

TEACHING GUIDE PUBLIC FINANCES I

GRADO EN ECONOMÍA (INGLÉS)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Publication date: 05-07-2026



I.-Subject Identification

Type	OBLIGATORIA
Teaching period	2 course, 1Q semester
Nº of credits	4.5
Language in wich the subject is taught	English

II.-Presentation

The course Public Finance I of the second year of the degree in Economics examines the economic role of the public sector, focusing on when and how governments intervene in the economy. The course is mostly theoretical and is structured around key concepts and key policy areas such as the provision of public goods, the management of externalities, and the evaluation of government programmes through cost–benefit analysis.

Students will also get familiar with the theoretical and empirical tools used in public finance.

After completing this course, students will have acquired knowledge about the responsibilities, functioning and main challenges of the Public Sector in modern economies. They will also be prepared to assess government policy using economic reasoning.

III.-Learning outcomes

CT01. Ability to analyse and synthesise
 CT02. Ability to organise and plan
 CT03. Oral and written communication in native language
 CT07. Ability to solve problems
 CT09. Ability to work in a team
 CT15. Ability to learn independently
 CT18. Leadership
 CB02 . That students are able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and have the skills that are typically demonstrated through the preparation and defense of arguments and problem solving within their field of study.
 CE01. Ability to put knowledge of economics into practice
 CE02. Information search and research skills
 CE05. Understanding of the laws governing economic activity
 CE11. Understanding how the public sector of an economy works

- Key for degrees not adapted to RD 822/21: **CB** - basic competences, **CG** - generic competences, **CE** - specific competences, **CT** - transversal competences.
- Key for degrees adapted to RD 822/21: **CON** - knowledge, **COM** - competences, **HAB** - skills.



IV.-Contents

IV.A.-Syllabus

I. INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC FINANCE

1. The study of Public Finance
2. Theoretical Tools
3. Empirical Tools
4. Budget Analysis and Deficit Financing

II. FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION

5. Externalities
6. Public Goods
7. Cost-Benefit Analysis

III. POLITICAL ECONOMY

8. *Social choice and public sector behaviour*

IV.B.-Training activities

Type	Title
Lectures	Readings will be assigned for each topic and the material will be discussed in class.
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies	Each topic will include activities such as exercises, tests, quizzes, debates and/or self-evaluation exercises. These activities may be replaced by the preparation and/or presentation of group projects.



V.-Student workload	
Theoretical sessions	30
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies, etc.	11
Practical sessions in experimental, technological and clinical laboratories, fieldwork, etc.	0
Tests and/or exams	4
Academic tutorials	30
Related activities: conferences, seminars, etc.	6
Preparation of theoretical sessions and self-study	22
Preparation of practical tasks, exercises, case studies, projects, etc.	20
Preparation for tests and/or exams	12
Total student workload	135

VI.-Methodology and academic programme		
Type	Period	Content
Tests and/or exams	Week 2 to Week 14	Tests covering units that have been studied or self-evaluation tests
Academic tutorials	Week 4 to Week 14	Whenever requested by the students
Group work	Week 4 to Week 14	Group activities - group assignments.
Theoretical sessions	Week 1 to Week 14	Lectures. Presentation and explanation of the contents of the different units of the course.
Resolution of exercises, problems, case studies	Week 2 to Week 14	Solving exercises in class. Debates related to topics studied in class.



VII.-Assessment methods

The general assessment method is continuous as established in the *Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes* of Rey Juan Carlos University.

All the assessment systems established in the degree report must be employed, except for those that have a minimum weight of 0%, which can be used by professors in the academic years they consider relevant. Each assessment system may be applied through one or more assessment activities, consistent with the system. No assessment activity can exceed individually 60% of the overall grade for the subject.

The sum of non re-evaluable activities cannot exceed 40% of the overall grade for the subject and, in general, should not have an established minimum grade (except for practical activities in which, strictly speaking, the conditions of the ordinary call cannot be reproduced in the extraordinary call).

Those students who do not manage to pass the subject in the ordinary call, or do not attend this first call, may attend the extraordinary call only for failed re-evaluable assessment activities.

The distribution and characteristics of the assessment activities are described below.

VII.A.-Description and weight of the assessment activities

Assessment criteria:

The evaluation system for degrees within the framework of the EHEA (European Higher Education Area) is continuous assessment. In the continuous assessment system, a student's progress is measured throughout the course based on participation, active listening, short assignments, exercises, participation in debates, presentations, quizzes etc. Attendance is therefore very strongly recommended. Attendance will be checked.

The continuous assessment system is complemented by a **final exam**. The student's **final course grade** will be a weighted average of the final exam and continuous assessment activities.

The weighting is as follows:

- **Final exam:** It will take place according to the schedule established by the University. The student must obtain at least a 5 (out of 10) to pass the final exam. The grade obtained will represent 60% of the final grade of the subject. The student can retake the final exam (repeatable activity).

- **Continuous assessment activities:** Exercises, participation in class activities and debates, group activities/presentations, quizzes, tests or other assignments which represent, as a whole, a maximum of 40% of the final grade. These activities cannot be reassessed.

To pass the Public Finance I course, a student must achieve a weighted average of at least 5 out of 10, based on the final exam and the continuous assessment.

Assessment Item	Weight	Repeatable activity	Minimum Grade
Final Exam	60%	Yes	5
Continuous assessment activities	40%	No	No

When the course starts the professor will explain in detail the assessment activities and the methodology used. This information will also be published in the virtual classroom.

n.b. If students have taken part in the different activities and assignments included in the continuous assessment system (which represent a 40%), but have not reached the minimum passing grade (5/10) in the ordinary exam session, their grades from the continuous assessment activities completed during the course will be kept for the extraordinary exam period.

Extraordinary (call) exam period: Students who do not reach the minimum mark (5/10) in the ordinary exam period will have the opportunity to take the exam again during the extraordinary assessment period. The remaining 40% of the final grade will still correspond to the continuous assessment activities, which cannot be reassessed

(mainly due to the fact that they cannot be reproduced in the same conditions and circumstances in which they were originally carried out).

Early exam session: It will be possible, upon request, to take an exam during the early exam session, in September, instead of one of the two main exam sessions (ordinary or extraordinary), provided that the requirements established in the URJC Learning Outcomes Evaluation Regulations are met. This assessment will consist of a written test covering all the contents of the subject.

VII.B. Assessment of students with academic exemption from class attendance

Having Academic Exemption from Class Attendance (DAAC) does not imply that students are automatically exempt from participating in the continuous assessment activities or in the training activities of compulsory attendance as established in the teaching guide. Once the exemption has been granted, students must contact the subject's teaching staff, who will propose the adaptations he/she may consider relevant, as long as they guarantee the acquisition and adequate assessment of the learning goals established. Students must maintain adequate communication with the teaching staff so that they may provide information on the dates for training and assessment activities, if these are not established in the programme and available for students at the time of achieving the exemption.

Subject with possibility of academic exemption: Yes.

VII.C. Review of assessment activities

In accordance with the Regulation for the Assessment of Learning Outcomes of Rey Juan Carlos University.

VII.D.-Students with a disability or special educational needs

In order to guarantee equal opportunities, non-discrimination, universal accessibility and academic success, students with disabilities or especial education needs may request curricular adaptations to follow their studies. These adaptations will be provided by the Unit of Attention to People with Disabilities of Rey Juan Carlos University, in accordance with the regulation which regulates the service for the Attention of People with Disabilities at the University. This Unit will issue a report for curricular adaptations, so that students with disabilities or special education needs must contact the service (at e-mail discapacidad.programa@urjc.es) in order to provide relevant information for different educational alternatives.

VII.E.-Academic behaviour, academic integrity and honesty

Rey Juan Carlos University is fully committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty, so studying at the URJC means assuming and subscribing to the values of integrity and academic honesty set out in the University's Ethical Code. To support this process, the University has Rey Juan Carlos University's Academic Conduct Regulation as well as different tools (anti-plagiarism, supervision...) that offer a collective guarantee for the full development of these essential values.



VIII.-Teaching resources and materials

Basic bibliography

The two main textbooks are:

- 1.- Gruber, J. (2022): Public Finance and Public Policy. 7th edition. Worth Publishers, Mcmillan Learning, New York.
- 2.- Rosen, H. and Gayer, T. (2014). Public Finance. Global Edition. McGraw-Hill

- J E Stiglitz, Economics of the Public Sector, New York and London: Norton. Last edition.

-The professor may provide additional readings, such as articles and reports, which will be uploaded in the virtual classroom.

Consultation bibliography

IX.-Professors

Name and surname	KARIN TAILBOT
E-mail address	karin.tailbot@urjc.es
Department	Economía de la Empresa (ADO), Economía Aplicada II y Fundamentos Análisis Económico
Campus	Madrid - Quintana
Category	Profesor/a Ayudante Doctor/a
Academic degree	Doctor
Person responsible for the subject	Yes
Tutorial timetable	Para consultar las tutorías póngase en contacto con el/la profesor/a a través de correo electrónico
Number of quinquennia	0
Number of sexennia	0
No. of positive evaluations by Docencia	0

