Get to know ECONOMICS

Why should you study Economics? At its core, the social science of economics is concerned with the material well-being of human societies. It will help you understand the world in which you live and work. It will equip you to succeed in an increasingly knowledge-based and interdependent global economy. It will allow you to identify, describe and improve the strategies and incentives used by individuals, businesses and governments.

Economics will arm you with the tools to face a surprisingly wide range of problems that affect our everyday lives. Students in economics will learn how to document and value risk, study labour markets and global trade, design and assess government policies, and describe the operation of international currency markets. But there are so many other questions economists can ask. What determines the prices of goods and services? Why do stock and bond prices rise and fall? Why do some people earn so much, while others earn so little? Can carbon taxes slow global warming? How much should you spend or save? Where should you invest your savings? How does the tax system affect you, your family and the businesses in your neighbourhood? By showing you how to systematically address these questions and many, many more, economics will help you make better decisions in your personal life, in business and as a global citizen.

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

Degree OPTIONS
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Economics
Major in Applied Economics
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION
Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

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 at Queen’s will be a great experience.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
In first year take ECON 110 or 111 and 112 at Herstmonceux Castle along with MATH 121 or 126.

Each Plan will have at least one required first year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

Consider applying to do the Certificate in Business.

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen’s Capital, and the Queen’s Project on International Development (QPID).

See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more ideas.

Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as the Queen’s International Affairs Association (QIAA).

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.

The Queen’s University International Centre is your first step 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.

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.

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.

Get ready for life after graduation?

Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

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.

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.

All students select one of the “capstone” seminars, which have a maximum of 15 students, and cover a variety of micro and macroeconomic topics. Applied Economics students take ECON 452.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining core, option, and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

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.

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 after graduation?

SSHRC scholarships.

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

Some careers may require additional training.
How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying ECONOMICS?

- Technical skills for collecting economic data and applying 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 to analyze empirical and theoretical content, create technical and non-technical reports, and present information to a group
- Research skills to analyze information, test hypotheses, impose intellectual discipline, and isolate relevant evidence
- Logical reasoning to systematically approach complex problems, identify important assumptions, and focus on causal factors