

Economics at Cambridge

Aim of the course

To equip students with the tools and insights needed to analyse complex economic behaviour

- so that they can provide informed advice to policymakers in government, business and international organisations
- so that they understand the 'fundamental' economic considerations which influence outcomes in financial markets
- so that they have the skills needed to continue to graduate study in Economics

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What we are looking for

Applicants with

- the intellectual curiosity to investigate contemporary and historical patterns of economic behaviour
- a wide-ranging interest in the evolution of the global economy
- quantitative skills and an interest in applying mathematical and statistical tools to real problems

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What should you be studying

You must be taking

- A-level Maths
 - Further Maths (at AS or A2) is also very useful – some Colleges may demand it
 - IB candidates should be taking HL Maths
 - better if you can take Pure and Statistics rather than Mechanics

Other desirable A levels

- Economics
- History
- Geography

Take Economics rather than Business Studies if your school offers both subjects – do not take both at A2 level

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Applicants from other backgrounds (Sciences, Languages) welcomed, provided you have Maths A Level

The course will teach Economics without assuming any prior knowledge

What qualifications you need

- Competition for places are strong
- You should have at least 6 GCSE's at A or A*
- Offers are typically AAA so you should have A-grade marks at AS level
- Overseas applicants should also have very strong academic records
- Overseas applicants whose first language is not English must pass additional language test before admission

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The design of the course

The course is a 3-year degree programme, known as the Economics Tripos

Divided into three Parts, with an exam at the end of each year

Each year is free-standing – there is no cumulation of marks across years

The Economics Tripos is a single-subject degree – but there are options for switching to other subjects

- Switch to History/Law/SPS after one year
- Switch to Management Studies after two years

All switches require College approval – and there is a quota for Management Studies entrants

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Part I Economics

Common first-year course for all students, with five papers

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

Quantitative Methods (Mathematics and Statistics)

Political and Sociological Aspects of Economics

British Economic History

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Part IIA Economics

Second-year course: students take four papers

Three are compulsory

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

Theory and Practice of Econometrics

Plus one option chosen from

Economic Development

Labour Economics

Sociology

Mathematics

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Part IIB Economics

Third-year course: students take four written papers

Two are compulsory

Microeconomics

Macroeconomics

Plus two options chosen from a wide range (including papers from Social and Political Sciences)

All students must also write a dissertation – equivalent to one written paper

Microeconomics and Macroeconomics papers in all three years have a broad syllabus with a substantial 'international' component

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Possible careers

Wide range of business careers

Investment banks

Fund managers

Management consultancy

Government service

Government Economic Service

General administrative careers

Other public sector institutions

International organisations

Many such careers may require a Master's degree qualification – the Cambridge undergraduate course is a good preparation for this

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