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.

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)
2020-2021

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.

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 SGs, 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 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.

YEAR II

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Complete three research topics courses.
- Finish 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.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Hone skills for non-academic employment by continuing involvement on 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; Enrol in SG502 or the PSTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

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

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Start building your teaching portfolio including student evaluations, and seeking mentorship.
- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. For more information check out Career Cruising.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest.

YEAR III

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Continue to meet regularly with your supervisor, review research progress, and write your dissertation. Check out the SGS writing camps like Dissertation Boot Camp.
- 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.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT
- Present your work at graduate conferences, through professional associations, or topic conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Contact the Queen’s Media Centre for guidance on speaking to news outlets about your work.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Begin teaching as a departmental Teaching Fellow.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Find opportunities for extra training through CFI, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Interultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by OUC and FDIC.

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

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- 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.
- 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.

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
- Continue to attend conferences and connect with scholars in your field and with community partners, such as the Canadian Economics Association, (CEA) annual meetings or the Canadian Economic Theory Conference.
- Continue public outreach through social media and the Queen’s Media Centre.

BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- 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.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- 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.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Build connections with faculty outside of your department. Pursue interviews for faculty positions and apply for post-doc fellowships and positions.
- Apply to jobs or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

YEAR IV

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- By the end of fourth year, students should be at the forefront in terms of the main theoretical and empirical methodology in all areas of economic analysis.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Research academic careers of interest. Craft your CV and job application materials.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Economics Association.

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

WHERE CAN I GO?

The coronavirus pandemic may impact how some activities are delivered in 2020-2021. Please check directly with the host of any activity on the map for the latest information.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!

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

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone's journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen's and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

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 SGS Habitat 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.