Get to know ECONOMICS

Economic problems are an ever-present and inherent part of our lives. Common issues include the periodic existence of high unemployment; global competition in world markets and arguments about the wisdom of free trade agreements; and the effect of changes in the value of the Canadian dollar. The social science of economics is our attempt to analyze and understand these and other problems. At a more basic level, economics is concerned with the material well-being of human societies. Queen’s Economics Department has a long celebrated history of academic excellence.

Why should you study economics? First, it is essential to understanding the world in which you live and work. What determines the prices of goods and services, and the returns on stocks and bonds? Why do some people earn so much and others so little? Second, the study of economics will equip you to participate more successfully in an increasingly knowledge-based and interdependent global economy. How do individuals decide how much and what kinds of education to acquire, how much to spend and save, how to invest their savings, or how much to invest in housing? Finally, the study of economics will give you a better understanding of the objectives and limitations of government policy. How can government policy help reduce environmental pollution? How does the tax system affect the incentives for people to work, spend and save, and for firms to invest? By systematically addressing these sorts of questions, economics will help you make better decisions in your personal life, in your business life and as a global citizen.

“Economics at Queen’s has a distinguished history and it ranks among the top research departments in Canada.”

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Economics
Major in Applied Economics
Bachelor of Arts (General)

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the opportunity to work with our advisors and faculty to discover your real interests and identify opportunities for success. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year will be a great experience at Queen’s.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Courses in Economics look at both micro and macro environments, from local to international markets. Courses such as Macroeconomic Policy, International Trade Policy and Law and Economics are for those interested in policy development. Courses in Canadian Labour Relations, Labour Markets and Gender Differences and Income Distribution and Problems of Inequality allow students to focus on areas related to equity and workforce issues. If you are more interested in how economics relates to specific industries, then courses in Natural Resource Economics or the Economics of Health Care are for you.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
quartsCi.com
Caution: *This map is meant as a guide to provide suggestions throughout your university career. The activities, resources, and careers mentioned are possibilities – you are not restricted to them and you don’t have to follow this exact timeline. Every person (including you!) will find their own unique path through their degree at Queen's and beyond.

---

**Economics MAJOR MAP**

**1ST YEAR**

- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take ECON 110 or 111 and 112, MATH 121 or 126.
  - For plan requirements or thresholds, see the Arts and Science website. Speak to an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Studies Office in the department.

- **GET RELevANT EXPERIENCE**
  - Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's Capital, and the Queen's Project on International Development (QPID).
  - See the Co-Curricular Opportunities Directory or AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.

- **GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
  - Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as the Queen's International Affairs Association (QIAA).

- **GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
  - The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
  - Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

- **GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
  - Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

**2ND YEAR**

- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take ECON 212, 222, 250 and 255.
  - Consider the Economic History options, ECON 231 and 232 or 331 and 332.
  - If interested in Applied Economics consider the Commerce options available to students in APEC.

- **GET RELevANT EXPERIENCE**
  - Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEIP or Work-Study.
  - Take more responsibility within different extracurriculars, such as Queen's Model Parliament. ECON majors are often found in the top positions in ASUS and the AMS.

- **GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
  - Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC) as a class representative, year representative, or on the executive. Go to workshops and conferences hosted by the Economics Department.
  - Consider volunteering with organizations such as the Queen's Undergraduate Actuarial Society (QUAS).

- **GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
  - Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your faculty's International Office. If exchange isn't for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.

- **GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
  - Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Careers in Finance. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

**3RD OR FINAL YEAR**

- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take ECON 310, 320 and 351. Applied Economics students are not required to take ECON 320.
  - Consider the curriculum requirements for completing the Queen's Certificate in Business.

- **GET RELevANT EXPERIENCE**
  - If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICSI).

- **GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
  - Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.
  - Connect with professors at social and academic events hosted by the DSC.

- **GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
  - Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC's resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

- **GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
  - Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take ECON 452.

- **GET RELevANT EXPERIENCE**
  - About two-thirds of ECON graduates find jobs in the public or financial sectors. Investigate internships or full-time jobs related to careers of interest.
  - Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

- **GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
  - Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Economics Association, the Canadian Association for Business and Economics, or the Canadian Bankers Association.
  - Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Economics.

- **GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
  - Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
  - International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

- **GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
  - Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.
  - Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships.

---

**Where could I go after graduation?**

- Accounting
- Actuarial science
- Auditing
- Banking
- Business Administration
- Central banking
- Credit Management
- Demography
- Environmental policy
- Finance
- Graduate studies
- Human resources
- Immigration services
- Insurance
- International development
- Investment analysis
- Labour and industrial relations
- Law
- Management consulting
- Medicine
- Monetary/fiscal policy
- Natural resource management
- Public Administration
- Quality control
- Real estate
- Risk management
- Sales analyst
- Securities Investment and Trade
- Strategic Planning
- Teaching
- Urban and Regional Planning

---

© Career Services, Queen's University, 2015-2016
Economics
MAJOR MAP

How to use this map

• Got questions about careers and classes?
• Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
• Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?
In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

HOW DO I GET THE SKILLS I NEED?
It is important to develop a balanced skill set – many of which you will develop during your studies. To stand out, take advantage of experiential learning through the multitude of clubs and activities in and around Queen’s. Check out the Get Relevant Experience section of this map.

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING ECONOMICS AT QUEEN’S?
• Technical skills - collect economic data and apply statistical analysis and modeling techniques
• Understand the impact of policies, interest rates, productivity, savings, investment and other economic factors on countries, firms and individuals
• Theoretical frameworks in micro and macroeconomics and econometrics
• Proficiency in mathematics
• Oral and written communication - analyze empirical and theoretical content, create technical and non-technical reports, and present information to a group
• Research – analyze information, test hypotheses, impose intellectual discipline, and isolate relevant evidence
• Logical reasoning – systematically approach complex problems, identify important assumptions, and focus on causal factors

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?
No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.