

Programme Specification

BA Economics with International Foundation Year

UCAS Code: L1F1 L1F2

For students entering Foundation year in September 2027

UFECBAFF

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	4 years
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.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) with entry points in both September and January. The IFP provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the Part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

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.

Foundation year:	In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of two compulsory 20-credit modules: Academic Literacy and Skills, and Academic Communication and Inquiry. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, these modules will ensure those English Language Entry Requirements are met. The key skills in these modules relate to Critical Thinking, Academic Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take
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	a further 80 credits of subject modules as specified in the module information. These modules are aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree and provide the knowledge and skills required for further undergraduate study at Part 1. Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.
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.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Economics with International Foundation Year

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	
N/A	

Module information

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

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACI	Academic Communication and Inquiry	20	0
IF0ALS	Academic Literacies and Skills	20	0
IF0BM	Principles of Business and Management	20	0
IF0EC1	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0MOB	Principles of Marketing and Organisational Behaviour	20	0

Students entering the programme in January will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ALSJ	Academic Literacies and Skills	20	0
IF0ACIJ	Academic Communication and Inquiry	20	0
IF0EC1J	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2J	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0
IF0BMJ	Principles of Business and Management	20	0
IF0MOBJ	Principles of Marketing and Organisational Behaviour	20	0

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.

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.

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 take 120 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics.

Placement opportunities

If there is an opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme, this would normally be in-year and not for an additional full year. 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 an in-year 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 International Foundation Year will include at least 18 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

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

Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BA Economics, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) and 50% in each of Academic Literacies and Skills (IF0ALS) or (IF0ALSJ) and Academic Communication and Inquiry (IF0ACI) or (IF0ACIJ).

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.

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:

Four year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Five 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 with International Foundation Year for students entering Foundation year in session 2027/28

2 July 2026

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