

Programme Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year



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 and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year - September and January Start
Name of interim award(s):	Foundation Certificate, CertHE, Dip HE
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	Sept L124, Jan L125
QAA Benchmark Group:	Economics
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	
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:

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

School of Politics and International Relations

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

Programme outline

The aims of this degree are to provide the students a thorough training in both economics and politics, with a special focus on theoretical, empirical and policy issues. This will be done at both a quantitative and analytical level.

The programme contains a basic core of general economics, politics, and quantitative techniques. This leads on to more specialised modules in economics and politics. It provides hands-on experience in dealing with real world cases and in the critical analysis of economic policy both in its formation and implementation. Graduates of this programme obtain jobs requiring economic and political reasoning in both the public and the private sector. This degree programme is especially suited to those with an interest in public policy and governmental decision making. Students may also be suited to further training in economics and political science.

(BSc (Econ))Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year combines a three-year degree in Economics and Politics with a bespoke foundation year, providing a smooth pathway for international and EU students not currently eligible for

entry to a three-year degree programme. The degree provides students with professional training in economics, providing an excellent basis for employment in the private or state sector and for further academic study.

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 foundation year will endow you with the knowledge and skills set required to study economics at degree level. In turn, (BSc (Econ))Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year 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

Programme Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

A 4	Show knowledge and understanding of a number of specialised areas in economics and finance
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Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
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 and Political Studies will be able to choose from a small range of modules from both joint schools 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

Programme Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

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. Please refer to the college academic regulations for the assessment regulations:
(http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy_zone/index.html)

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.

In Year 1 (foundation year), students must take the six modules

IFP / IFJ3000 English Language and Study Skills
IFP / IFJ3020 Independent Study Project
IFP / IFJ3011 Pure Mathematics for Economics
IFP / IFJ3012 Statistics for Economics
IFP / IFJ3013 Microeconomics
IFP / IFJ3014 Macroeconomics
IFP / IFJ3003 Introduction to Politics
IFP / IFJ3004 Introduction to International Politics

BSc Economic and Political Studies is a uniquely flexible degree route within the School of Economics and Finance (SEF) and the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR). With no core or compulsory modules, students are able to choose their own bespoke blend of modules.

Please note that prerequisites will still apply, so these should be considered when making module choices.

Following successful progression from the foundation year, the second year of the programme builds a strong foundation in general economics, politics, and quantitative techniques. This leads on to more specialised modules in economics and politics in subsequent years. It provides hands-on experience in dealing with real world cases and in the critical analysis of economic policy both in its formation and implementation. Graduates of this programme obtain jobs requiring economic and political reasoning in both the public and the private sector. This degree programme is especially suited to those with an interest in public policy and governmental decision making. Students may also be suited to further training in economics and political science.

• **Level 4:**

Take 120 credits in total, including at least 60 credits of level 4 modules from the School of Economics and Finance (SEF) and at least 60 credits of level 4 modules from the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR).

• **Level 5:**

Take 120 credits in total, including at least 45 credits of level 5 modules from SEF and at least 45 credits from SPIR. The remaining 30 credits must be chosen from level 5 modules offered by either SEF or SPIR.

• **Final year:**

In the final year, students must take a minimum of 105 credits at level 6, of which at least 30 credits must be from SEF and 30 credits from SPIR. Students may take a maximum of 30 credits outside the two Schools and a maximum of 15 credits at level 5.

Programme Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Personal and Career Development Plan 1	ECN004	0	4	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
60 Credits from SPIR		60	4	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
60 Credits from SEF		60	4	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Personal and Career Development Plan 2	ECN005	0	5	Compulsory	5	Semesters 1 & 2
45 Credits from SPIR		45	5	Compulsory	5	Semesters 1 & 2
45 Credits from SEF		45	5	Compulsory	5	Semesters 1 & 2
30 credits from SEF or SPIR		30	5	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Students must take 105 credits at level 6 (30 from SEF and 30 from SPIR)		105	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
at most 30 credits can be taken from anywhere within the university (15 at level 5)		15	5	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Personal and Career Development Plan 3	ECN006	0	6	Compulsory	3	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 Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

Economics and Politics or Economics and International Relations BSc, 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?

During the foundation year, the modules FP3000 English Language and Study Skills (ELSS) and IFP3020 Independent Study Project (ISP) serve to support students in their academic modules by developing their ability to read and prepare for lectures and classes, participate in classes, and tackle written tests and assignments. Each student is allocated an academic advisor, who is also their main teacher on the ELSS and ISP modules. Students have timetabled one-to-one tutorials with their advisor every two weeks, and in these tutorials any problems can be raised, including difficulty experienced on academic modules. Extra workshops

Programme Title: Economic and Political Studies with Integrated Foundation Year

are provided to help students understand what is required of them by assignments for subject modules, and students are also advised on how to make the most of lecturer's office hours. Also during the foundation year, students can take advantage of the support of a team of peer-mentors, comprising former IFP students who have progressed to undergraduate degrees at QM. Peer-support sessions are timetabled from the third week of semester one, and students are encouraged to attend if they need help in transitioning to the demands of university life, including their IFP studies.

Each student is allocated a personal academic adviser, 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.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

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.

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 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 2 (level 4), 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 2 (level 4). After this, students will not have completed enough Economic credits to meet the requirement of the Economic studies and will need to transfer onto Economic and Political Studies

During the foundation year, students will be covered by the Academic Regulations and programme regulations for the year in which they commence the foundation year. Students who progress to the BSc (Econ) section of the programme will be covered by the Academic Regulations and programme regulations for the year in which they begin the BSc (Econ) section of the programme; where appropriate (notably in the cases of module diet, progression, and award requirements) these latter regulations will then apply for the remainder of the programme.

Progression from foundation year to Year One of BSc. Degree: take 120 credits, pass modules to the value of at least 105 credits. Overall average of 60, with English Language and Study Skills 55, Pure Mathematics for Economics 65, Statistics for Economics, 65, Microeconomics 65, Macroeconomics 65.

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 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 2), internships (year 3) 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).

Programme Specification Approval

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:

4 Jun 2020

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: