

BA Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

UCAS code: L101

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:	11/Dec/2017
Programme Director:	Dr Sarah Jewell
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Economics
Optional placement variation(s):	with Year Abroad/with Placement Experience

Summary of programme aims

The programme provides a thorough degree level education in economics. It aims to produce economists with a wide knowledge of a range of subject areas, with a particular appreciation of the economic analysis of key societal and policy challenges and the data handling skills to inform and analyse economic policy.

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 and a development of mathematics as used in economics. BA students also receive an introduction to key institutions that govern economic coordination and adjustment and an overview of the British and European economies since the 1950s. Students further have choice of 20 credits of optional modules in economic policy and analysis as well as a further 20 credits from university-wide option (this can also be an economics module). Students are encouraged to consider the politics modules available at Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 to gain a deeper understanding of how economies are governed.

Part 2 focuses on developing fundamental tools of economic analysis, including software focused empirical methods, and provides the opportunity for students to elect a particular area of economic policy analysis.

Compulsory Part 3 modules deepen the theoretical treatment of economics and introduce students to behavioural economics and political economy; options provide the opportunity to diversify into specific applications and/or policy analysis.

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>Code</i>	<i>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
EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
EC122	British and European Economies since WW2	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. Modules from other Departments (where not listed below) should be approved by the Programme Director.

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
EC120	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 2 and Study Skills	10	4
EC121	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 2	10	4
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4

Students should note that they would normally be required to have completed both EC120 and EC121 to be eligible to transfer to BSc Economics or BSc Business Economics at Part 2; or to have completed subject specific compulsory modules in order to be eligible to transfer to joint degrees with Economics.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
EC206	Empirical Methods for Economics and Social Sciences	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5

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. Modules from other Departments (where not listed below) should be approved by the Programme Director. Optional modules may include:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC208	Business Economics	20	5
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20	5
EC243	Economic History	20	5
Either			
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
or			
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	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)

Students must select at least 20 credits from a list of microeconomics based modules and at least 20 credits from a list of macroeconomics based modules. Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in

the Department of Economics. Up to 20 credits may be selected from modules available elsewhere in the University.

Progression requirements

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

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and
- (ii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken at Part 1; and
- (iii) a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics; and
- (iv) 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. 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 one-third and two-thirds respectively.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Three A-levels ABB and GCSE maths grade B minimum.

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, In-sessional English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support teams and IT Services. 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 Support Centres. If a student has a general enquiry and is unsure where to seek help, they should visit their Support Centre. There are five Support Centres across the University, including one based at the London Road Campus. The Support Centre will be able to advise on matters such as extenuating circumstances, module selection, suspensions, withdrawals, timetable queries and transferring programme. The Support Centre will also be able to signpost students to Carrington building where other University services related to disability, financial support, counselling and wellbeing, accommodation and careers can be found. More information on what student services are available can be found here: <http://student.reading.ac.uk/essentials>.

In addition to lecture and class time, 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 and macroeconomics.
2. A familiarity with economic problems and the frameworks that are useful to think about them.
3. The most frequently used mathematical techniques in economics, and basic econometric/statistical techniques for data analysis.
4. The fundamental concepts and techniques of economic, business, and policy analysis.
5. A selection of more specialist options on economics, institutions or behavioural 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. Key research/analysis skills will be PC-lab based. 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 examinations. Short tests and oral presentations also contribute. 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 past and contemporary changes on economic, policy and organisational 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 and/or case study.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The need to think logically and analytically permeates the compulsory modules in the course. 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 in Parts 2 and 3 across a range of different modules.

C. Practical skills - *able to*:

1. Understand and develop a chain of economic reasoning.
2. Formulate and analyse economic and policy problems.
3. Evaluate economic policies.
4. Write critical analyses of economic questions and policy challenges.
5. Undertake a set of tasks associated with improving career prospects.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The core subjects concentrate on formal economic reasoning. Problem solving forms an important part of class work especially in Parts 2 and 3. The specialised options involve independent writing, research and analysis from set topics.

Assessment

Most skills are tested through a combination of coursework, including both problem solving and essays, and through unseen examination papers. A small number of 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.

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 on economic, policy and societal problems.
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

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 many 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.