

Frequently Asked Questions EPID:

- 1. Which courses can I take as electives?** You can take two half unit electives and at least one of them will have to be in the Department of International Development. We have a [list](#) of pre-approved courses and would encourage you to approach the course instructor early on in the term to secure a place on each course.
- 2. How can I prepare for my dissertation/empirical paper?** DV494, DV495 and DV496 will help you develop a feasible research design for your empirical paper. You will have several opportunities to present your ideas, preliminary research and preliminary data analysis in DV496.
- 3. How should I select a research topic for my empirical paper?** There are many different ways in which you can identify an interesting and viable research question. Good starting points would be the syllabi of the DV49* courses, as well as Evidence Papers (IGC, JPAL) that summarize frontier research on different topics. Reviewing articles from the Journal of Economic Literature or the Journal of Economic Perspectives can also be a good source of ideas.
- 4. How can I identify good sources of data for my empirical paper?**

[Here](#) is a list of some helpful sources to get you started!

- 5. Do I have to use STATA in my empirical research?** While there are many advantages to being proficient in STATA to understand economic research (which still uses predominantly STATA) you are welcome to use R or Python as needed.
- 6. Do we have seminars in DV490, DV491, DV492, DV494, DV496 in the first week of term?**

Yes, though always consult the Moodle page for any updated information throughout the term.

There are no seminars with course DV495.