visiting professor courses could be helpful to solve this issue.

Quest'anno ho seguito circa 156 ore di lezioni, tra interne e dei visiting professors. Secondo me sono troppe, sia perché si tratta di un secondo anno di un corso di dottorato da 4 anni, sia se consideriamo che corrispondono solo a 20 CFU. Senza dimenticare che l'anno scorso ho seguito più di 300 ore, tra corsi obbligatori e a scelta. Detto questo, non credo che l'opportunità di seguire corsi dei visiting professors debba essere eliminata, anzi. Ritengo che questi corsi debbano essere integrati nella scelta degli electives e debbano concorrere al computo dei CFU finali. Questo fa sì che si allarghi l'offerta formativa e gli studenti riescano ad avere un pacchetto di corsi più organico. Io ho dovuto scegliere alcuni electives di professori interni (ad esempio, History e Development) che avrei volentieri sostituito con dei corsi di visiting professors, mantenendo fisse le ore obbligatorie da seguire. Inoltre, molti corsi di dottorato in altre università italiane prevedono l'assegnazione di CFU per la partecipazione a summer school e workshops. Terrei in considerazione questa opzione anche per il nostro corso. Infine, di seguito le mie considerazioni sui corsi interni che ho seguito: 1. Behavioral Economics: ottimo corso, giusto mix di metodologia, teoria e ricerche empiriche alla frontiera. Molto utile la presentazione di un paper come valutazione finale; 2. Econometrics and Causality: utile ma troppo teorico; 3. Topics in Economic History: avrei prediletto una visuale dall'alto con un focus meno stretto sulla ricerca del visiting professor, sulla quale il corso mi è sembrato troppo incentrato; 4. Optimal Taxation (EIEF): corso utile e stimolante; 5. Development Economics: forse quello relativamente più deludente insieme a Causal Inference. Non tanto per la didattica quanto piuttosto per gli argomenti troppo scolastici. Avrei voluto confrontarmi con la ricerca più all'avanguardia sui temi trattati. Nonostante tutto, utile, soprattutto mi è piaciuta la lettura e la presentazione del paper per la valutazione finale; 6. Poverty and Inequality in the long run: esperienza eccellente per quanto

riguarda la parte condotta dal prof. Vecchi, veramente utile e all'avanguardia, giusto mix di approccio standard e di visioni innovative sulle questioni metodologiche della materia. Un po' meno interessante la parte del prof. A'Hearn, tra l'altro - a sua insaputa e forse inevitabilmente - ripetitiva rispetto ad alcuni argomenti trattati dal prof. Scaramozzino e nel corso di History.

I had too many hours of classes, and some days I even had 7 hours of lectures.

The course schedule was perfect. However at the second year, it would be better to spread the courses over more weeks, such that you have time to read and better understand the material.

Ok

The course schedule was ok.

I think it is important to take courses during the PhD because they help to have research ideas and realize possible extensions. However, I would structure the time commitment better because in the periods in which there are more exams to take it was almost impossible to carry on the research. So I would suggest taking the course but not taking the exam, so that in any case we get the intuitions but it does not commit us too much in time.

I found it doable, having courses as RED also was great for mental health with a new environment.

The schedule was fine. Classes were well organized

Additional comments regarding the whole year.⁹ responses

Nothing in particular to signal in addition to what I have already written.

Dal mio punto di vista, è stato un anno complessivamente buono. Sono abbastanza soddisfatto sia del mio lavoro sia di quello che ho imparato internamente al dipartimento e fuori, nelle conferenze che sono andato a seguire. Avrei preferito avere più tempo a disposizione per la ricerca.

During the program, I found the number of mandatory courses to be overwhelming, which made it difficult to dedicate sufficient time and focus to my research. In hindsight, a more selective and targeted curriculum could have enhanced the overall value of the coursework. In particular, some courses—especially those taught by visiting professors—seemed disconnected from the core research trajectory of the program or were of limited practical relevance. This raised concerns about the program's alignment with the goal of producing research-ready candidates. It is also important to recognize that in the academic job market, candidates are primarily evaluated on the quality and originality of their research output—not on the number or variety of courses completed. Structuring the program to better support research productivity would more effectively prepare students for competitive placements. At

some point, a strategic decision may be necessary: should the program maintain a traditional "Italian academia" approach, or move toward a more research-intensive, internationally competitive model similar to EIEF, Bologna, or Bocconi? This choice will significantly shape the future identity and output of the PhD program.

The second year has been really good. However I would suggest to remove the exams at the end of the courses (both Tor Vergata and RED), and just to have a presentation or a project.

Ok

I would reduce the minimum number of mandatory courses required in the second year to four.

I'm enjoying my PhD here at Tor Vergata and I am happy of my decision, however I'm having trouble finding motivation. I would suggest introducing mandatory presentations for second-year PhD students so they can get more feedback and be more motivated.

Better than first year. Some missing pieces here and there in topics of interest but in general relevant topics. Causal inference being a core course could benefit from an applied perspective too as it was overly theoretical. But was the best course with the visiting professor teaching just after the course. You really saw the shift from class to what people are doing in the field—it was excellent!

I would have preferred a lower number of class hours so that we could have devoted more time to research