



## Ad-Hoc Economics: A fizzy student community

*Andrea Poinelli, president of the brand new HSG club Ad-Hoc Economics (AHE), has studied economics all over Europe. He started in Italy, was an exchange student in Sweden, acquired a Master of Science degree in Financial Economics in Rotterdam, and started MEcon in fall 2018. How do HSG studies compare to other universities? What are the highlights and downers in the first semester of MEcon? Should economists do more clubbing?*



**You studied at several good universities, and got a MSc degree in financial economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam. What was your motivation to move to HSG and start MEcon? How does MEcon training compare to your previous studies?**

During my studies in Rotterdam I acquired an in-depth knowledge of the mechanisms that govern financial markets. However, I lacked an advanced understanding of the dynamics underlying the real economy. I lacked the “big picture” which the *MEcon* instead provides. Moreover, since my internship at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, I have developed quite an interest for economic policy. The *MEcon* offers the mix of knowledge and skills useful to tackle both the analytical and policy side of economics. After all, that’s what HSG’s brand “*From insight to impact*” means, right?

**You are the president and founder of “Ad-Hoc Economics”, together with several MEcon colleagues. Are economists not clubbing enough? What is the mission of the club?**

True, and we would like to break with this attitude. Economists are often criticized for “clubbing” because they use a sophisticated jargon - which every expert must use! We believe that economists could do better in communicating to the public the serious impact of economic decisions. AHE aims to create this bridge, between the academic and the more practically oriented public debate. Besides, *Diversity* is also one of our three core values. We warmly encourage students from different backgrounds to help us!

**The name suggests that the Ad Hoc bar at HSG is a good place to chat about the hottest adventures with economics lecturers, to debate about economic policy, and having fun with fellow clubbers. Are professors also invited? When is it going live?**



Indeed, that's where it all started! As a student-led think tank, our mission is to inform the public debate about our ideas through our "rigorous but accessible" *Ad-Hoc Reports*... But the club goes beyond that. *Adhockers* constitute a fizzy student community. AHE commits to becoming a platform where bachelor, PhD and master students can exchange ideas on economic debates or get to know the research conducted by Professors and PhD students. An informal setting such as a pub is definitely among the alternatives. We will announce our future events very soon! I am grateful to be part of an extraordinary team of engaged students who work with me on this ambitious project.

**Has the first semester sharpened the tools for your own research? Which specializations in economics are most appealing to you? Have you already thought about a topic for a Master thesis?**

Absolutely, the first semester is very intensive. But in my experience, rigorous training is essential to develop knowledge and skills to successfully specialize in the second part of the year. I am fascinated by macroeconomic challenges, especially by puzzles concerning economic growth and real business cycle theory. The interactions between financial markets and the real economy would be a very appealing topic for my Master thesis.

**MEcon alumni are found in research, public policy, in international organizations and in management positions. What is your preferred option in starting up the career?**

I'd like to think of my future job between applied economic research and policy-making. My ambitions after graduation are to continue with a PhD or to take part in a graduate program of an international institution. Once I have accumulated enough experience, I dream of returning to Italy, work for the government and give back my expertise to my home country.

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