Economics PhD Map
Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Jump Start Your Research Career in Economics

A PhD from QED 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.

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)
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**

**COMPLETE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**
- 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.

**YEAR III**

**ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS**
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS Dissertation Boot Camp or Dissertation on the Lake.
- Use conference presentations to create, discuss, and explore ways to disseminate research findings. Learn from the Expanding Horizons Publishing workshop.
- Begin discussion of potential thesis defence examiners.

**YEAR IV & TRANSITIONING**
- 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.
- Discuss career pathways, references letters, and publication options with your supervisor.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**
- 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.
- Attend departmental workshops regularly and meet with visiting speakers.
- 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. Enroll in SGS902 or the PSTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**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 SGSs, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, SGPS, or the Aims Clubs Directory.
- Use a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant position to develop your skills and experience.
- Attend departmental workshops regularly and meet with visiting speakers.
- 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. Enroll in SGS902 or the PSTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Economics Association, the Canadian Economics Association (CarA) annual meetings or the Canadian Economics Theory Conference.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**
- 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 SGSs, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, SGPS, or the Aims Clubs Directory.
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**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 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.
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnects 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.
- 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.
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**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 in research 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

**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

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 School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores: TOEFL (paper-based): 550, (2) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30), for a total of 88/120 (applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score), or (3) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score), or (4) PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: February 1st, 2020
- 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.