

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES AT ALL LEVELS

Name of Programme:		BSc (Econ)(Hons) Economics	
Final award (BSc, MA etc):		BSc (Hons)	
Awarding institution/body:	University of Buckingham	Teaching institution:	University of Buckingham
School of Study:	Humanities	Parent Department: (the department responsible for the administration of the programme)	Economics
Length of the programme: (please note any periods spent away from Buckingham, e.g. placements)	2 years; Or 2 years and 1 term (September entry); Or 3 years (3-year programme)	Method of study: Full-time/Part-time/Other	Full time
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level (see Guidance notes, section D – External Reference Points)	FHEQ Level 6	Relevant subject benchmark statement (SBS) (see Guidance notes, section D – External Reference Points)	QAA SBS: Economics (2015)
Professional body accreditation (if applicable):	N/A		
Criteria for admission to the programme:	A-level: ABB - BBB / IB 33-32	Cohort(s) to which this programme specification is applicable: (e.g. from 2012 intake onwards)	2014
UCAS Code	L10A		

Summary of Programme

If you see yourself working as an advisor in a national or international agency, as a teacher or a journalist, or if you simply wish to keep your options open before going on to a career in business or the professions, the economics programme will be an attractive alternative. In this programme you have an enhanced opportunity of studying problems of economic policy. The problem of achieving macroeconomic and exchange rate stability has been of great importance to many countries in recent years for example, while microeconomic issues such as the allocation of resources to health or to raising environmental quality continue to figure prominently in public discussion. An economics degree gives you a perfect opportunity to study these issues. It also permits you to take modules in politics, law and the humanities so as to broaden your perspective further.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The excellent Collins English Dictionary defines Economics as 'the social science concerned with the production and consumption of goods and services and the analysis of the commercial activities of a society.' Other definitions have placed more emphasis on the study of rational behaviour and choice. The Economics programme aims to give students an appreciation of the subject matter of economics, and also to give a feeling for, and an understanding of, those presuppositions that underlie the subject.

Programme Outcomes

<p><u>Knowledge and understanding of:</u></p> <p>To enable students to obtain knowledge and understanding of economics as defined above</p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the knowledge and understanding</i></p> <p>Learning and teaching strategies used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated: Lectures and small group seminars, plus interaction and dialogue with students on a one to one basis. Students are mainly examined by written examination, but in most courses there is an essay requirement of about 10-20% of the total. In addition, most courses require additional essays that are not part of the assessed marks.</p> <p>These skills cannot, we believe, be communicated directly. They are acquired as part of the general learning process. Of particular importance is extensive reading, which we encourage and dialogue and interaction between students and staff. We consider that interaction between staff and students is essential in an effective degree programme.</p>
<p><u>Cognitive (thinking) skills:</u></p> <p>(a) perception – to improve knowledge of economic phenomena and processes (b) intuition – to encourage ‘economic awareness’ in the appreciation of social phenomena. Students should appreciate</p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Assessment Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the strategies used to assess the achievement of each part of the knowledge and understanding</i></p> <p>The majority of courses are assessed by 3 hour written examinations at the end of the course. In addition there is usually course work, mainly written essays.</p> <p>Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials, although such attendance is not made part of the assessment. Typically, the final examination comprises 80-90% of total marks, while the essay makes up the remaining 10%-20%.</p>
		<p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the cognitive skills</i></p> <p>Lectures and tutorials. Some courses involve the use of computer simulations and others involve presentations.</p>

<p>arguments about the costs and benefits of economic activity; and the concept of opportunity cost (and understand its paradoxical nature). They should understand the nature of probabilistic thinking. This is not necessarily taught in courses on statistics, but by its nature relies on an intuitive understanding of the uncertain character of the world.</p> <p>(c) reasoning – we aim to enable the students to think like economists – i.e. to reason rigorously in terms of cause and effect and to use both the methods of induction and deduction. Students should learn that economic thinking involves both simplification (e.g. thinking in terms of models, and utilising the ceteris paribus principle) and rigour.</p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Assessment Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the strategies used to assess the achievement of each part of the cognitive skills</i></p> <p>The majority of courses are assessed by 3 hour written examinations at the end of the course. In addition there is usually course work, mainly written essays.</p> <p>Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials, although such attendance is not made part of the assessment. Typically, the final examination comprises 80-90% of total marks, while the essay makes up the remaining 10%-20%.</p>
<p><u>Practical/Transferable skills (able to):</u></p> <p>Students should be able to justify an intellectual position within a group context, and argue that position against the criticisms of other students and members of staff. In many courses students are</p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Teaching/Learning Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the teaching and learning methods and strategies used to help students achieve each part of the practical/transferable skills</i></p> <p>The use of computers; submission of coursework; preparatory reading for tutorials</p>

<p>required to introduce a tutorial subject, for perhaps 10 to 15 minutes, and defend their position.</p> <p>Practical skills The distinction between 'practical' and other skills is not wholly applicable in an academic degree programme of this sort. In this section we mention that students should acquire many of the numerical skills needed by the economist, including quantitative and statistical methods. Some courses, such as Microeconomic Theory, adopt a problem-centred approach in order to reinforce the more theoretical material presented by lecturers. Students are expected to be computer competent – to be able to use programs such as Office and so on. We also encourage students to learn an additional foreign language while at Buckingham.</p> <p>The examinations enable us to evaluate the ability of students to sustain an intellectual argument and to marshal evidence. Performance in tutorials is also indicative of these skills.</p> <p>Some examinations emphasise use of problem solving skills. Use of problem solving sheets in tutorials? A special computer course is arranged in the first year which all students are required to pass. Languages are taught through language laboratory work.</p>	<p>→</p>	<p><u>Assessment Strategy:</u> <i>Explain the strategies used to assess the achievement of each part of the practical/transferable skills</i></p> <p>The majority of courses are assessed by 3 hour written examinations at the end of the course. In addition there is usually course work, mainly written essays.</p> <p>Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials, although such attendance is not made part of the assessment. Typically, the final examination comprises 80-90% of total marks, while the essay makes up the remaining 10%-20%.</p>
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External Reference Points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/quality-code-A1.aspx>);
- Relevant Subject Benchmark Statement(s) (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/quality-code-A2.aspx>);
- Other (list)

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course unit/module can be found in the departmental or programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by the University of Buckingham and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency.

**Programme Director(s)
Name(s):**

Dr Ali Kabiri

Date approved by School Learning and Teaching Committee	N/A
Date approved by School Board of Study	July 2013
Date approved by University Learning and Teaching Committee	August 2013

ECONOMICS [BSc (Econ)]

January Entry (*students commencing prior to September 2017*)

All modules are 15 units, except where specified as 30 units.

	SINGLE HONOURS		
Term	YEAR ONE		
1 Winter	Principles of Microeconomics [4]	Quantitative Methods 1 [4]	Introduction to Management [4]
2 Spring	Principles of Macroeconomics [4]	Quantitative Methods 2 [5]	Introduction to Business [4]
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION		
3 Summer	Microeconomic Theory [5]	Macroeconomic Theory [5]	Mathematics for Economists [5]
4 Autumn	Microeconomic Policy [5]	Macroeconomic Policy [5]	Statistics for Business and Economics [6]
	THE PART 1 EXAMINATION		
	YEAR TWO		
5 Winter	THREE of: * History of Economic Thought [6] Industrial Organisation and Strategy [6] Regulation and Privatisation [6]		
6 Spring	THREE of: * Issues in Developing Economies and the MENA Region [6] The Economics of the Labour Market [6] Public Sector Economics [6] Welfare Economics [5]		
	THE PART 2 STAGE 1 EXAMINATION		
7 Summer	THREE of: * Legal Economics 1 [6] Econometrics [5] International Economics [6] Money, Banking and Financial Markets [6]		
8 Autumn	The Economics of Europe [5]	TWO of: * Legal Economics 2 [6] Behavioural Economics [6]	
	THE PART 2 STAGE 2 EXAMINATION		

* Language and Free Choice Subjects

Students following the degree programme in Economics may take Free Choice modules to a total of 60 units (including a language to a total of 30 units) subject to timetabling constraints. For the list of modules available see Free Choice Section.

NOTE: A dissertation on an approved topic may be substituted for a written examination in **ONE** Part 2 elective with the approval of the lecturer concerned and the Head of Department.

ECONOMICS [BSc (Econ)]

September Entry - 9 Terms (**students commencing prior to September 2017**)

All modules are 15 units, except where specified as 30 units.

	SINGLE HONOURS		
Term	YEAR ONE		
1 Autumn	Principles of Macroeconomics [4]	Quantitative Methods 1 [4]	
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 1		
2 Winter	Principles of Microeconomics [4]	Introduction to Management [4]	
3 Spring	Introduction to Business [4]	Quantitative Methods 2 [5]	
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2		
4 Summer	Microeconomic Theory [5]	Mathematics for Economists [5]	Macroeconomic Theory [5]
	YEAR TWO		
5 Autumn	Microeconomic Policy [5]	Statistics for Business and Economics [6]	Macroeconomic Policy [5]
	THE PART 1 EXAMINATION		
6 Winter	THREE of: * History of Economic Thought [6] Industrial Organisation and Strategy [6] Regulation and Privatisation [6]		
7 Spring	THREE of: * Issues in Developing Economies and the MENA Region [6] The Economics of the Labour Market [6] Public Sector Economics [6] Welfare Economics [5]		
	THE PART 2 STAGE 1 EXAMINATION		
8 Summer	THREE of: * Econometrics [5] International Economics [6] Legal Economics 1 [6] Money, Banking and Financial Markets [6]		
9 Autumn	THREE of: * Legal Economics 2 [6] The Economics of Europe [5] Behavioural Economics [6]		
	THE PART 2 STAGE 2 EXAMINATION		

* Language and Free Choice Subjects

Students following the degree programme in Economics may take Free Choice modules to a total of 60 units (including a Language to a total of 30 units). For the list of modules available see Free Choice Section.

NOTE: A dissertation on an approved topic may be substituted for a written examination in **ONE** Part 2 elective with the approval of the lecturer concerned and the Head of Department.

ECONOMICS [BSc (Econ)] 3-Year Programme

September Entry (*students commencing prior to September 2017*)

All modules are 15 units.

	SINGLE HONOURS		
Term	YEAR ONE		
1 Autumn	Principles of Macroeconomics [4]	European Industrial Revolutions [5]	Political Communication [5]
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 1		
2 Winter	Principles of Microeconomics [4]	Quantitative Methods 1 [4]	ONE of: Introduction to Management [4] Introduction to Financial Accounting [4]
3 Spring	Quantitative Methods 2 [5]		ONE of: Introduction to Business [4] Introduction to Management Accounting [4]
	THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2		
	Summer Term VACATION		
	YEAR TWO		
Preliminary examination re-sits to be arranged within the department if required			
4 Autumn	The Economics of Europe [5]	Legal Economics 2 [6]	Statistics for Business and Economics [6]
5 Winter	Microeconomic Theory [5]	History of Economic Thought [6]	Industrial Organisation and Strategy [6]
6 Spring	Welfare Economics [5]	Issues in Developing Economies and the MENA Region [6]	
	THE PART 1 EXAMINATION		
	Summer Term VACATION		
	YEAR THREE		
7 Autumn	Microeconomic Policy [5]	Macroeconomic Policy [5]	One of * Free Choice Behavioural Economics [6]
8 Winter	THREE of: * Regulation and Privatisation [6] Language/Free Choice *		
9 Spring	TWO of: * Public Sector Economics [6] Language/Free Choice *		
	THE PART 2 EXAMINATION		

* Language and Free Choice Subjects

Students may choose modules from the Language and Free Choice selection (to a maximum of 45 units). For the list of modules available see Free Choice Section.

NOTE: A dissertation on an approved topic may be substituted for a written examination in **ONE** Part 2 elective with the approval of the lecturer concerned and the Head of Department.