

MSc in Survey Statistics at ELTE, Budapest

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Background

‘Continental’ division between
theory and applications

Mathematical statistics versus
methodology

History

Survey Statistics minor for students in sociology
(3 years within a 5-year program)

Mathematics

Probability theory

Mathematical statistics

Computing

Applied statistics

History - continued

Tools to handle research problems
as opposed to

Examples to illustrate methods

Level of coverage:

Conditional distributions derived from
multivariate normal

Log-linear models

History - continued

The minor attracted some of the most talented and hard working students

Big success on the job market and in feeding the PhD programme

Then came the Bologna process

Accreditation

Mathematicians: not too happy

‘Methodologists’: not too happy

Official statistics: little interest

Business (opinion polling, market research):
supportive

Is ‘survey’ a Hungarian word?

Environment

Faculty of Social Sciences

Sociology

Social work

Social policy

Political science

International relations

Economics

Health economics

Cultural anthropology

Survey statistics

Program structure

2 years, 4 terms

Term = 14 teaching weeks

About 20 contact hours each week

Internship

State language examination

Thesis

Courses – compulsory I

- Linear algebra and analysis
- Probability theory
- Mathematical statistics
- Multivariate probability theory and mathematical statistics
- Categorical data analysis
- Data-analysis
- Sampling
- Statistical programming

Courses – compulsory II

- History of empirical social research
- Market and public opinion research
- Social science
- Economics
- Qualitative research
- Research management
- Thesis research

Courses - elective

- Theory of Survey Methodology Track
- Nonparametric statistics
- Categorical data analysis 2
- Stochastic simulation
- Statistical Programming 2
- Game theory and network analysis
- Geographical information systems in the social sciences
- Analysis of complex surveys
- Data-analysis 2

Courses - elective

Applied Survey Methodology Track

- Market and public opinion research 2
- Research proposal writing
- Research management 2
- Applied sampling
- Statistical packages
- Data mining
- Presentation and academic writing

Student intake

Social sciences

Economics

Mathematics

2009: 17

16 found outside internships

About 10 found jobs

2010: 26

First class will graduate in 2011

Statistics versus applied statistics: a comment added on the spot

How do they relate?

An 'applied statistician' has to believe in the existence of methods to handle a problem

A statistician is less sure

An 'applied statistician' will tend to use a method even if it is not appropriate

Are there programs in applied engineering? Or in applied medicine?