



Programme Specification

Economics {Foundation} [Frenchay]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Economics {Foundation} [Frenchay]

Highest award: BSc (Hons) Economics

Interim award: BSc Economics

Interim award: DipHE Economics

Interim award: CertHE Economics

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: Yes

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CBL Bristol Business School, College of Business and Law

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Sandwich

Entry requirements: For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

For implementation from: 01 September 2018

Programme code: L19F00

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The undergraduate Economics provision at UWE, Bristol aims to help students become practical economists with the necessary skills to enter into a wide variety of jobs in the banking, financial, government and international community. At UWE we draw on cutting edge economic knowledge based on our own research and scholarly activities and apply this to the real world.

Features of the programme: This degree is distinctive in terms of the heterodox curriculum; UWE economics can boast to be one of only a handful of truly pluralistic economic departments in the country, and the degree to which employability is embedded at the heart of the educational provision.

The programme's syllabus is shaped by the subject group's commitment to pluralism. From Level 4 students are introduced to the different schools of thought found in economics and the range of research methodologies associated with these different approaches to economic understanding. The syllabus covers the traditional approaches and techniques found in neo-classical economics to the new approaches used in behavioural and institutional economics.

The course provides a solid grounding in economic research, all within the broader social and political context shaping today's world. Importantly, this course provides students with the research techniques used by government, firms and academics and underpins postgraduate study.

The programme has been designed for students to see themselves as undergraduates training to become economists, rather than students learning about economics. The programme prepares students to work as professional economist in a wide range of organisations, ranging from the private sector including trade bodies and charities, to the public sector. Supported by academic staff and the UWE Careers service, students from the programme are actively encouraged to undertake the placement year.

Educational Aims: Specifically the BSc (Hons) Economics is designed for students who would like a career as a professional economist working in a wide range of organisations from the private sector including trade bodies and charities, to the public sector. This course gives a solid grounding in economic research, statistical forecasting and econometrics, all within the broader social and political context shaping today's world. Importantly, this course provides students with the research techniques used by government, firms and academics and underpins postgraduate study.

Focus will be placed on the ability to analyse economic, financial and business information and provide answers as to what is happening and crucially what is expected to happen in the future. The degree will have a strong theoretical and mathematical component as well as focusing on real-world issues, such as intergenerational sustainability and global growth, that allow students to use a range of different methods and theories to understand these issues more deeply. The degree explores the use of quantitative and qualitative methods, ways of thinking and analysing which can be combined to provide the most apt solution to any economic problem.

Particular emphasis is placed on the students' personal growth and confidence by developing their communication and presentation skills that enable them to tell coherent stories about complex issues to a variety of audiences.

By their final year, students will be equipped by their first two years of study (which may be further enhanced by the opportunity to complete a work placement) to undertake both integrative and specialist subjects, and to complete an independent research-based piece of work of their choosing within the field of Economics.

The programme's philosophy is underpinned by a commitment to developing students as independent autonomous learners who can analyse a range of social and economic problems. This provides them with flexibility of opportunity on successful completion of their degree either to study economics at postgraduate level or to use their in-depth knowledge of economics in a whole range of occupations.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. Economic concepts and principles
- A2. Economic theory and modelling
- A3. Quantitative methods and computing techniques
- A4. Sources and context of economic data and evidence
- A5. Economic reasoning
- A6. Specialised areas of economics
- A7. Economic problems and solutions
- A8. To model economic problems using a variety of mathematical techniques
- A9. The relevance of the disciplines of law, economics, accounting, business and management to professional life.
- A10. Education for Sustainable Development: Global citizenship
- A11. Education for Sustainable Development: Social and economic consequences of economic growth
- A12. Education for Sustainable Development: Social justice, ethics and wellbeing
- A13. Education for Sustainable Development: Intergenerational economic implications

Intellectual Skills

- B1. Model a problem
- B2. Analyse and reason
- B3. Review and evaluate evidence
- B4. Communicate results

- B5. Be critically aware of the limits of economics
- B6. Construct economic policy

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Abstraction
- C2. Analysis, deduction and induction
- C3. Quantification and design
- C4. Framing

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Communicate
- D2. Use numeracy
- D3. Use information technology (IT)
- D4. Work as a team
- D5. Self-manage
- D6. Learn to learn
- D7. Application of mathematics to formulate and model economic problems

Assessment strategy: Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated: Besides examinations , all modules include a coursework component with elements that range from essay, dissertations and projects to group work tasks and presentations, individual presentations, online tests (formative and summative), vivas and debates. Many of these assessments rely on students developing skills relevant to their future employability (e.g. team work, and competence in generic and specific IT software). There is a strong focus on quantitative analysis, the capacity to research effectively and to present information in both written and verbal forms. Problem solving, reflection and applied learning are also important to fulfilling the programme learning outcomes, and many assessments are based on very recent or current economic events.

The syllabus for many modules (where relevant) exposes our students to a range of global issues, including sustainability. In terms of creating open-minded, reflective, and inter-dependent learners, many of the topics covered in modules oblige students to reassess their own values and perceptions; more generally, the subject group promote the concept of the reflective practitioner and the collegiate tradition of discussion and cooperation.

Second marking is practiced across all levels to maintain academic integrity, in line with the assessment cycle policy for coursework. Module leaders use a variety of methods including online double blind marking and pre-standardisation.

Student support: Student learning is fully supported by UWE Library Services through extensive print and electronic resources and a variety of learning spaces. Additional support is provided through the library by means of information and academic skills sessions and self-directed online tutorials available via the University Study Skills website, supported by the online library enquiry service. There is excellent access to electronic resources both on and off campus, facilitated by the extensive student computing network and wifi. Computers are equipped with a number of specific programmes for economics such as EViews and Stata, as well as the standard Microsoft office packages. Students have access to the Bloomberg database in the fully equipped Trading Room.

The Faculty offers study support through the Academic Success Centre and many classrooms are equipped for technology enhanced learning activities . All modules are supported by the Blackboard Virtual Learning Environment.

All students are assigned a progress coach who can advise on all aspects of development and module and programme leaders hold office hours for consultation.

Student Services Student Advisors provide timely, accurate and confidential advice where necessary on all aspects of the provision, for example coursework and examination arrangements, extenuating circumstances procedures, progression

counselling, as well as personal issues such as problems with studying or meeting deadlines, financial matters, ill health and so on, including when relevant how to access the wider support provided by the University. This service is supported by extensive online resources.

The UWE Careers Placement Support Team provides extensive support for students in preparation for their placement period and acts as a recruitment service for employers. Students and graduates are also supported by UWE Careers who help them to access skills, experience and knowledge to improve their employability prospects. The service provides high quality and professional advice and guidance focusing on enabling them to take control of and responsibility for their own career planning and progression/development.

Students can access support around finding vacancies for work experience, volunteering, part time work and internships, as well as events and workshops. UWE Careers provides recruiter facing services including advertising graduate job vacancies, work experience and volunteering opportunities, and running both undergraduate and graduate internship schemes. There are also part time jobs advertised by the Student Union Jobshop.

There is specialist support for international students including specific resources developed for a range of countries where students are recruited from. Students are introduced to the service during the induction to the course and are encouraged to use the service all through their undergraduate programme and for three years after graduation.

All students take part in Starting Block, an induction programme at the start of their studies.

All new students are provided with a short Student Handbook to help them through their first weeks at university and to act as a guide to the complex information environment in which they now find themselves.

Together with the student portal myUWE, the university's Essential Student

Information web pages provide support and the more detailed and up to date information to students. An important part of the programme is the involvement of students. Two or three student representatives are elected to serve on the Student Representatives and Staff Forum meetings that are held each term to discuss issues raised by students in relation to their experience of studying at UWE and on the programme. The meetings are arranged by cluster group and are chaired by programme managers. The aim of the meetings is to discuss issues raised by students in an open and friendly atmosphere so that students feel able to contribute openly and honestly about their experiences. Any issues raised are taken forward by programme managers. Where appropriate they may be discussed at Departmental Committees or Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

Support to students with disability is coordinated centrally through Disability Services. This acts as a holistic service for disabled students and applicants to the University but also supports the academic and administrative staff who work with disabled students. In addition to the above.

The University's Student Services offers a range of services to support students during their time at university and beyond:

University Health Centre and general advice on Staying Healthy;
Careers and employability, advice on choosing a career, and finding student and graduate vacancies;
UWE volunteering, opportunities for students to get involved in the local community through the
Community Volunteer Programme;
Student Advisors & Counselling for anything from exam stress to homesickness and depression;
The Living Centre, for support with faith and spiritual matters;
Global student support, to help international students to make the most of living and studying in the UK;
Managing disability and dyslexia, to get help with all disability related support needs;

Money and Visas,
for financial check-ups, or help with UK visas.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMCUL9-30-0	Becoming a Professional 2023-24	30
UMEDKL-30-0	Economics and Accounting for the Real World 2023-24	30
UJUUL7-30-0	Introduction to Law in a Social, Business and Global Context 2023-24	30
UMCDKK-30-0	Introduction to Organisation, Enterprise and Management 2023-24	30

Year 2

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Optional Modules (Full time and Sandwich) - if additional credit is required

Modules only available with the agreement of the Programme Leader to make up credit in exceptional circumstances.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMETHB-15-1	RISE statistics and data management 2024-25	15
UMETHD-15-1	RISE Model Building in Economics 1 2024-25	15

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMEDRS-15-1	Evolutions: Culture, Technology, and Economic Progress 2024-25	15
UMED9D-15-1	History of Economic Thought 2024-25	15
UMED8G-30-1	Macroeconomics 2024-25	30
UMED8F-30-1	Microeconomics 2024-25	30
UMEDHK-15-1	Model Building in Economics 1 2024-25	15
UMED8J-15-1	Statistics and Data Management 2024-25	15

Year 3

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich must take 105 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED8K-30-2	Applied Microeconomics 2025-26	30
UMED8N-15-2	Economic Research Methods 2025-26	15
UMED8M-15-2	Introductory Econometrics 2025-26	15
UMED8L-30-2	Macroeconomics: Theory and Applications 2025-26	30
UMEDKF-15-2	Model Building in Economics 11 2025-26	15

Year 3 Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich) (subject to availability).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED8U-15-2	Good Business, Bad Business and Sustainability 2025-26	15
UMED8P-15-2	International Trade and Multinational Business 2025-26	15
UMEDSY-15-2	Race, Inequality and Justice - An Interdisciplinary Perspective 2025-26	15

Year 4

Full time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Year 4.

For the award of the sandwich title (SW) students must choose one of the following options both of which aim to enable students to contextualise their academic learning in an applied business and/or cultural context:

1. Work Placement: a significant period of paid employment or self-employment normally in the field relevant to the specialism of the degree. During this time students must complete and pass the 15 credit level 3 module, Placement Learning UMCDN5-15-3. This module assesses the student's personal development, from the experience of placement and their ability to identify issues relevant to their placement's organisational context and to then frame, scale and position a critical work-based enquiry relevant to the specialism of the degree.

2. Study Year Abroad, which consists of two semesters of study at a partner institution abroad.

During this time students must complete and pass the 15 credit level 3 module, Learning and Development on Study Year Abroad (UMCD9Y-15-3). This module assesses the student's personal development from the experience of SYA and their ability to evidence cross-cultural awareness and analysis of the country in which they have been studying. In addition, whilst at the partner institution, students must have studied and attempted assessments in modules totalling 60 ECTS, of which 50-55 ECTS should be in modules related to their programme of study at UWE, with a further 5-10 ECTS in the language of the host country. If the event of failing any modules students must be able to demonstrate engagement i.e. that they have attended classes and sat the exams.

To be eligible for either Placement or SYA students must have passed a minimum of 210 credits.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Full Time)

Full time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED93-30-3	Economic Theory and Policy 2026-27	30
UMED8Y-30-3	Project 2026-27	30

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMCD9Y-15-3	Learning and Development on Study Year Abroad 2026-27	15
UMCDN5-15-3	Placement Learning 2026-27	15

Year 4 Compulsory Modules Choice (Full Time)

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules Choice (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMCDKD-15-3	Cross Cultural Learning and Development 2026-27	15
UMEDT4-15-3	Work Integrated Learning (Economics) 2026-27	15

Year 4 Optional Modules (Full Time)

Full time students must select 45 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time) (subject to availability).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED99-15-3	Behavioural Economics 2026-27	15
UMED96-15-3	Econometrics 2026-27	15
UMED8V-15-3	Economics of International Financial Markets 2026-27	15
UMED98-15-3	Economics of Labour and Migration 2026-27	15
UMEDJA-15-3	Feminist and Gender Economics 2026-27	15
UMADQK-15-3	Financial Technology 2026-27	15

UMEDKE-15-3	Political Economy 2026-27	15
UMED95-15-3	Sustainable Business 2026-27	15
UMED8X-15-3	The Economics of Developing Countries 2026-27	15

Year 5

Sandwich students must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED93-30-3	Debates in Economic Policy 2027-28	30
UMED8Y-30-3	Economics Project 2027-28	30

Year 5 Optional Modules (Sandwich)

Sandwich students must take 45 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich) (subject to availability).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UMED99-15-3	Behavioural Economics 2027-28	15
UMED96-15-3	Econometrics 2027-28	15
UMED8V-15-3	Economics of International Financial Markets 2027-28	15
UMEDJA-15-3	Feminist and Gender Economics 2027-28	15
UMADQK-15-3	Financial Technology 2027-28	15
UMED98-15-3	Labour and Migration in the Contemporary World 2027-28	15
UMEDKE-15-3	Political Economy 2027-28	15

UMED95-15-3	Sustainable Business 2027-28	15
UMED8X-15-3	The Economics of Developing Countries 2027-28	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

UWE graduate economists are engaged, aware of context, informed about the world, and about the history of economics, the economy and economic sustainability; critical, technically competent, confident but aware of the limitations of their analysis; they are employable skilled problem-solvers, often with excellent applied work placement experience, are good communicators and narrators, team workers and flexible decision-makers, able to exercise judgement as to the right method, theory or data set to employ at any one time. They are co-producers of knowledge, self-reliant researchers, analysts and synthesisers, knowledgeable about economics and the economic system.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

Description of how the following reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

QAA UK Quality Code for HE

National qualification framework

Subject benchmark statements

University strategies and policies

Staff research projects

Any relevant PSRB requirements

Any occupational standards

Reference should be made to the graduate outcomes identified in the QAA-HEA

Guidance

The programme is in line with the QAA subject benchmark for Economics.

The programme focuses on different economic agents and uses a wide variety of research methods to understand microeconomic and macroeconomic problems. The UWE BSc Economics graduate is a problem solver with a high degree of numerical competency when it comes to manipulating data and analysing what numbers actually mean. They are able to understand and manipulate models so as to apply to real-world issues. These subject-specific skills are consistent with the QAA subject benchmark for Economics and the 2015 QAA consultation document. In fact the pluralist nature of the programme at UWE lends itself to much of the indicative subject content, e.g. History of Economic Thought and places the degree in a strong position in the market-place.

The on-going development of the programme and the quality of teaching and learning are informed by current students through module evaluations and SRSFs, by graduates through the alumni network, through fellow economists via the external examiners and by employers such as the Office of National Statistics. The internal subject review in July 2015 was also a useful process that resulted in very positive feedback from both external and internal panel members. The subject lends itself to sustainable development (QAA-HEA Guidance) more than most given the economic theories of growth, development, sustainability and environmental economics. The research-led strategy of the group lends itself to making the goals achievable for the UWE Economics graduate.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.