

BSc Business Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: L113

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Economics
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	07/Dec/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Sarah Jewell
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Economics
Accreditation:	
Optional placement variation(s):	with Year Abroad/with Placement Experience

Summary of programme aims

The programme provides a thorough degree level education in economics with focus on the application of economic theory and quantitative methods for the analysis of the business environment and key societal challenges. Students taking the degree will acquire a knowledge and appreciation of core economic theory and of its uses and applications especially in a business environment and policy issues.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. 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 personal, business, and policy awareness and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Each Part consists of 120 credits. Where compulsory modules total less than 120 credits students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall.

Part 1 introduces the basic underpinnings of modern macroeconomics and microeconomics, and supplements this with an introduction to quantitative techniques used in economics. An additional 40 credits must be chosen from optional modules in Economics (total 20 credits) and optional university-wide modules (which can also be Economics modules) for the remaining 20 credits. Part 2 consists of a number of compulsory modules developing further the fundamental tools of economic analysis, including econometrics, and a compulsory Business Economics module. Students further have choice of one optional module in economic policy and analysis as well as a further university-wide option (which can also be an Economics module). Part 3 compulsory modules further deepen the theoretical and applied analysis of the business and policy environment. A compulsory Dissertation is intended to cement further independent learning, research, writing and analysis skills. Options provide the opportunity to diversify into specific economic analysis, policy application, or individual interests.

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

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC113	Introductory Microeconomics	20	4
EC114	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	4
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10	4
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10	4
EC120	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 2 and Study Skills	10	4
EC121	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 2	10	4

In addition, students must select optional modules to total 40 credits, 20 credits of which must be selected from the list of optional modules available in Economics, whilst the remaining 20 credits can be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University or in Economics. Optional modules in Economics may include:

EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
EC110	The Economics of Climate Change	10	4
EC111	Economic Policy and Social Problems	10	4
EC118	Economy, Politics and Culture in the Roman World	10	4
EC122	British and European Economies since WW2	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
EC204	Introductory Econometrics	20	5
EC208	Business Economics	20	5

In addition, students must select optional modules to total 40 credits, 20 credits of which must be selected from the list below of optional modules available in Economics, whilst the remaining 20 credits can be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University or in Economics.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC205	Intermediate Econometrics	20	5
EC206	Intermediate Mathematics for Economics	20	5
EC221	Economic Theory	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20	5
EC243	Economic History	20	5

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC2WEP	Work Experience Year	120	5
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The placement should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time and students will be assessed in the form of an end-of-year project.

EC2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5
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The study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full time.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC320	Money and Banking	20	6
EC347	Industrial Organisation	20	6
EC348	Business History	20	6

In addition, students must select optional modules to total 60 credits, 40 credits of which must be selected from a list of optional modules available in Economics, whilst the remaining 20 credits can be chosen from modules available elsewhere in the University or in Economics.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC301	Advanced Microeconomics	20	6
EC302	Advanced Macroeconomics	20	6
EC303	Applied Econometrics	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC313	Business & Financial Forecasting	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC315	History of Economic Thought	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC318	Econometric Methods	20	6
EC324	European Urban & Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development & Planning	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political & Economic Change	20	6
EC339	Microeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC342	Macroeconomics for Developing Countries	20	6
EC343	Behavioural Economics	20	6
EC344	Banking in Emerging Economies	20	6

Progression requirements

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student must achieve:

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1. In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and
- (iii) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics at Part 1; and
- (iv) obtain marks below 40%, but at least 30%, in compulsory modules in Economics amounting to not more than 20 credits.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must achieve the University-wide threshold performance.

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to achieve:

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- (ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

Students are required to pass the professional/placement year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional/placement year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

The University's honours classification scheme is:

Mark	interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is

Three-year programmes

Part 2 one-third

Part 3 two-thirds

Four-year programmes, including placement year: Normally:

Part 2 one-third

Placement Year not included in classification

Part 3 two-thirds

(where students fail a placement year which does not contribute to classification they transfer to the three-year version of the programme)

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. Assessment normally involves a written examination and coursework/tests of a variety of forms. Details for individual modules can be found on the Module Description Forms. 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 one-third and two-thirds respectively.

Admission requirements

Normally three A-levels AAB or ABB/AAC.

AAB from three A-levels with GCSE Maths grade B.

ABB/AAC from three A-levels with AS level Maths grade C.

International Baccalaureate: 34 points overall including Mathematics Standard Level grade 5 or higher.

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 Ken Dark

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and 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 advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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 and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

In addition to lecture and class times, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted.

Career learning**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

As part of the programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

Students may be permitted to undertake a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. Students interested in this opportunity should consult

the Director of Undergraduate Studies, whose approval is required. Approval by the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) must also be obtained.

Students are required to pass the study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the study abroad year. Students who fail the study abroad year transfer back to the 3-year version of the programme.

Placement opportunities

Students may be permitted to undertake a one-year work placement at an approved institution (e.g. the Government Economic Service) between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. Students interested in this opportunity should consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies, whose approval is required. Approval by the Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) must also be obtained.

Students are required to pass the professional/placement year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional/placement year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer back to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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 and techniques of microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative methods;
2. the most frequently used mathematical techniques in economics, such as multivariate calculus and linear algebra, and basic econometric techniques for data analysis;
3. the fundamental concepts and techniques of business economics and the economic analysis of policy;
4. a selection of more specialist options on business or economic topics.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The knowledge required for the basic topics is discussed in formal lectures supported by smaller group discussions on set questions.

This pattern is also followed in the more specialist options with the non-assessed work required varying according to the nature of the subject matter.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and unseen formal examination papers. Short tests and oral presentations also contribute to the assessment. A number of optional modules are assessed entirely by coursework.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. think logically;
2. apply analytical principles to a range of problems;
3. organise tasks into a structured form;
4. assess the impact of the past and contemporary changes on business, economic, and societal circumstances;
5. transfer appropriate techniques and knowledge from one topic within the subject matter to another;
6. plan, organise and write a report on an independent project or a case study.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The need to think logically and analytically permeates the compulsory modules in the programme. The quality of the analysis hinges on a focus on the central features of a problem, with further refinement of the details.

The more specialist topics provide many opportunities to apply this core approach to a range of problems in a wide variety of contexts.

Formative and summative feedback/feed-forward is available to guide learning and assist understanding and application.

Assessment

1-3 are covered extensively in the core modules; 4-5 are given wide scope in the optional modules; 6 is assessed directly by means of the large number of essays, projects, case studies and a dissertation prepared in Parts 2 and 3 across a range of modules.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning;
2. formulate and analyse business and economic problems and policy applications;
3. interpret and assess econometric data analysis results;
4. write critical analyses of business economic questions and policy challenges;
5. undertake a set of tasks associated with improving career prospects.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. use IT (word-processing, visual communication, Web search);
2. communicate ideas in a logical way;
3. give oral presentations;
4. contribute to group discussions of business and policy challenges;
5. collate, interpret and present economic, business, and policy relevant data and information;
6. use library resources on- and off-line;
7. manage time and prioritise workload;
8. plan career strategy.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Core economics subjects concentrate on formal economic and econometric reasoning. Problem solving forms important parts of class work. Specialised business and policy subjects employ problem solving, independent writing, and research.

Assessment

A varied set of assessment forms allow students to master multiple skills. A combination of coursework, including problem solving and essays, and unseen examination papers is applied in some modules. Other modules are assessed by coursework only.

5 is assessed and developed through a careers directed exercise in Part 1, RED awards, research opportunities, and placements.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The use of IT is required throughout the programme. Classes in Parts 2 and 3 involve group discussions and oral presentations. Library resources have to be used continuously in the preparation of essays and project work. The highly structured system of deadlines for assessed work requires good time management.

Assessment

Most skills are tested indirectly through the preparation of course and project work. In some modules formal assessment develops key transferable writing skills.

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.