KYIV SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Seminar in Computational Macroeconomics

Winter 2012

Instructor: Maksym Obrizan

Research proposal guidelines

DOs:

Find a published paper that most closely follows your research question or uses the methods that fit your purpose. You will be surprised to find out that the most complicated paper can often be simplified to a trivial 2-period model! *Hint: The complexity is added later to get published but the basic idea should be straightforward!*

The easiest way is to use slightly modified models from the course. Your first paper is unlikely to end up in AER-:). Try to simplify to the extent that you can program it in MATLAB. Add the remaining parts in the proposal. The basic model should be robust and simple - you will add details as you build it. PLEASE START SIMPLE!

DON'Ts:

1. Do not choose a very broad topic.
2. Do not pick a complicated model that you cannot replicate.
3. Do not use working papers or non-mainstream papers! If the original is not good your paper is also unlikely to be good.

The proposal should be at least 10 pages long (with 1.5 intervals, 1-inch on each side) and should include the following parts:

i. Introduction: What is your research question? (1-2 pages)

Examples: the effects of flat pension in Ukraine on incentives to work; cross-country study of smoking effects on life expectancy and economic well-being; corruption and income distribution in Ukraine and so on.

If you do not have a specific idea but rather are interested in a broad topic (such as Euro-integration of Ukraine) you can discuss it with me or Kateryna to narrow your research question.

ii. Literature review: What published papers use heterogenous agent framework that you plan to adopt? How will your research be different? (2-3 pages with at least 10 most relevant papers)

iii. Methodology: How will you program the problem in MATLAB? How will you modify the methodology (if necessary)? Could you replicate the findings of your primary source? (3-4 pages)

iv. Calibration and data: What parameters do you have to calibrate? What data will you use? (1 page)

v. Results and policy experiments: What results are you planning to obtain? What policy experiments will you run? (2-3 pages)