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.

RESEARCH Areas

- Macroeconomics
- Macroeconomic Theory
- Applied Microeconomics
- Applied Econometrics
- Economic History

Visit the Economics website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas. Typically, students find a supervisor after joining the MA program and in the course of taking their Fall and Winter semester courses, during which most students percolate towards a specific area of research interest.

“The Queen’s Economics Department is a fantastic place to be a graduate student. The coursework is challenging and the professors are approachable. The department hosts regular workshops in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics and provides grad students with the opportunity to meet and engage with visiting researchers.”

– Kevin Andrew, PhD
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, (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: January 15th.
- Notification of acceptance: Mid-February and onwards.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

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 2 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.