Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**
- Most students accepted for admission to our M.A. program possess an honours bachelor degree with a major concentration in economics. Applicants who do not possess a degree in economics must be able to demonstrate a strong background in economics.
- Grade requirements: a minimum average of 80% is typically competitive.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
- List of the five most recent courses and marks in economics, math, or statistics.
- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score may be required.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: FORIEL (paper-based): 550; (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academic: 65.

**KEY DATES & DEADLINES**
- Application due: January 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Mid-February and onwards.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

Most M.A. students in Economics receive funding in the form of scholarships and Teaching Assistantships. The amount of funding varies, depending on the strength of the application package. In the past 2 years, the average level of funding provided was $11,500.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically consider some of this external funding as part of its funding offer. In the past 2 years, the average level of funding provided was $11,500.

Why QUEEN’S?

Economics at Queen’s is widely recognized as one of the leading Economics departments in Canada. The programs are challenging, rigorous, and of small to medium size. Graduates have had great success in initial job placements and in their subsequent careers. All students are assigned an office with a phone and a computer to provide network access.

At Queen’s, graduate students in all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers, and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen’s more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres.

In the affordable, historic waterfront City of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. The campus is nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

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Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ECONOMICS?

The Economics MA program prepares students for both applied and theoretical research, and for non-academic careers in both the private and public sectors. The program involves a core of courses in economic theory and quantitative methods, together with a range of specialized electives chosen according to each student’s interest and designed to impart economic knowledge that is at the forefront of the discipline. It also involves an independent research component in the form of a MA essay, which helps students develop intellectual independence that is necessary for continuing professional development. There are opportunities to collaborate with the Smith School of Business, Policy Studies, Law and other departments.

**RESEARCH Areas**

- Macroeconomics
- Macroeconomic Theory
- Applied Microeconomics
- Applied Econometrics
- Economic History

Visit the Economics website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. Typically, students find a supervisor after joining the MA program and in the course of taking their fall and winter semester courses, during which most students percolate towards a specific area of research interest.

“Queen’s Economics Department is a fantastic place to be a graduate student. The coursework is challenging and the professors are approachable. The department hosts regular workshops in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics and provides grad students with the opportunity to meet and engage with visiting researchers.”

Kevin Andrew, PhD

**MA STRUCTURE**

MA (1 year): Course work, independent research project/essay. Master’s students have to take three required courses and four elective courses and complete a MA essay under the supervision of a faculty member.
**Economics MA MAP**

**MASTER OF ARTS (MA)**

**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like completing core courses and choosing elective courses that align with your interests and career goals.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework; find a supervisor and begin to research and write your MA essay or thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Economics Association Conferences.
- Start keeping an portfolio of your experiences and competencies.
- Start keeping an portfolio of your experiences and competencies.
- Participate in graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) annual meetings, or the Canadian Economic Theory Conference.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your MA essay or thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.

**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

A graduate degree in Economics can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritizes, organizes, and synthesizes large amounts of information
- Time management: Meets deadlines and manages responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develops ideas, gathers information, analyzes, critically appraises findings, draws and acts on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

A Master’s degree in Economics can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Public sector
- Banking
- Economic research
- Consultancy
- Law
- Statistics

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.