

Unemployment Insurance

Marion Brouard

LS (Seminar)

Wintersemester/winter semester 2026/27

Unemployment insurance (UI) is one of the cornerstones of modern welfare states. It provides income support to workers who lose their jobs, while also shaping incentives to search for work. Designing UI therefore involves balancing two important objectives: providing adequate protection against income losses and limiting the fiscal costs borne by society. In this seminar, we will examine the economic principles underlying UI and discuss key policy debates surrounding its design. Topics will include the level and duration of benefits, eligibility requirements and monitoring and sanctions. We will explore how different policy choices affect workers, firms, and public finances, and how governments can balance insurance and incentives. The seminar combines theoretical and empirical perspectives and discusses recent research and policy debates on the design of unemployment insurance systems..

Studiengang: <i>Program:</i>	BSc
Termin Vorbesprechung (tt.mm.jjjj): <i>Date of preliminary meeting (dd.mm.yyyy):</i>	23-07-2026
*Bearbeitungszeitraum für die Hausarbeit: <i>*Working period for term paper:</i>	Between mid-October and mid-November. Exact dates will be decided by the seminar group at the first meeting.
*Seminartermin: <i>*Seminar date:</i>	07-12-2026 and 08-12-2026
Veranstaltungsort: <i>Venue:</i>	ifo Institute
falls außerhalb: Kostenschätzung: <i>if out of Munich: estimated costs:</i>	€
Sprache: <i>Language:</i>	English
Empfohlene Vorkenntnisse: <i>Recommended courses:</i>	Public Economics, Microeconomics, Econometrics
Methodischer Schwerpunkt: <i>Methodological background:</i>	Empirics and Theory
*Grundlagenliteratur: <i>*Basic references:</i>	Job Search, Unemployment Insurance and Active Labor Market Policies (Thomas le Barbanchon, Johannes Schmieder and Andrea Weber). Chapter 6, Handbook of Labor Economics 2024, https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.heslab.2024.11.006 .
*Kontakt: <i>Contact:</i>	brouard@ifo.de

* Optional (wenn der genaue Termin nicht bekannt ist, bitte Zeitraum angeben) / optionally (If the exact date is unknown, please provide an approximate time period)