

Development Economics: Firms in Developing Countries

Anik Ashraf, Ph.D.

LS (Seminar)

Wintersemester/winter semester 2026-27

The aim of this seminar will be to discuss the recent evidence on the challenges faced by firms in developing countries and what can be done to overcome them. We will be discussing mainly empirical papers. At the end of the course you will have seen and discussed some of the recent empirical evidence on the characteristics of firms in developing countries, and factors that constrain their productivity and growth. We will explore issues related to human capital development, public and private institutions, access to finance, technology, and trade.

We will hold a preliminary meeting to discuss the seminar and syllabus, following which you will state a preference over what topic you want to work on. You will need to state your preferences within the first week of our preliminary meeting. Once (and only once) you state your preferences your participation in the seminar will be binding. You will then be assigned an academic paper based on your preferred topic, and subsequently you will have four weeks to write a term paper on that paper. There will be two supervisory meetings while you work on your term paper – one within the first two weeks, and one within the second two weeks. You can also contact over emails if you have short questions. After you submit your term paper, you will be required to present your paper to the whole group.

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	06.07.2026
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	19.10.2026–16.11.2026
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	27.11.2026
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	Room 006, Kaulbachstr. 45, 80539 Munich (Tentative)
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Empirische Ökonomie 1
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Econometrics, Empirical Microeconomics
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	Mostly Harmless Econometrics (2009), J.D. Angrist and J. Pischke, Princeton University Press
*Kontakt: <i>Contact:</i>	anik.ashraf@econ.lmu.de

* Optional (falls schon bekannt) / optionally (if already known)