



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

University of Cambridge

Open Day

ECONOMICS

Economics at Cambridge

Economics

Economics analyses how people, firms and governments make decisions about scarce resources, incl. their interactions and aggregate consequences.

*“Economics is a science of thinking in terms of models,
joined to the art of choosing models
which are relevant to the contemporary world”
John Maynard Keynes (1938)*

Economics Tripos at Cambridge

➤ Well-rounded, rigorous education in Economics

Providing students tools and insights to analyse and understand complex economic phenomena.

Developing problem-solving and analytical skills, highly valued in business, finance and public sector.

Preparing for graduate study in Economics.

Prerequisites Economics Tripos

- Strong quantitative skills and proficiency in mathematics
 - Math (A-level, IB HL, or equivalent) **required**
 - Further Math (esp. Pure and Statistics) *very useful*
- Intellectual curiosity to rigorously and critically analyse wide range of economic issues
 - Economics (A-level, IB HL, or equivalent) *desirable* (if not offered, Geography or Business Studies instead)
- Strong overall academic record
 - Strength in both model- and essay-based subjects (e.g. Physics and History)
 - Typical successful applicant in previous years: at least 6 A* at GCSE, strong in Math and doing (AS/A-level) Further Math

Admissions and Offers

- Competition for places is strong, with around 6 to 7 applicants per place.
- Admissions done by Colleges, involving
 - 1) Two-hour admissions assessment (31 Oct 2018), incl. problem solving & advanced math multiple choice test and extended essay responding to text excerpt (80+40 min.)
 - 2) Interview in Cambridge (early Dec)
- Typical A-level offer conditional on achieving **A*A*A** for 'academic' A-level subjects, with A* for Math. For IB, 40-42 points with 776 at HL, incl 7 for Math.

Economics Tripos at Cambridge

- Three-year BA Honours course in Economics, divided into Part I, Part IIA and Part IIB, with written exams at end of each year (no resits).
- Compulsory elements
 - Microeconomics and Macroeconomics (in each year, with broad syllabus)
 - Quantitative Methods (Mathematics & Statistics) and Econometrics
 - Political & Social Aspects of Economics and Economic History
 - Dissertation (in Part IIB)
- Wide range of optional courses in Part IIA and IIB
- Some possibilities for switching to other subjects, incl.
 - Human/Social/Political Sciences, History after Part I
 - Management Studies after Part IIA (subject to quota)

Part I of Economics Tripos

Common first-year with five compulsory papers

1. Microeconomics
2. Macroeconomics
3. Quantitative Methods (Math and Statistics)
4. Political and Social Aspects of Economics
5. British Economic History

Part IIA of Economics Tripos

Four papers in second year, including three compulsory papers

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Theory and Practice of Econometrics

and one option, currently chosen from

- International Trade & Economic Development
- Historical Perspectives on Economic Growth
- Mathematics & Statistics for Economists
- History & Philosophy of Economics
- Labour Economics
- Politics
- Sociology
- International Relations

Part IIB of Economics Tripos

Final year consists of five elements, including three compulsory components

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Dissertation (on economic topic chosen by student)

and two options, currently chosen from

- Economic Theory and Analysis
- Development Economics
- Banking and Finance
- Public Economics
- Industry
- Econometrics
- Political Economics
- World Depression during Interwar Years
- Selected papers from Sociology and Politics

Teaching in Economics Tripos

Academic year consist of three 8-week terms – intensive!

Faculty of Economics provides

- lectures (typically 32-40 hours per paper)
- examinations (typically 3-hour written exam for each paper)

Colleges organise

- small-group ‘supervisions’ (typically 10 hours per paper)
- tutorial support, housing and extracurricular activities
- admissions

Lecturers provide supervision assignments to facilitate coordination with Colleges.

Careers After Economics Tripos

Wide range of career opportunities:

❖ Business and finance, including

- Asset management
- Investment banking
- Economic/management consulting

❖ Public sector, including

- Bank of England
- Government Economic Service
- International organisations (e.g. IMF, World Bank)

Many economic careers require Master's degree,
for which Economics Tripos provides excellent preparation.