

Economics @ UK unis - quick facts

Top 20*

1 Cambridge	A*A*A	11 Leeds	AAA
2 Oxford	A*AA	12 Glasgow	AAB
3 Warwick	A*AA	13 Strathclyde	ABB
4 St Andrews	AAA	14 Bristol	A*AA
5 LSE	A*AA	15 Loughborough	AAB
6 UCL	A*AA	16 Lancaster	AAB
7 Bath	A*AA	17 Aberdeen	BBB
8 Durham	A*AA	18 Newcastle	AAB
9 Nottingham	A*AA	19 Edinburgh	AAA
10 Exeter	A*AA	20 York	AAB

* Complete University Guide April 2020

Must haves

You can choose between a BSc or a BA in economics and while economics A Level is not essential for either a good grade at maths A Level is. For the top universities FM is also preferable.

Other degrees to consider

PPE, management, a joint degree with a compatible subject like politics, history, geography, a modern language, a combined honours degree at a university like Durham, Exeter, Newcastle, UCL and Birmingham, or a liberal arts degree (e.g. Durham or Exeter) where you can combine economics with a range of other subjects. Joint degrees often have lower entry requirements.

Example course modules

In the first year, compulsory modules are likely to include micro and macro economics and maybe the history of economic thought as well as the maths and statistical skills needed. In your second and final year, you will be able to choose from a range of modules which include topics like money, banking and finance; trade and international relations; poverty and inequality; business law and ethics; marketing; behavioural economics; environmental economics.

Contact hours per week: 9-15, average 12. (Average all subjects 14.)

Career prospects

Economics graduates normally do well in the jobs market. Many go into banking and finance, so it's not surprising that nearly half of them work in London. It's quite common to go into accountancy which requires you to gain professional qualifications - so don't assume you won't have to take any more exams once you leave uni. The advantage is often an increase in salary. Other typical career roles are management consultant, investment banker, actuary, policy adviser, financial analyst, statistician, stockbroker and journalist. A BSc in economics is often considered to be more academic and of a higher worth, especially amongst City employers, investment banks, financial institutions and consultancy firms, who are looking for numeracy and quantitative ability. However, job applicants holding a BA in economics are attractive to global institutions because of the skills and knowledge they have gained in applying economic theory to societal, trade and international relations contexts.

Average starting salary: £25,000