Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Honours Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree with a major in Economics
- Grade requirements: first-class or upper second-class standing (B+/A- average). A minimum average of 80% is typically required to be 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, (Internet based): 80. Writing 22/30, Speaking 22/30, Reading 21/30
- IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score)
- PTE Academic: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- Application due: January 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Mid February and onward.

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

What about FUNDING?

The minimum funding guarantee for Economics PhD students is $18,000 per year, throughout years 1-4. However, most students receive substantially higher. In 2014-2015, the minimum level of funding for doctoral students within the department was $23,000. The funding package consists of scholarships and teaching assistantships.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $10,000 award to winners of federal government tri-council awards for PhD studies.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ECONOMICS?

The Economics graduate programs prepare students for both applied and theoretical academic research, and for non-academic careers in both the private and public sectors. The PhD 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. 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.

RESEARCH Areas

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

For more information visit the Economics Department website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. Typically, economics PhD students find a supervisor after joining the PhD program and in the course of taking their first and second year 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

Program STRUCTURE

PhD (4 years): Course work, comprehensive written exams in Micro and Macro Theory, doctoral thesis.

Where can I get help?

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS HABITAT for available resources.

What is the community like?

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. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the heart 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.

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online “My Grad Map” tool.
Look to hone skills for non-academic employment by attending workshops put on by the Department, such as Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitat. Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

YEAR II
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons: Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

YEAR III
- Plan date of thesis submission for examination.
- Present your research to graduate students and faculty or at conferences and work with supervisor to prepare for defence.
- Review submission and examination guidelines.
- Secure necessary oral defence accommodations.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) annual meetings or the Canadian Economic Theory Conference.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.
- 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.
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CFI, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills. Investigate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking MyGradSkills Intercultural Competency Certificate.

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: priority, 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
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an 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 PhD in Economics can take your career in many directions. In Canada, less than 40% of all PhDs will work in post-secondary education – the majority will work in industry, government, or non-profits.
- Academia
- Public sector
- Banks
- Private research firms
- International organizations

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