

Programme Title: Economic Studies



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	(BSc (Econ))Economic Studies (BSc (Econ))Economic Studies with Year in Industry
Name of interim award(s):	CertHE, Dip HE
Duration of study / period of registration:	3 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	L120
QAA Benchmark Group:	Economics
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	N/A
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Economics and Finance

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

This degree offers professional training in economics, providing an excellent basis for employment in the private or state sector and for further academic study. You will cover the areas of macroeconomics, microeconomics, finance and the quantitative techniques used in economic analysis and investigation. Final-year options enable students to apply this core knowledge to a variety of more specialised areas in economics and finance.

### Aims of the programme

To provide a challenging and friendly learning environment in which research of international standing informs and supports effective teaching;  
To provide a solid foundation for a career in economics and cognate areas;

To endow students with the theoretical knowledge and practical experience required to engage in the economics analysis and study of real world issues;  
To encourage students to develop the motivation and capacity to manage their own learning, and acquire a range of transferable skills valuable to them in employment or in continued education.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

The degree will provide you with a thorough training in theoretical and applied economics. You will be confronted with the latest developments in the field and will develop an ability to provide critical and analytical interpretation of past and current economic events. You will be able to engage in policy analysis and you will be able to support it through a competent, informative and critical use of economic data, statistics and quantitative tools. Your ability to engage in economic and policy analysis will be supported by the development of communication, team-building, reflective and project management skills.

### Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a core of economic principles and analysis to an appropriate level
A 2	Show some knowledge and understanding of the application of statistical methods to economic data, using econometric software where appropriate
A 3	Apply economic reasoning to a range of policy issues
A 4	Show knowledge and understanding of a number of specialised areas in economics and finance

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

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B 1	Solve problems, through conceptualisation and analysis
B 2	Collaborate, through working co-operatively
B 3	Communicate, through oral and written presentations;
B 4	Use IT skills (internet to retrieve information; email to share information; word processing and spreadsheets to store, analyse and present information);
B 5	Manage time and work cooperatively within a community;
B 6	Achieve objectives by the relevant deadlines.

Attributes:	
C 1	Acquire and apply knowledge in a rigorous way;
C 2	Connect information and ideas within their field of study;
C 3	Use writing for learning and reflection;
C 4	Adapt their understanding to new and unfamiliar settings;
C 5	Acquire new learning in a range of ways, both individually and collaboratively;
C 6	Use quantitative data confidently and competently;
C 7	Acquire transferable key skills to help with career goals and continuing education;
C 8	Develop effective spoken and written English;
C 9	Acquire substantial bodies of new knowledge;
C 10	Use information for evidence-based decision-making and creative thinking.

### How will you learn?

The learning outcomes for the programme are delivered by a range of modules across the programme. Students on economic studies will be able to choose from a small range of modules in years one and two, enabling them to specialise in year three. Teaching and learning is mainly via lectures and seminars. Teaching and learning strategies vary from module to module. Subject specific skills in the areas of macroeconomics, microeconomics, quantitative techniques and finance are introduced and developed via the first and second year modules. Students then have a wide range of electives to choose from in year three, building on the skills they obtained previously.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is by a variety of methods including formal examinations, in-class tests, coursework of various forms, presentations, independent dissertation. Most modules will have two methods of assessment to test individual module learning outcomes.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

BSc Economic Studies is a uniquely flexible degree route within the School of Economics and Finance (SEF). With no core or compulsory modules, students are able to choose their own bespoke blend of modules from those on offer within SEF, including topics from the fields of microeconomics, macroeconomics, finance, and econometrics. Please note that prerequisites will still apply, so these should be considered when making module choices. Students are required to take at least 60 credits of modules from SEF in year1, 75 credits in year 2, and at least 90 credits in year 3.

• Year 1:

Take 120 credits in total, including at least 60 credits of level 4 modules from the School of Economics and Finance.

• Year 2:

Take 120 credits in total, including at least 75 credits of level 5 modules from the School of Economics and Finance.

• Final year:

Take 120 credits in total, including at least 90 credits of level 6 modules from the School of Economics and Finance. In total at least 105 credits must be at level 6.

#### Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
60 credits within SEF		60	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
at most 60 credits can be taken from anywhere within the university		60	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Personal and Career Development Plan 1	ECN004	0	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2

#### Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
75 credits within SEF		75	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
at most 45 credits can be taken from anywhere within the university		45	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
If 60 credits taken at level 4 from SEF, students must take 90 within SEF (at most 30 at level 4)		90	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Personal and Career Development Plan 2	ECN005	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Statistical Methods in Economics (Students that have transferred from BSc Economics and Politics or BSc Economics and International Relations only)	ECN121	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Students on with year in industry will spend the 3rd year on an Industrial Placement	ECN227	120	5	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Students must take 105 credits at level 6 (90 from SEF)		105	6	Elective	3 or 4	Semesters 1 & 2
at most 30 credits can be taken from anywhere within the university (15 at level 5)		15	5	Elective	3 or 4	Semesters 1 & 2
Personal and Career Development Plan 3	ECN006	15	6	Elective	3 or 4	Semesters 1 & 2

**What are the entry requirements?**

Direct entry is prohibited. Entry at level 5 or 6 is permitted for existing QMUL students who (a) wish to switch from an existing programme or (b) have not passed the required modules for their Programme.

Students need to meet all requirements up to the point of transfer.

## **How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?**

Input from external examiners, students and regular internal discussion are the main channels through which the programme's quality will be managed and enhanced.

The Teaching and Curriculum Development (TCD) committee deals with all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at School level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through the SSLC, or consideration of module evaluation questionnaires.

All Schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for updating the School's Taught Programmes Action Plan. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the National Student Survey (NSS) and module evaluations.

There are four subject based Teaching Review Groups (TRGs) (covering microeconomics, macroeconomics, quantitative and finance), membership of which includes all those who teach within that area, and these carry primary responsibility for monitoring modules, reviewing their effectiveness, and considering new developments. The TCD as a whole has responsibility for reviewing the overall structure of the UG degree programmes, ensuring their coherence and considering more general developments. It also considers any wider implications of subject specific recommendations of the TRGs. TRGs will keep learning outcomes under review, and develop the methods of assessment of these outcomes.

External examiners have the opportunity to comment both on individual module content and assessment and on the broader provision. They are asked to monitor fairness and consistency in assessment procedures and to scrutinise the effectiveness and appropriateness of the assessment.

The School welcomes feedback from students. This is usually collected through the Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC), module evaluations, the National Student Survey (NSS) and UK Engagement Survey (UKES), and formal and informal discussions with the teaching team throughout the academic year.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) provides a formal means of communication and discussion between a School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

The School runs both a mid-term and end-of-term evaluation for each module. This allows both module convenors and the School to collect important information and feedback from students, and to make any relevant adjustments promptly if necessary. The evaluations are also discussed in the TCD committee and used to award the annual School prizes for best lecturer and class teachers.

## **What academic support is available?**

Each student is allocated an Advisor, who approves option choices and provides support with any problems. Personal tuition is provided primarily through tutorial classes and visits to module organisers during their office hours, which are advertised on office doors and on the web. Programme induction for new students begins during the enrolment period and extends into the first semester; it includes a series of presentations organised by the Senior Tutor. The School organises the Peer Assisted Study Support (PASS) scheme and weekly mathematics and statistics support classes.

## **Programme-specific rules and facts**

This is a closed programme.

The Economic Studies programmes are primarily meant for students who have failed the core module requirements of their programme of study, as will be determined by the exam board, and are consequently unable to graduate with their intended

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degree outcome. Students who do not meet the requirements of their registered programme, but do meet the progression requirements for the corresponding Economic Studies programme, will be automatically moved following the relevant exam board.

From the end of Year 1, students can also request to be moved on to an Economics Studies programme. As with any programme change, this must be discussed with an Advisor, and will only be possible if students satisfy the requirements of the programme.

Students from joint degrees can change onto Economic studies year until the end of year 1 (level 4). After this, students will be required to transfer onto the joint version of the Economic Studies Programme. Students must have completed 150 credits of SEF modules at level 4 and 5 to progress to the final year.

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Students must have completed a minimum 90 credits at L4+ in year one and minimum 90 at L5+ in year two.

Students on the 'with year in industry' route will spend a year on a professional placement.

If a student is on the year in industry programme and is unable to find a suitable placement, or if the Experience in Economics and Finance module is failed or not completed, then the student will revert to the BSc (Econ) degree without year in Industry, provided that all other requirements are satisfied.

Students on the year in industry programme will be supported by a dedicated placement coordinator. The placement coordinator will help with finding placements, vetting organisations, and ensuring the terms and conditions of the agreement between the student and the organisation are both clear and fair. All placements are expected to be paid in accordance with best practice within the sector in general and QM in particular, at or above the National Minimum Wage where possible. Students are not encouraged to, but can take an unpaid position provided that they submit a form stating that they recognise the financial impact of their choice. It is usual that a formal employment contract will be issued by the company to the student, however, where a company/institution has not undertaken such a placement previously, the SEF internship coordinator will work with the company in drawing up a contract, detailing the length of placement, the amount of payment, details about termination, holidays etc.

Students will be required to produce a reflective report at the end of the Placement. Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis and the placement year is a 120-credit module. This module does not count towards the degree classification.

A dedicated Placement Handbook will be published providing all relevant information related to the placement in year 3 for the students.

### Specific support for disabled students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

### Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Connections to the real world examples and case studies are regularly embedded within all modules and allow students to

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develop analytical and critical skills highly regarded by employers. The academic programme is complemented by an extracurricular set of careers workshops aimed at maximising the students' opportunities to secure, progressively, places on insight weeks (year 1), internships (year 2) and eventually long term employment at the end of their studies. Social networking sites such as Linked-in support the School's employability strategy as well as the support provided by an extended alumni network.

The graduate data is reflective of the school rather than the programme but we can reasonably expect students in this degree have the same opportunity with regards to subject content and therefore should have the same employment opportunities. Graduates of the programme have an excellent record in gaining employment. First destination statistics typically suggest around 65% going directly into employment within six months of graduation and another 25% going into postgraduate study. Curriculum development is informed by research active staff, some of whom also work for major employers of economics graduates (such as the Bank of England and the Treasury).

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Sarah Riley

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Rachel Male

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:**

13/11/19

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**