Jump Start Your Research Career in Economics

A PhD from Queen’s Economics Department gives you an 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.

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

“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)
2021-2022

Economics PhD Map

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

YEAR I

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.

YEAR II

YEAR III

YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT
- Think about audiences for your research.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

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 SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.

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.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Finding a career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career consultant for help. Check out books like What Are You Going to Do With That? Or The Academic Job Search from 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.
- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies Career Week to explore your career pathways.

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: 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 social ethical 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
- Private consulting firms
- International organizations
- Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

*This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but every student’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 1st, 2022
- Notification of acceptance: End of February

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

What about FUNDING?

Funding packages consist of scholarships and TA' ships. The minimum funding package offered in 2019 was $27,000. 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. Queen’s will automatically issue a one time $10,000 award to incoming PhD students who have won federal government tri-council awards.