

Economics PhD Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

GRAD MAP FOR PhD STUDENTS 

Jump Start Your Research Career in Economics

A PhD from Queen's Economics Department gives you and outstanding foundation for a research-oriented career in academia, government or international institutions. Our department has a distinguished history, ranks among the top in research departments in Canada, and is highly regarded internationally.

We prepare you for starting a successful career in economics research following the path of our many distinguished graduates.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES IN ECONOMICS?

The department provides a medium sized program which allows students to study in an open atmosphere with direct access to internationally renowned faculty. Students have access to excellent data and



computing facilities as well as a dynamic research environment with 3 weekly seminar series and an extensive visiting scholar program.

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.

"Professors are as approachable as they are knowledgeable. They will always leave their doors open for you to discuss research ideas, and provide professional feedback on research projects."

– Ke Xu, University of Victoria, (PhD 2017)

Program STRUCTURE

Graduate Methods Review in Mathematics and Computing.

First Year:

- Course sequences in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Econometrics
- Comprehensive Exams

Second Year:

- Specialized Field Courses
- Qualifying Research Paper

Third Year and Onwards:

- Small Group PhD Workshops
- Thesis Research



GRADUATE STUDIES AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

queensu.ca/grad-postdoc

Economics PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)



YEAR I

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Key priorities include completing core courses and comprehensive exam requirements.
- By the end of first year, students should be at the forefront in terms of the main theoretical and empirical methodology in all areas of economic analysis.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

- Complete five research topics courses.
- Finalize a supervisor, work on second-year paper.
- By the end of their second year, students should have a deeper understanding of key issues and debates relating to their chosen areas of study.
- Find your way through the academic process with the help of SGSPA professional development and the SGSPA website.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps like Dissertation Boot Camp.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGS, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

- Present your work at the departmental student workshop (ECON 999).
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- List yourself on the Arts and Science University Research website.

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Contact the Queen's Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

- 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Economics Graduate Student Executive for tips on getting involved.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, or the SGSPA Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on committees.
- Attend workshops put on by the Department, such as the Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching.

- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, SGSPA professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions.

- 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.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Attend departmental workshops regularly and meet with visiting speakers.
- 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 graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.

- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Economics Association.
- Continue targeted networking with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Economics.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career educator and coach for help.
- Start reading publications like University Affairs and the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.

- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.
- Start focusing on non-academic areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your industry resume and begin your job search plan.

- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures.
- If considering jobs abroad, research possible immigration regulations. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

Knowledge & Workplace Skills

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**
- **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

Career Possibilities

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
- Banks
- International organizations
- Private research firms
- Private consulting firms
- Public sector

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

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. To make your own custom map, use the My Grad Map tool: careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

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 SGSPA website 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 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 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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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.
- A minimum average of 80% in MA classes is typically required to be competitive.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- List of courses and marks in economics, math, or statistics.
- Two official transcripts.
- 2 academic reference letters.
- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score may be required for international applicants.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 15, 2025
- **Notification of acceptance:** Mid March and onwards

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

What about FUNDING?

Funding packages consist of scholarships and TA' ships. The department guarantees funding for at least 4 years and depending on sufficient progress towards the degree, funding package are also offered for later years.

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. For the 2025-26 academic year, Queen's will automatically issue a one time \$5,000 award to Doctoral students who have won federal government tri-council awards.

