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 School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based) 550, (internet based) 80, IELTS 6.5.

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.

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.

Economics PhD Map
Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

“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)

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**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Key priorities include completing core courses and comprehensive examination requirements.
- By the end of year one, 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 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 Expanding Horizons and the SGS Habitat.
- Seek experiential/professional development opportunities.

**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.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen’s Journal, CFRC, and the SGSS Blog. Look in the AMR Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university 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 (CTL) website.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.

**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.
- Find career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So 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.

**LAUNCH YOUR CAREER**

- Finding career fit starts with knowing yourself. Take a Career Services workshop or meet with a career counsellor for help. Check out books like So 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 building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGSS website, and using QueenConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through “Ask an Alum”. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

**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 sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity (RECS): develop effective communication skills
- 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.