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Concept of MA program

MA IN ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUSSE

DEVELOPERS OF THE CONCEPT:

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The volume of MA program	
Educational level	Master
Branch of knowledge	Economy
Speciality	
Educational and professional program	
Qualification	
Duration	2 years

Rationale

The courses on gender are introduced to students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Economics and Finance. The objective is to raise the interest of our students on "gender issues, a transdisciplinary concept often overlooked by our Tunisian researchers. Yet it is regaining an important place after the period of political transition. Since the revolution, new actors have entered the political arena, thus changing the balance of power and the rules of functioning

within organizations. The legality of the gender has become the most demanded subject in the constitutional assembly, media and by the protesters. Thus, groups of women activists appeared to defend the rights of the Tunisian women.

By placing gender as a descriptive and explanatory tool of Tunisian economic development, we will try to examine the power of women in the organization as an employee or employer. Organizations today are increasingly sensitive to gender issues. The gender cannot be summarized only by the fact that there are a significant number of women in the organization. Gender should also be examined at the level of strategic decision-making. In other words, we will try to approach:

- The place of women in the board of directors in order to evaluate her decision-making power.
- The funding procedures granted to women entrepreneurs and degree of empowerment.
- The degree of organizational and professional commitment of the salaried woman as well as the degree of commitment of women in social entrepreneurship projects.

Therefore, introducing a gender perspective into the research master's path allows:

- Broadening the boundaries of the discipline and opening up to themes related to gender
- To integrate women into studies that concern them and from which they are excluded. Thus the analysis is no longer done only from a traditional point of view (masculine?),
- To offer students the opportunity to become familiar with gender studies and to have reflections and concerns in this field,
- To have a better interpretation of gender-related indicators,
- Discuss new approaches and methods on gender,
- To develop research on the Tunisian context,
- To mobilize qualitative approaches in gender studies and to use mapping techniques to understand the disparity observed between men and women,
- To propose critical readings of certain articles in relation to feminist theory and gender theory.
- Provide the students with background knowledge relating to enable them to better understand the existing gender inequalities in the granting of a micro credit.
- Help students to understand how to increase credit access

Students will obtain skills:

The master's degree in financial and taxation economics brings a triple competence in economic and financial analysis, in quantitative methods (econometrics, data analysis) and in taxation. It provides as follows:

1. Theoretical knowledge related to finance, economics and taxation with emphasis on new approaches,
 2. Analytical tools necessary for the conduct of research and mathematical models for solving dynamic problems found in the economic, financial and fiscal domains,
 3. Methods of experimental and behavioral economics applied in the Tunisian context,
 4. A synthesis of the specific methods of spatial statistics and spatial econometrics for analyzing geographic information in different fields of study. These methods provide a good understanding of the geostatistical literature and give students the opportunity to apply them in their own master's and / or PhD research.
 5. Some skill in understanding econometric modeling problems encompassing the temporal aspect.
 6. The know-how necessary for carrying out economic, financial and fiscal studies with forecasts, simulations and risk assessments,
 7. A better knowledge of public management at the level of the different administrations: both from the point of view of revenue (tax, service charges, borrowing) and expenditure (programming, accounting framework, implementation procedures, controls).
 8. New resources on gender to better understand its influence on the areas of management in general and more specifically the economy, finance and taxation.
- With regard to social management, the integration of the gender dimension makes it possible to better identify the gender inequalities observed in the workplace. Following a gender mainstreaming approach, we study the organizational commitment of the employed woman. The integration of the gender dimension in the entrepreneurial field allows for a more thorough analysis of the concepts of entrepreneurial intention, motivation, commitment, accompaniment and funding.
 - Gender diversity in corporate boards is a key topic in corporate governance. Students learn to investigate the effects of board gender diversity, highlighting the challenges of a more balanced composition of boards of directors in terms of gender. The managerial objective is to make the gender dimension in boards a strategic element of the financial and social performance of companies.
 - Regarding “Gender and fiscal equity”, students will be enabled to analyze the manner in which taxes and tax policy may impact on the gendered nature and social life, and to determine

the implicit and explicit biases contained in tax systems. Students will be encouraged to do further research on the gender dimensions of tax policies.

- In the area of microfinance and gender, students will learn to list all the negative discrimination that may exist in the sector, and to demonstrate that successful microfinance empowers women. Students will understand the socio-economic impact of microfinance on clients and will be able to deduce that women with access to financial resources contribute to household stability and social well-being.

Career of graduates:

Students can develop a profile that opens doors to them in areas specific to the job market. So our students will have the opportunity to hold the following positions :

- Teacher researcher specialized in themes on gender,
- A consultant or researcher in the ministries of women, education, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), associations, public administration
- Assign student with a profile in gender studies which may allow him to apply for jobs in governmental or national women organizations.
- Encourage students (especially female ones) to apply for a large individual loans necessary for the establishment of their small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Table I: Structure of the MA Programme

No	Course Title	Hours	OB ¹	SEL ₂	LEC ³	SEM ⁴	WS ⁵
1st semester							
1	Advanced micro-economy	42	✓		✓	✓	✓
2	International economic relationship	21	✓		✓	✓	
3	Taxation theory and principals	42	✓		✓	✓	
4	Economic theory of taxation	21	✓		✓	✓	✓
5	Qualitative data econometrics	42	✓		✓	✓	
6	Gender and corporate governance	21	✓		✓	✓	
2nd semester							
7	Economic analyses of law	42	✓		✓	✓	
8	Instrument and Financial circuit	42	✓		✓	✓	
9	Gender and microfinance	21	✓		✓	✓	
10	Gender and taxation inequality	21	✓		✓	✓	✓
11	Game theory	42	✓		✓	✓	
12	Applied Computers	21	✓		✓	✓	
3rd semester							
13	Sociology of Taxation	42	✓		✓	✓	
14	Financial system	21	✓		✓	✓	
15	International Finance	42	✓		✓	✓	
16	Serial Econometrics	42	✓		✓	✓	
17	Gender and Social Management	21	✓		✓	✓	
18	Economy of Tunisia	21	✓				
4th semester							
	Research Paper	300	✓				

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ALL COURSES OF THE MA PROGRAM

Gender and Corporate Governance

Within the discipline of economics, the subject of Gender and corporate governance has connections to many areas. Since corporate governance is dealing with leadership structures, the monitoring of leadership as well as creating corporate performance. This course covers the following themes: The Place of Gender in the Economic Environment, The challenges of integrating women into corporate governance bodies, The impact of gender diversity on the Board of Directors on corporate performance and Gender diversity into the Board of Directors and financial market behavior. The Tunisian context will be taken into consideration in order to investigate whether there are differences between women and men in the board of directors and the impact on created value.

The course aims to introduce the determinants and issues of gender diversity in the composition of corporate governance structures, to debate on the feminization of corporate governance structures, to highlight the theoretical reflections on the composition and the presence of

women in the board of directors, and to show that the feminization of corporate governance structures involve financial and economic concerns. . . .

Gender and microfinance

Microfinance and Gender is a socio-economic issues which is now firmly on the agenda of many governments, international donors and bilateral founders. In fact, Microfinance, is widely recognized as a strategy to fight poverty. Yet, a significant proportion of the poor people worldwide who still lack access to financial services are women, and any attempt to tackle poverty and address the most important development goal must focus on them. That is why it become crucial that microfinance address gender challenges on empowering the poor and especially women.

The course aims at debating on the main following issue: Microfinance theory and a background to gender issues, Inequality between microfinance programs targeting women and those that take a broader gender-based approach, Microfinance as a tool for women's empowerment, Microfinance and Increased Access for Women and Gender challenges for microfinance in Tunisia.

Gender and Fiscal Equity

This course is designed to students of economics who studied in Master Research on Financial and Fiscal Economy. The main focus of the course is to study the manner in which taxes and taxes policy may impact gender equality. Some theories on gender equality will be addressed in this course such as the liberal feminist's theory, social science theories...etc.

It aims are as follows: To gain a solid understanding of the patterns and constraints of fiscal policy, To examine gender budget initiatives and to review and debate what we know and don't know about how fiscal policies can work to close gender gaps.

Gender in social and human management

The course brings into view the concept of gender in human social management by focusing on the latest research centered around the following themes: entrepreneurship (1), organizational commitment (2), group dynamics (3) resistances to change (4). The Tunisian context will be taken into consideration in order to investigate whether there are differences between women and men in the three above-mentioned priority themes. Thus, the course tries to raise a reflection related to the incorporation of gender research questions in the Tunisian context through a rather qualitative approach