BSc Economics and Econometrics
For students entering Part 1 in 2006

UCAS code: L140

Awarding Institution:	The University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	The University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group:	Economics
Faculty of Economic & Social Sciences	Programme length: 3 years
	Date of specification: March 2006
Programme Director:	Professor K.D. Patterson
Programme Adviser:	Professor K.D. Patterson
Board of Studies:	BA/BSc Economics
Accreditation:	Not applicable

Summary of programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aim to provide a thorough degree level education in economics and econometrics. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and econometric techniques. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a thorough knowledge and appreciation of core economic theory and econometric methods; they will be expected to have a detailed understanding of how theory and method can be applied to solve practical problems.

Transferable skills

The University's Strategy for Teaching and Learning has identified a number of generic transferable skills which all students are expected to have developed by the end of their degree programme. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to enhance their skills relating to career management, communications (both written and oral), information handling, numeracy, problem-solving, team working and use of information technology.

As part of the programme students are expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: IT (word-processing, using statistical and econometric software, graphics display and data export), directed Web based searches, writing technical reports, oral presentation, team-working, problem-solving, use of library resources, time-management, career planning and management, and business awareness.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Each Part consists of 120 credits. In Part 1 the remaining credits can be drawn from anywhere in the University subject to any restriction which may be applied to particular module choices. Options for Part 3 are listed following the Part 3 compulsory modules.

Part 1 introduces the basic underpinnings of modern macroeconomics and microeconomics, and supplements this with an introduction to quantitative techniques used in economics. Part 2 consists entirely of compulsory modules developing the fundamental tools of economic analysis, including econometrics. Part 3 compulsory modules deepen the theoretical treatment of economics. There is also an opportunity to research a topic independently through a dissertation.

Not all optional modules will necessarily be available in any year. Admission to optional modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director.

Part 1	**(three terms)**	Credits	Level
	Compulsory modules		
EC1F1A	Introductory Microeconomics	20	C
EC1F1B	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	C
EC1F3	Introduction to Economic Institutions & Policy in Britain	10	C
EC1F5	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	20	C
EC1F8	Introduction to Mathematics for Economics & Business	10	C

Part 2	**(three terms)**	Credits	Level
	Compulsory modules		
EC201A	Microeconomics I.1	20	I
EC201B	Microeconomics I.2	10	I
EC202A	Macroeconomics I.1	20	I
EC202B	Macroeconomics I.2	10	I
EC203A	Introductory Econometrics I.1	20	I
EC203B	Introductory Econometrics I.2	10	I
EC226A	Mathematics for Economists 1	20	I
EC226B	Mathematics for Economists 2	10	I
EC2CMS	Career Management Skills (distributed model)	5	I

Part 3	**(three terms)**	Credits	Level
	Compulsory modules		
EC301A	Microeconomics II.1	20	H
EC302A	Macroeconomics II.1	20	H
EC303A	Applied Econometrics II.1	20	H
EC303B	Applied Econometrics II.2	10	H
	Optional modules		
	Either:		
EC313A	Business Forecasting & Operations Research 1	20	H
EC318A	Econometric Methods 1	20	H
EC318B	Econometric Methods 2	10	H
	or:		
EC318A	Econometric Methods 1	20	H
EC3DSO	Dissertation (to include a significant Econometrics component)	30	H

Progression requirements

To progress to Part 2 a student must:
(i)   obtain an average mark of 40% across all Part 1 modules;
(ii)   obtain at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules;
(iii) achieve not less than 30% in any module except that marks of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must:
(i)   achieve an overall weighted average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totalling 120 credits;
(ii)   obtain a mark of at least 40% for each module in modules totalling at least 90 credits;
(iii) achieve a mark of not less than 35% for each module in modules totalling not more than

30 credits.

Summary of teaching and assessment
Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 20%, other than in special cases. The conventions for classification are included in the Programme Handbook but you should note that the weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67% respectively.

Admission requirements
Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:
Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved:
UCAS Tariff: 300 points from 3 A2 Levels or 320 points from 3 A2 Levels and 1 AS Level (including C in AS Level Mathematics)
International Baccalaureate: 32 points
Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBBB (including Mathematics)
Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A Level.
Mature applicants Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits.
International applicants Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr. G.R. Crampton

Support for students and their learning
University supports for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@IL) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, the Careers Advisory Service, the University's Special Needs Advisor, Study Advisors, Hall Wardens and the Students' Union.

The Department of Economics provides handbooks that outline programme and module content. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment. The programme director offers advice on the choice of modules and selection of a dissertation title.

Career prospects
In recent years graduates from this programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements
There are no formal arrangements but informal arrangements are possible and may be discussed with the programme director.

Educational aims of the programme
The programme provides a thorough degree level education in economics and econometrics, with an emphasis on the computational and quantitative aspects of economics. It aims to produce economists with a sound technical knowledge of the subject areas, and an appreciation of numerical techniques and their application to practical economic problems.

Programme outcomes
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and abilities in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative economics. 2. The central techniques in econometrics comprising model specification, estimation, hypothesis testing and evaluation. 3. How to integrate economic and econometric concepts and techniques in solving real world problems.	Formal lectures, practical (including computer) and conventional classes, supervisions supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students may undertake a dissertation, which combines economic and econometric aspects related to their programme. *Assessment* Modules are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. The dissertation and practical project work are also assessed and provide a source of feedback on performance to students.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Structure, analyse and solve problems. 2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions. 3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas. 4. Suggest, organise, collect data and write a report on an independent project.	Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the growing knowledge base becomes comprehensible. The dissertation provides the central means of incorporating the skills in 4 *Assessment* 1-3 are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets. 4 is assessed through project work and a dissertation.

C. Practical skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Obtain data from disparate sources.	Practical issues are illustrated in lectures and supporting classes, reinforced by problems sets and supervised project work. A second year project involves the solution of a specified problem. The third year dissertation requires initiative to specify a practical application combining economic theory and econometric techniques.
2. Organise large data sets into a form for further analysis.	
3. Use econometric software to analyse complex practical problems.	
4. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and econometrics to suggest ways to solve problems.	*Assessment*
	1-4 are assessed through project and dissertation work.
5. undertake a set of tasks associated with improving their career prospects	The career skills component at 5 will be assessed according to the module description of the Careers Advisory Services CMS module for the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, distributed model.

D. Transferable skills – able to:	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches.	The use of IT is an integral part of the practical side of the course. It is encouraged through applications requiring economic and econometric analysis. These involve website searches, use of library resources, the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays.
2. Communicate orally and in writing.	
3. Work as part of a team.	
4. Use library and Web based resources.	Oral presentations are required at several points in the programme; for example in discussing and presenting the results of the dissertation. Students work as part of a team at several structured points in the second and third years. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete the project and dissertation work.
5. Organise project work from beginning to completion.	
6. Manage time to achieve goals.	
	Assessment
	Assessment of transferable skills is incorporated at several points in the programme. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 contribute towards assessed work in projects, problem sets and the dissertation. 3 is assessed through the dissertation and major second year project.