

BSc Economics and Econometrics
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

UCAS code: L140

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Economics
Faculty:	Social Sciences Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	01/Sep/2010
Programme Director:	Prof Kerry Patterson
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Economics
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme aim to provide a thorough degree level education in economics and econometrics. It focuses on coverage of economic principles and econometric techniques, adopting a relatively technical approach to most of the material. 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

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Economics encourages business awareness and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost. As part of this programme students are expected to have gained experience and show competence in the following transferable skills: IT (using statistical and econometric software, graphics display and data export), directed Web based searches, writing technical reports, team-working, use of library resources, 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.

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)

Compulsory modules

EC101	Principles of Microeconomics	20	4
EC102	Principles of Macroeconomics	20	4
EC105	Introductory Quantitative Techniques	20	4
EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
EC109	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BSc	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC2CMS	Career Management Skills	5	5
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
EC221	Economic Theory	20	5
EC225	Introductory Econometrics (BSc)	20	5
EC226	Mathematics for Economists	20	5
EC227	Mathematics for Econometrics	20	5

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC301	Advanced Microeconomics	20	6
EC302	Advanced Macroeconomics	20	6
EC303	Applied Econometrics	20	6
EC313	Business and Financial Forecasting	20	6
EC318	Econometric Methods	20	6

Optional Modules

EC243	Economic History	20	5
EC308	Business Economics	20	6
EC309	Business Finance	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC312	Economics of Development	20	6
EC314	Public Economies	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money & Banking	20	6
EC322	Economics of Labour	20	6
EC324	European Urban & Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development & Planning	20	6
EC334	Environmental Economics	20	6
EC340	Corporate Social Responsibility	20	6
EC3DIS	Dissertation	20	6

Progression requirements

To progress to Part 2 a student must:

- (i) obtain an average mark of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- (ii) obtain at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) obtain at least 40% in all compulsory modules.

To progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must:

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 35% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

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:

320 points from three A2 levels or 340 points from three A2 levels and one AS level (including at least grade C in AS level Mathematics).

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma and achieve 6, 6, 6 in three higher level subjects (including Mathematics).

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 Lynda Porter

Support for students and their learning

University support 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, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Directorate. The Student Services Directorate is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online (www.risisweb.reading.ac.uk), or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student website (www.reading.ac.uk/student).

The School 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.

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:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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:

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

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

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:

1. Obtain data from disparate sources
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
5. Undertake a set of tasks associated with improving their career prospects

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical issues are illustrated in lectures and supporting classes, reinforced by problems sets and supervised project work. The third year dissertation requires initiative to specify a practical application combining economic theory and econometric techniques.

Assessment

1-4 are assessed through project and dissertation work. The career skills component at 5 will be assessed according to the module description of the Careers Advisory Services CMS module for the School of Economics, distributed model.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, Excel, econometric software and directed Website searches
2. Communicate orally and in writing
3. Work as part of a team
4. Use library and Web based resources
5. Organise project work from beginning to

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is an integral part of the practical side of the programme. 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. Oral presentations are required at several points in the

completion
6. Manage time to achieve goals

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.

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.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.