

Postgraduate Study in Economics at UCD

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Why Do Further Studies in Economics?

Post-grad training in economics prepares you for lots of careers:

1. **Academic:** Preparation for a PhD in economics and a career in lecturing and research.
2. **Government:** Examples in Ireland of state agencies that employ people with MA in Economics are the Central Bank, the Competition Authority, and the Industrial Agencies (Forfas, IDA, Enterprise Ireland).
3. **Consultancy:** Specialized economics consultancy is a growing business and an MA is also a good preparation for more general consultancy.
4. **Financial:** Banks and stockbrokers employ economists to analyze trends in the macroeconomy and in various sectors.

Why UCD?

- UCD has the best Economics department in Ireland.
- Also ranked highly among European universities for research in economics.
- About half of the 39 staff listed by RePec (an online research repository) as Ireland's top 25% researchers in economics are affiliated with UCD.
- For post-graduate study, the quality of researchers is very important, as the material is closer to the research frontier.
- UCD has internationally recognized strengths in areas such as macroeconomics, applied microeconomics and international trade.

Structure of the MA Degree

- **Semester 1:** All students take a common set of courses in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Quantitative Methods and Research Skills.
- **Semester 2:** Students take four courses from a wide range of choices tailored to suit a variety of interests and potential future career paths.
- **Summer:** Dissertation.

Second Term Options

- ECON41700 Economic Development
- ECON41780 Labour Economics
- ECON41770 Public Economics
- ECON41760 Health Economics
- ECON41750 Industrial Organisation
- ECON41710 Climate Change and Energy Economics
- ECON41800 Uncertainty & Risk in Finance and Economics
- ECON41810 Advanced Microeconomics
- ECON41620 Advanced Macroeconomics
- ECON41850 Advanced Econometrics

Academic and Non-Academic Tracks

- In second semester, students can either choose academic pre-PhD courses or more general “field options”.
- *Academic Track:*
 - Second semester courses will be offered in Advanced Micro, Macro and Econometrics. Similar material to the first year in international PhD Programs
- *Non-Academic Track:*
 - More general “field options” that prepare students for the range of jobs outlined above.

Research Component of MA Degree

- We provide extensive assistance to students with the research component of their MA degree.
- Each student does a supervised thesis and close contact is maintained with the supervisor.
- ***Semester 1:*** Weekly sessions on research skills, research seminars. Students do a short data project and write short reports on seminars.
- ***Semester 2:*** Sessions on thesis-writing and student presentations of research proposals.
- MA students are an integral part of the vibrant research community in Economics at UCD.

PhD Program

Our PhD program has two components:

1. *Coursework*: 30 ECTS of modules. 10 ECTS of core research skills and 20 ECTS of field options taught in co-operation with TCD and NUIM. This is a new development in Irish economics and we believe our combined post-graduate program compares well with leading foreign programs.
2. *Thesis*: Done under the supervision of a lead adviser along with a doctoral studies panel.

Entry Requirements

- 2nd class honours grade 1 (or equivalent) in degree with Economics as a major component
- 2.1 in Higher Diploma in Economic Science
- Applicants from other programmes with strong quantitative content (e.g. Maths, Finance, Statistics, Physics etc) will also be considered on case-by-case basis.
- Fees for 2011/2012 for EU students: €5400 (quite low relative to many other programs.)

Applications

- Closing date for applications not until well after your BA exam results.
- However, we do rolling acceptances during the year (usually conditional on obtaining a certain final grade in your degree).
- Check out information on the School website.
- Also, lots of material on Karl Whelan's website:
 - Click on About UCD Economics for this presentation and a brochure.
 - Click on Teaching and you can see materials from the Research Skills class.
- Queries: Nic Clifton (for admin related issues), Karl Whelan (for academic issues).