

MA Thesis Advising

I'm creating this short note to clarify what you can expect if you decide to work with me for your MA thesis at the University of Tokyo.

During the spring semester of your 2nd year, we will meet weekly or biweekly to discuss papers in areas you are interested in. In 2024, some of the papers we read are

- Miller, Sheu, and Weinberg, Oligopolistic Price Leadership and Mergers: The United States Beer Industry
- Raval, Testing the Production Approach to Markup Estimation
- Miller and Weinberg, Understanding the Price Effects of the MillerCoors Joint Venture

- Blundell, Gowrisankaran and Langer, Escalation of Scrutiny: The Gains from Dynamic Enforcement of Environmental Regulations
- Hsiao, Coordination and Commitment in International Climate Action: Evidence from Palm Oil
- Aronoff and Rafey, Conservation priorities and environmental offsets: Markets for Florida wetlands

In the fall semester of your second year, we meet weekly to biweekly to discuss student's own research projects.

All of the meetings are group meetings. For the spring semester, you are expected to have read the paper in advance and discuss the paper during the group meeting. For the fall semester, you are expected to comment on other students' work and present progress on your own research.

As you start working on your research, you will become much more knowledgeable (than me) about the topic you are studying. At that point, you should treat me as more of an audience who is willing to engage in a conversation rather than as an expert who will guide you in crossing the finish line. Corollary: I probably won't know the related literature very well or the econometrics paper you are using to estimate your model. I certainly won't be able to help you with coding.

You are encouraged (and expected) to talk to other faculty about your research. I will not find for you a reader for your thesis defense. I expect you to approach other faculty to serve as readers for your thesis defense.

I'm equally happy to work with students who are planning to graduate with a MA degree as with those who are planning to pursue a Ph.D.

If you decide to pursue a Ph.D at the University of Tokyo, I encourage you to seek out new advisors who may be a better match for your doctoral thesis. Please keep in mind that even if I advise your MA thesis, I may not be able to sponsor you for the doctoral program at the University of Tokyo *even if you meet the grade requirements of the economics department.*