



NEW IN 2019

INTRODUCTION TO RESILIENCE: THEORY AND PRACTICE

SUMMARY

Resilience has become an extremely popular concept---but a concept that is at times vague and difficult to implement. Building on recent research, this course breaks down the concept of resilience, introducing some of its different flavours, and provides tools for building resilience in practice. Central to this course will be the notion that resilience is both an individual and a system property. Participants will learn new tools for designing policy to meet goals of resilience building, as well as approaches for building resilience in their own organisation. The course is suitable for those well-versed in resilience as well as those new to the concept.

ESSENTIALS OF GOVERNMENT BUDGETING

SUMMARY

The aim of the course is to introduce non-specialist participants to the basic principles of government budgeting and public finance. Participants will learn about the rationale for government activity in the economy, how, in accordance with international standards, the federal budget accounts for this via its revenue raising, public expenditure and deficit financing, as well as key features of Australia's budget system, including federal-state fiscal arrangements. Additionally, they will learn principles for implementing best practice taxation and expenditure policies.

Participants completing this course will improve their understanding of the essentials of government budgeting and public finance, the nature of Australia's budgetary system, and learn new skills for assessing taxation and expenditure policy proposals.

FISCAL POLICY, PUBLIC DEBT SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ECONOMY

SUMMARY

The aim of the course is to enrich participants' knowledge of the impact of fiscal policy and public debt on the Australian economy. After introducing key fiscal concepts and important analytical techniques, the course canvasses a range of alternative macroeconomic perspectives on the operation and effectiveness of fiscal policy, highlighting its impact on interest rates, international capital flows, exchange rates, competitiveness, employment, and national income.

It then examines in-depth (i) the macroeconomic significance and implications of Australia's public debt with reference to foreign indebtedness, international credit worthiness and interest rates, (ii)

how to gauge public debt sustainability, and (iii) how the federal budget can be managed to stabilise and reduce public debt.

Participants will develop their capacity to critically evaluate the macroeconomic consequences of federal fiscal policy and acquire new skills for assessing and managing public debt sustainability.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND ECONOMICS FOR EXECUTIVES

SUMMARY

Organisations in the 21st century operate in an environment of complexity and uncertainty, hyper-competition and contested narratives, and resource-interdependencies and polycentric governance. In this environment, mistakes can be costly and lasting, and can threaten organisational survival. Effective implementation of policies and strategies requires effective leadership, and this in turn calls for an ability to anticipate and pre-empt problems before they become mistakes.

Economics – A strategic perspective seeks to foster this capability in emerging leaders by equipping them with fundamental analytical frameworks, distilled from across economics disciplines such as information and institutional economics, production and public economics, and game theory and political economy; and are packaged in a practical, relevant toolkit for a non-technical audience. This toolkit would allow users to think about complex and unfamiliar problems in a systematic manner, and to help them get in the right ‘headspace’ for leadership

POLICY EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This one-day course will develop your skills to confidently interpret the findings presented in evaluation studies and understand the intuition behind the most common evaluation tools. You will learn about the possibilities and limitations of applying evaluation tools to a range of public policy areas.

BIG DATA IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

SUMMARY

This one-day course will develop your skills to understand the intuition behind relevant machine learning tools, provide examples for how to apply these tools using the software package Python, and explain how to interpret and compare competing machine learning systems. The course will

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conclude with a discussion of the risks and opportunities associated with the application of machine learning algorithms.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

SUMMARY

Infrastructure plays vital roles in all societies, and infrastructure projects are usually the largest investment items in a budget. However, they are also among the most controversial because their sheer size and long-term impacts may make mistakes very costly. Debates about infrastructure projects range from whether they are worth their cost and whether their proposed scales are appropriate to when it is the optimal time to implement them. Thus, it is extremely important to minimize mistakes, and so all prudent decisions on infrastructure projects must rely on a scientific-based cost-benefit analysis that helps evaluate the value of money for these investments.

This course is designed to provide the skills required to perform cost-benefit analysis for infrastructure projects. It covers a range of knowledge, from fundamental concepts to practical exercises for real-life examples. With the knowledge gained in this course, you will be ready to determine where the truth lies in the debates about infrastructure projects.

FORESIGHTING SKILLS FOR POLICY AND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT: SCENARIO PLANNING FOR PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERS

SUMMARY

The major focus of this this course is about the process of foresight. The course enables participants to develop skills to explore, understand, represent and provide advice on complex and uncertain issues. This course enables participants to develop the skills and practice to:

- Represent the complexity of their external operating landscape, make sense of it and to be able to provide research-informed advice for a range of issues.
- To explore the uncertainty of the external operating landscape, capture the uncertainty, make sense of it and use this to better inform advice on a range of issues.

STRATEGIC THINKING AND PLANNING FOR PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERS

SUMMARY

This course will teach you the distinctions between strategic thinking and strategic planning and how they work in tandem so that the development of outcomes, objectives and actions can be developed with sufficient inbuilt flexibilities for adaptation or evolution to changing circumstances in this era of

T +61 2 6125 2154

E csee@anu.edu.au

crawford.anu.edu.au/executive-education/contact-us

uncertainty and tumultuous or rapid change. The course will draw on the principles of complex adaptive systems and complexity theory.

EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE AT WORK

SUMMARY

Emotional competence has been widely demonstrated to be a critical factor for individual and team performance across the spectrum of working life. Especially in public policy work - where values, interests and resources compete, and time-pressures and expectations are high – emotionally competent behaviour can be an important driver of success.

Linking to neuroscience research in cognition and emotion, and using experiential participation, this course helps individuals to recognise the complex basis their behaviour. Participants will gain insight into their own EC and have the opportunity to explore methods for:

- Increasing their personal resilience especially in high pressure settings
- Recognising, challenging and modifying unhelpful default inclinations and assumptions
- Relating successfully to others, especially those with different work styles
- Developing a growth mindset.

The course concludes with guidance for further development of EC skills when 'back at work'.

POLICY MODELS AT 20 PACES: HOW DOES POLICY 'REALLY' WORK?

SUMMARY

Understanding how policy making really works has spawned rich debates amongst academics and practitioners over the years with considerable controversy and argument about:

- What 'doing policy' work consists of
- What processes and systems are at work and how they interact
- What skills and knowledge are needed to do it effectively.

Using participants' real-world experience and interactive methods, this course will explore the pros and cons of a range of models - from the commonly cited 'policy cycle', to its critics and the alternatives they propose.

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