Economics MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why Graduate Studies in Economics?

The Economics MA program prepares students for both applied and theoretical research, and for non-academic careers in both 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 an 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 office space to study and work. 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.

Program Structure

Master's students must take three required courses and four elective courses and complete an essay under the supervision of a faculty member.

The core courses are: Macroeconomic Theory, Microeconomic Theory & Quantitative Methods

The department facilitates placement through its own Career Placement services.

Research Areas

- Macroeconomics, Monetary and International Economics
- Industrial Organization and Labour Economics
- Public Resource and Environmental Economics
- Applied and Theoretical Econometrics
- Economic Development and Growth
- Economics of Law, Finance and Trade

Visit the [Economics Department website] to learn more about faculty members' research areas. Typically, students find an essay supervisor after joining the MA program while taking their Fall and Winter semester courses, during which most students percolate towards a specific area of research interest.

Recent Placements

Academic:

- Harvard (PhD)
- UBC (PhD)
- University of Minnesota (PhD)
- U of T (PhD)
- Queen's (PhD)
- Queen's (Law)

Private Sector & Others:

- Livingston International
- Charles River Associates, etc.
- Top 5 Commercial Banks
- C.D. Howe Institute

IMF Federal Agencies (20+):

- Finance Canada
- ESDC
- Bank of Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Office of Parliamentary Budget Officer
- Competition Bureau of Canada
- Agriculture and Agrifood Canada

2026-2027

Economics MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

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.

Queen's University

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

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 the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA website.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Complete your coursework; find a supervisor and begin to research and write your MA essay or thesis.

WRAPPING UP

- Complete your MA essay or thesis.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

GETTING STARTED

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Economics Association Conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) or GRADflix competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media or a blog.

WRAPPING UP

- 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.
- Consider being interviewed on the SGSPA radio show Grad Chat to talk about your research.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

GETTING STARTED

- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, or the SGSPA Blog - Gradifying. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty, or university committees. Talk to the Economics Graduate Student Executive for tips on getting involved.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- 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 and learning.
- Discover what skills you already have and figure out what ones you want to grow by using the Queen's Skills Cards.

WRAPPING UP

- 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.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

GETTING STARTED

- 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.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Enage with your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by Volunteering with QUIC for the English Conversation program.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.

WRAPPING UP

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through 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 Economic Association (CEA).

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

GETTING STARTED

- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking a Career Services workshop or meeting with a career educator and coach. Check out 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.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- Explore different careers of interest by LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

WRAPPING UP

- 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, and interviews.
- Find impactful work that aligns with your values using the Queen's Career Guide to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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 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:

- Banking
- Consultancy
- Economic research
- Law
- Public sector
- 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.

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?

Queen's offers graduate students from every discipline a close-knit intellectual community where they can learn, discover, and build lasting connections. With more than 130 graduate programs across 50+ departments and research centres, students benefit from world-class scholars, prize-winning professional development, generous funding packages, and life in the historic waterfront city of Kingston. The campus sits at the heart of Kingston, just a 10-minute walk from downtown's shops, restaurants, and waterfront, and is deeply integrated with the local community. For more on Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's Discover Kingston page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to Apply?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Most students accepted for admission to our MA 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:** an average of 80% in core courses is typically competitive.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- List of courses and marks in economics, math, and 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 first language, nor was the language of instruction in undergraduate studies, prospective students must meet English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening as part of the application process, and before final acceptance is granted, as per School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' regulations.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 15th
- **Notification of acceptance:** Mid March and onwards.

Before you start your application, please review the School of Graduate studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' application process.

What about Funding?

Most MA 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.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC, and other sources. For more information on awards and scholarships, consult the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs' website.

Queen's University Economics

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