

School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy

Economics – Undergraduate Degree Programmes



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.tcd.ie/economics

Department of Economics

Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's leading university and is recognised as one of the top universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

Economics has been an important part of the University's curriculum since 1832 when the Whately Chair of Political Economy was established. The department is committed to providing a supportive and stimulating teaching environment for all its students. The courses offered reflect its record of research excellence on issues of global societal and economic importance such as international development, international macroeconomics, energy economics, economic history, political economy, urban economics and industrial economics. Our students benefit from a research-led education which exposes them to leading academics, the latest knowledge and ideas, and which emphasizes analytical skills and creative thinking.

Why Study Economics?

Economic issues dominate the news headlines and have an impact on the lives of individuals and countries. What determines economic growth? Why do financial crises occur? Why are some countries poor, while others enjoy high living standards? Within countries, why do some people earn so much more than others? Is it possible to pursue economic growth and still protect the environment? Questions such as these, which explore the material well-being of humankind, are at the heart of the study of economics.

Economics will appeal to students with a wide range of interests. If you are interested in current economic affairs or in understanding how public policies could lower unemployment or assist the developing world, then you will find studying economics both stimulating and rewarding. Economics is also a strong platform for careers in business and finance. Students who enjoy abstract thinking, and are evaluating courses such as engineering or physics, should also consider economics as a degree option.

Undergraduate Programmes

At Trinity, students have the option to study economics with other subjects, depending on their interests. The subject range can accommodate the mathematically-inclined student, students interested in finance or accountancy, students wishing to pursue a career in business or those with an interest in policy studies or in European issues. The following three degree programmes are available:

BESS - Business, Economic and Social Studies (TR081)

Provides a broad introduction to the social sciences and business, combined with the opportunity to specialise solely in economics or to jointly study with business, political science or sociology. It is a uniquely flexible programme where, after a common first year, students can adjust their course options to reflect their academic strengths, interests and emerging career aspirations.

PPES - Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (TR015)

Brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the social and human world, developing skills relevant to a wide range of future careers and activities. There is a gradual specialisation over the course of the degree with students ultimately having the option to study just economics or to combine with the study of philosophy, political science or sociology.

Joint Honor - Economics

Allows students to study two subjects to degree level with advanced specialisation in one or both subjects depending on their course choices. The Joint Honor programme offers a choice of seven subjects which complement the study of economics including Geography, German, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Sociology and Spanish.

What our students say:

“Economics has allowed me to pursue a broad range of interests within the field and develop a variety of skills from critical thinking and argumentation to mathematical reasoning, combined with another very different discipline of language and literature. Studying economics has certainly provided me with the diversity and broad education I was hoping for in College.”

Míde Ní Ghríofa,
Economics and German

“I chose to study Mathematics and Economics, hoping to strike a balance between theory and application. The course more than delivered. To me, the greatest competitive advantage of the course was the focus on writing novel research papers across my final two years, providing a huge head start in academic research, while pushing us to ask novel questions and tie together economic theory and empirical research. Supporting this, the professors (particularly those in the Economics department) were unrivalled in their commitment to students.”

Emmet Kearns,
Economics and Mathematics

Language Skills and Studying Abroad

Studying economics at Trinity has an increasingly European dimension and Joint Honor and BESS students are encouraged to combine the study of economics with a European language.

Students also have the opportunity to spend some time in their third year studying at distinguished partner institutions in the European Union, Australia and the United States for either an academic year or half an academic year.

Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide and from a career perspective economics is an extremely flexible and practical subject. About a third of graduates go on to postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and at other leading universities around the world such as Stanford, Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics.

Economics students develop exceptional logical reasoning and analytical skills which are highly sought after by employers in a range of fields including business, finance, journalism, law, politics, the public service and academia. The following are just a few examples of the diverse organisations where economics graduates work:



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for an economics degree programme please visit: www.tcd.ie/study

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