Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Most students accepted for admission to our M.A. program possess an honours bachelor degree with a major concentration in economics. Applicants who do not possess a degree in economics must be able to demonstrate a strong background in Economics.
- Grade requirements: a minimum average of 80% is typically competitive.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- List of the five most recent courses and marks in economics, math, or statistics.
- Two official transcripts.
- Minimum 2 academic reference letters (maximum of 4 references)
- A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score may be required.
- 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, TOEFL iBT: Writing (20/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30); for a total of 68/120 (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: January 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Mid-February and onwards.

What about FUNDING?

Most M.A. students in Economics receive funding in the form of scholarships and Teaching Assistantships. The amount of funding varies, depending on the strength of the application package. In the past two years, the average level of funding provided was $15,000.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen's will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in ECONOMICS?

The Economics MA program prepares students for both applied and theoretical research, and for non-academic careers in both the private and public sectors. The program involves a core of courses in economic theory and quantitative methods, together with a range of specialized electives chosen according to each student's interest and designed to impart economic knowledge that is at the forefront of the discipline. It also involves an independent research component in the form of a MA essay, which helps students develop intellectual independence that is necessary for continuing professional development. There are opportunities to collaborate with the Smith School of Business, Policy Studies, Law and other departments.

Why QUEEN’S?

Economics at Queen’s is widely recognized as one of the leading Economics departments in Canada. The programs are challenging, rigorous, and of small to medium size. Graduates have had great success in initial job placements and in their subsequent careers. All students are assigned an office with a phone and a computer to provide network access.

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.

Program STRUCTURE

MA (1 year): Course work, independent research project/essay.

Master’s students have to take three required courses and four elective courses and complete a MA essay under the supervision of a faculty member.

What is the community like?

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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 KOS HABITAT for available resources.

Where can I get help?

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.
**Economics MA MAP**

**GETTING STARTED**
- Start with key priorities like completing core courses and choosing elective courses that align with your interests and career goals.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your MA essay or thesis.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the SGS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**
- Complete your coursework, find a supervisor and begin to research and write your MA essay or thesis.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as the Canadian Economics Association Conferences.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or Facebook.
- Consider putting an article in The Conversation.

**WRAPPING UP**
- Complete your MA essay or thesis.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Economics Association (CEA) annual meetings, or the Canadian Economics Theory Conference.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

**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
- Persistence
- 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

**WHERE CAN I GO?**
A Master's degree in Economics can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master's students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Public sector
- Banking
- Economic research
- Consultancy
- Law
- Statistics

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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

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*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.*