

Programme Specification

BA Economics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027

UCAS Code: L101

UFECBA

UFECBA2

UFECBASY

UFECBAWPE

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Economics (CSCSE route) - 3 years BA Economics (with Year Abroad) - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Economics with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: L102)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Economics

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with 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. It does not involve as high a level of compulsory mathematics as our BSc Economics programme and gives you more choice through optional modules.

The programme is of value either to students who wish to go on to become professional economists or to those who wish to gain a mix of skills that is known to be particularly valuable in modern job markets, such as numeracy, writing, computing, data analysis, and analytical thought. It also has intrinsic value to those with an interest in the economic analysis of various real-world problems.

Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to the basic underpinnings of modern macroeconomics and microeconomics, and supplements this with an introduction to statistics and mathematics as used in economics. Students also have a choice of optional modules.
Part 2:	Part 2 enhances your knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics to intermediate level. Your ability to analyse data and use software is also enhanced through an introduction to econometrics. You will also be taught about the economics of social policy and be given more opportunity to pursue your interests through optional modules.

Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge of economics in areas which interest you through optional modules. This includes the opportunity to do a dissertation. This allows you to do research supervised by a staff member, enhancing independent learning, research, writing and analytical skills.
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Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Economics

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Critically understand the fundamental concepts and tools of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2	Appreciate the history and development of economic ideas.
3	Apply the most frequently used mathematical techniques in economics, and basic econometric/statistical techniques for data analysis.
4	Apply analytical principles to a range of problems.
5	Critically assess the impact of past and contemporary changes of economic policy.
6	Formulate and critically analyse economic questions and policy challenges.
7	Use IT (word-processing, visual communication, Excel, econometric software, Web search).
8	Communicate ideas in a logical way both verbally and non-verbally to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
9	Contribute to group discussions on economic policy and societal problems.
10	Collate, interpret and present economic and policy relevant data and information
11	Manage time and prioritise workload.
12	Plan career strategy.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
Study Abroad By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.

Placement

By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC140	Principles of Economics 1	20	4
EC141	Principles of Economics 2	20	4
EC142	Applied Economics and Policy	20	4
EC143	Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

All students will take a preparatory module in core skills required for transition to undergraduate study.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
EC204	Introductory Econometrics	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5
EC2WEP	Work Experience Year	120	5

Students on one of the 4-year programmes will take one 120 credit module: Study Abroad Year (EC2SAY) or Work Experience Year (EC2WEP). The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select 120 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials (including some computer classes) and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about

module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework (including class tests). Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

Part 2

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

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

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

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

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 study abroad / placement year:

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. However, actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements. Some textbooks are available to our students for free online which can significantly reduce costs. Students can also reduce their costs by buying books second-hand. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Economics for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28

2 July 2026

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