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.

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 from 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. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

Program 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.

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.

“The 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
Economics MA MAP *

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.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your MA essay or thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) annual meetings, or the Canadian Economic Theory Conference.

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Start reading publications like Marthas Table, or Queen's Journal, or CFRC, or Queen's Graduate Student Executive for tips on getting involved.
- For more ideas, look in the SGS901 course, or the SGS Blog, or the Material Matters blog, or the SGS901 blog, or the Material Matters blog.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as government student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QLAC's Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, check out programs that allow you to work after graduation, such as work permit programs.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) annual meetings, or the Canadian Economic Theory Conference.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog, or in the MSU Club Directory, or for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Economics Graduate Student Executive for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the Economics Department.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest through, for example, the Queen’s Alumni on LinkedIn, the Queen’s Alumni Association, or professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Loving Spoonful.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as government student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Economic Association (CEA).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services career planning workshop, or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like So What Are You Going to Do With That? or The Academic Job Search from the Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Students’ Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles in the SGS guide, or by reading the Queen’s Alumni on LinkedIn. Find alumni in various careers through the Alumni Directory.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest and contact professors. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, or interviews.
- 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: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Entrepreneurship
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness of understanding of ethical, social, and cultural responsibility, responsible research and innovation
- 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.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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.
- Two official transcripts.
- Minimum 2 academic reference letters (maximum of 4 references).
- 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: TOEFL (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 Academics: 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 $15,000.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRc and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.