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
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.

**How to use this map**

**CAREER**

- Complete three 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 School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development and the SGSPA website.

**EXPERIENCE**

- Apply for the Graduate Dean's Travel Grant for Doctoral Field Research.

**SKILLS AND IMPACT**

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**MAXIMIZE ACADEMIC IMPACT**

- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Economics Graduate Student Executive for tips on getting involved.
- Consider volunteering with different local community organizations, such as Martha’s Table, or Loving Spoonful.
- Attend departmental workshops regularly and meet with visiting speakers.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Think about audiences for your research.
- Apply to SSHRC, OGs, and other funding.
- Attend conferences in your field.
- Ask for help with teaching, get support from the Department, such as The Professional and Academic Development Program (PADP).
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGSPA writing camps like Dissertation Boot Camp.
- Offer use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**WHERE CAN I GO?**

- 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 most theoretical and empirical methodology in all areas of economic analysis.
- Look to Student Academic Success Services for a variety of supports.

- 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.

- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career Week to explore your career pathways.

- 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.

- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Enroll in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching.

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

- 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.

- Search for work or studies in a multicultural setting. Build connections with people working in careers of interest. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Economics.

- 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.

- Find opportunities for extra training through CTL, School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional development, WITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

- Develop a professional network. Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

- If interested in academics or public sector, find opportunities to network in those areas. Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Research academic organizations.

- Continue public outreach through social media such as Twitter or a blog.

- Look to Student Academic Success Services workshop.

- Search for work or studies in a multicultural setting. 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.

- Finalize a supervisor, work on second-year paper.
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**WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- 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
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 Individual Development Plan (IDP) 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 affordable, 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.

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.