

Economics

Essentials

What economics degrees are there?

BA degrees

Economics
Economics and International Development
Economics and International Relations
Economics and Politics

BSc degrees

Economics
Economics and Management Studies
Finance and Business (p43)

What degree can I take with economics as a minor?

Mathematics with Economics (p94)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer range: AAB-ABB

Typical IB diploma offer range: 34-36 points

What else do I need?

GCSE (or equivalent) Mathematics, grade B

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

E ug.admissions@economics.sussex.ac.uk

T +44 (0)1273 678889

F +44 (0)1273 873715

Department of Economics, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF, UK

www.sussex.ac.uk/economics

When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why economics?

Addressing many of the world's problems and issues requires an understanding of economics. Why are some countries so rich and others so poor? Should Microsoft be broken up? Should the private sector be involved in providing health and education? Could environmental taxes help reduce global warming? Should the UK join the euro?

Economics provides a framework for thinking about such issues in depth, allowing you to get to the heart of complex, topical problems. The methods of economics can be applied to a wide range of questions and will prove useful to you in your future career. In addition, the study of economics teaches you a variety of practical skills, including the ability to use and evaluate evidence (often statistical) in order to arrive at sound conclusions.

Why economics at Sussex?

- In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 100 per cent of our economics research was rated as recognised internationally or higher, and 60 per cent rated as internationally excellent or higher.
- Economics at Sussex is ranked among the top 25 universities in the UK in *The Complete University Guide 2010-11*. Economics at Sussex scored 88 per cent in the student satisfaction category of the 2010 National Student Survey (NSS). We are one of the top universities in Europe for economics in the Centre for Higher Education Development's CHE Excellence Ranking (2009).
- We emphasise the practical application of economics to the analysis of contemporary social and economic problems.
- We have strong links to the major national and international economic institutions such as the European Commission, the World Bank and the Department for International Development.
- The Department has strong research clusters in labour markets and in development economics, and is one of Europe's leading centres for research on issues of international trade.
- We offer you the chance to conduct an economics research project supervised by a faculty member.

What sort of career could I have?

- economist in government or an international agency
- accountancy and finance
- management
- economics consultancy.

Thomas's perspective

'A degree at Sussex really is what you make of it. It wasn't until I realised this that I started to take full advantage of all that the University has to offer. 'Studying Economics and Politics gave me the freedom to immerse myself in both subjects and achieve more than I ever thought I could. The prospect of three years of lectures, seminars and everything along the way can seem overwhelming and that's when you really appreciate the safety net of tutors and advisors that Sussex offers. 'In my final year I applied to the Civil Service Fast Stream and managed to get a place. Since starting I've worked on scrutinising the value of financial aspects of major procurement projects. It's enabled me to put the theories I studied at Sussex to real use in an attempt to improve Government decision-making. When I open a newspaper it's likely that something I've worked on will be mentioned, and it's surreal that after only a few months here I have people asking my opinion!'

Thomas Cornwall
Assistant Economist
for the Government
Economic Service





In 2005 Turkey officially launched talks with the EU on joining the 27-nation bloc. Our Economics degrees reflect the increasing importance of Europe for the world economy. Membership of the EU, the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy and the emergence of the euro as a currency all have important economic implications

How will I learn?

The core ideas and analytical techniques are presented in lectures and supplemented by classes or workshops where you can test your own understanding and explore the issues in more depth. These provide the opportunity for student interaction, an essential part of the learning process at Sussex. The more quantitative skills, such as using statistical software, are taught in computer workshops. On the Applied Economics dissertation course in the final year, you receive one-to-one supervision as you investigate your chosen research topic in depth.

Formal assessment is by a range of methods including unseen exams and coursework. In addition there are regular assignments, which allow you to monitor your progress. In the first year, you have regular meetings with your academic advisor to discuss your academic progress and provide feedback on assignments.

What will I achieve?

- a detailed knowledge and understanding of the principles of economics
- the skills to abstract the essential features of a problem and use the framework of economics to analyse it
- the ability to evaluate and conduct your own empirical research
- the confidence to communicate economic ideas and concepts to a wider audience
- a range of transferable skills, applicable to a wide variety of occupations.

Degrees

Economics

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L100

The Economics BA offers a combination of theoretical and practical courses, with plenty of economic applications to illustrate the use of economics at work. The degree is based around a core of microeconomics and macroeconomics courses, the former focusing on the behaviour of individuals and firms (eg monopolies), the latter covering the broader issues such as unemployment and inflation.

You take the core courses listed on the right, except for those that are part of the BSc programme. Your courses provide a firm grounding in the principles of economics, which are illustrated and put into context by the material offered on the Contemporary Economic Issues and Applied Economics Topics courses. These examine a range of topical issues (eg trade barriers, European enlargement), largely based on the research interests of faculty. You take four options in the final year, allowing you to specialise and follow your interests.

We do not place a heavy emphasis on mathematics in our BA programmes. However, any study of economics requires the use of some mathematics, so we supplement your existing knowledge (to beyond GCSE level) at appropriate stages of the degree. The mathematics and statistics courses (including Econometrics in the final year) provide the quantitative skills that enable you to construct suitable economic models and to manipulate, interpret and analyse data.

Alongside your economics courses, which comprise approximately three-quarters of your study time, you have a choice of options drawn from a range of complementary subjects such as international development and management studies. We provide guidance so that you construct a coherent set of courses that complement your economics studies.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for a summary.

Economics and International Development BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL19

This degree is a natural choice for those interested in applying economic tools to developing country issues (eg should we cancel Third World debt?). This area is currently the subject of much research and active (and sometimes acrimonious) debate. The meetings of the WTO, World Bank or IMF have become a regular focus for protesters concerned about the effects of globalisation upon developing countries. Economics provides a powerful framework for thinking about the issues raised in international development.

The international development component offers courses in theories of development, the history of developing countries and a wide range of options such as aid to developing countries, development within the international economy and culture and gender.

In Years 1 and 2, you take a subset of the economics core courses. In the final year you take Statistics for Economics and Finance, Statistics Project, and two options or a dissertation.

Refer to the core courses list on the right for a summary of the economics courses; refer to the international development subject entry on page 80 for more information on these courses.

Economics and International Relations BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LLC2

The connection between these disciplines is currently best illustrated by the issue of globalisation. Much can be said about this topic from the point of view of international trade theory, which has a long history in economics and is still developing. However, some of the conclusions are challenged by those working in international relations, who focus more on the unequal bargaining powers of developed and developing countries, for example. By taking this degree, you see how each discipline challenges the other and hence gain a deeper appreciation of the respective strengths and weaknesses.

Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

Introduction to Economics
Contemporary Economic Issues
Introduction to Mathematics
Macroeconomics I
Microeconomics I • Principles of Finance (BSc) • The World Economy since 1945 (BSc)

Year 2

Macroeconomics II
Microeconomics II • Advanced Macroeconomics • Advanced Microeconomics • Applied Economics Topics • Applied Mathematics for Economists (BSc) • Applied Statistics for Finance and Economics (BSc) • Statistics for Economics and Finance

Final year

Econometrics
Options such as Applied Econometrics • Behavioural Economics • Climate Change Economics • Econometrics • Economics of Development • Economics of European Integration • International Finance and Macroeconomics • International Trade • Labour Economics • Monetary Theory and Policy • Understanding Global Markets
Applied Economics Dissertation

Ruth's career perspective

'Economics and International Development at Sussex gave me the skills and courage to get where I am now. Having completed an internship at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, I'm now developing and implementing my own microfinance programme in Lima, Peru with two fellow Sussex graduates. 'This invaluable experience lets me put into practice the knowledge and skills that I gained from my degree. 'At Sussex I benefited not only from excellent teaching but also from my tutors' continuous support and interest. Sussex faculty encouraged us to carry out this microfinance programme from the very start, and are still supporting us in our work more than a year after graduation. I thank the Economics and International Development programme for such an amazing experience!'

Ruth Pollak
 Programme
 Coordinator,
 Asociación
 SOLAC



You take a selection of the core international relations and economics courses in Years 1 and 2. In the final year, you take Statistics for Economics and Finance, Statistics Project, and choose options in both subjects. You also conduct your own research.

Refer to the core courses list on page 61 for a summary of the economics courses; refer to the international relations subject entry on page 82 for more information on these courses.

**Economics and Politics
BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL12**

Economics and politics complement and support one another, as economics operates within a political and institutional framework. The topic of monopoly, for example, can be examined as an economic question of how a producer can exploit the consumer. It can also be seen in terms of the power of large corporations relative to governments. Both these approaches can therefore shed light on the issue of the regulation of monopolies. By taking Economics and Politics you gain an appreciation of the contribution each discipline can make to the study of important contemporary issues.

In Years 1 and 2 of the politics component, you take core courses as well as selecting a Politics of Governance option. In the final year you choose specialist options, including a dissertation allowing you to conduct your own piece of research.

In Years 1 and 2, you take a subset of the economics core courses. In the final year you take Statistics for Economics and Finance, Statistics Project, and two options or a dissertation.

Refer to the core courses list on page 61 for a summary of the economics courses; refer to the politics subject entry on page 111 for more information on these courses.

**Economics
BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L102**

The Economics BSc is for students who wish to follow a quantitative approach to the subject. Alongside the economics courses listed for the Economics BA degree programme, you take courses in Applied Econometrics, Applied Mathematics for Economists, Applied Statistics, Further Statistics, and The World Economy Since 1945. These deepen your knowledge of the foundations of economics and provide you with a range of advanced skills that are especially useful in some careers (eg modelling financial markets or equity prices). Having these technical skills also enables you to read some of the more advanced research in economics, published in academic journals, and is invaluable if you choose to go on to postgraduate study in economics.



A global perspective on economics. The Department of Economics specialises in research on issues of international trade, and the economics of developing countries. Our economists work closely with all the major international agencies, from the World Bank to the European Commission, and this depth of experience is brought to the teaching of our degree programmes

A level Mathematics is not an entrance requirement for this degree, but you must be willing to engage with mathematical concepts and techniques that go beyond A level standard.

Refer to the core courses list on page 61 for more details.

**Economics and Management Studies
BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LN12**

This is an excellent degree for those who wish to enter the management field, yet would like to combine practical management skills with the more analytical approach of economics. Courses often complement each other and give different perspectives on similar issues. Thus, for example, you learn about discounted cash-flow techniques for investment appraisal, and also about the role of investment within the economy as a whole, such as its influence upon the business cycle.

You take a selection of the core international relations and economics courses in Years 1 and 2. In the final year, you take Statistics for Economics and Finance, Statistics Project, and options in both subjects. You also conduct a case study of a particular business issue.

Refer to the core courses list on page 61 for a summary of the economics courses; refer to the business and management studies subject entry on page 41 for more information on these courses.

**Finance and Business
BSc (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: NN31**

Refer to the Business and management studies subject entry on page 41.

**Thomas's
career perspective**

'My longstanding interest in development economics is what originally attracted me to the University of Sussex. Studying Economics at Sussex gave me a technical and analytical understanding of economics and, coupled with the emphasis on its practical application, introduced me to some of the complex political, social and economic issues we currently face. 'After leaving Sussex, I joined the Government Economic Service working for Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as an assistant economist. My main role was to provide economic analysis and advice for Her Majesty's Treasury on indirect tax policy. While much of this work was of a highly technical nature, its ultimate aim was to advise on tax policy decisions. The skills I gained in applied economics at Sussex were an invaluable asset for communicating – clearly and concisely – these complex economic issues to policy makers. 'I'm now taking up a new job as Senior Economist on Environment Taxation for the National Treasury of South Africa. This post primarily involves advising ministers on the role environment taxes have to play in tackling the serious and wide-reaching problem of climate change. 'Economics has given me a deeper understanding of the way the world works and Sussex has provided me with the necessary tools to take this knowledge further into the real world.'

Thomas McGregor
Senior Economist
on Environment
Taxation, National
Treasury of
South Africa

