Economics PhD programme
Welcome to the School of Economics

The School of Economics is one of Europe’s top economics departments, combining excellence in teaching with an international reputation for rigorous and topical research of the highest quality.

We attract some of the very best students from across the globe to our large and vibrant postgraduate community. This provides a stimulating environment for learning and research, without losing the friendly and informal atmosphere for which Nottingham is renowned. We currently have around 80 PhD students with approximately 40% from the UK/EU and 60% from the wider world.

Our research-led approach to teaching and learning and the one-to-one expert supervision we provide will make your experience exciting and challenging. We also offer a number of fully-funded scholarship opportunities covering tuition fees and a stipend (see page 9 for details).

We are delighted that you are considering postgraduate research with the School of Economics. Whatever your plans and ambitions, we can equip you with the skills you need to take your economics further.
Excellent employment prospects

The School of Economics offers a leading PhD programme with an established academic reputation. Our students go on to a range of exciting careers in academia and the public and private sectors, including roles in economics departments, research institutions, government and organisations around the world.

Working in academia
In recent years, our PhD graduates have secured academic or postdoctoral positions at:
- London School of Economics
- University of Birmingham
- Monash University
- University of Bonn
- University of Essex
- University of Leicester
- University of Manchester
- University of Mannheim
- University of Oxford
- Yale University

Working in industry
Many of our PhD graduates choose a professional career path working as economists for government authorities and agencies, central banks, banking and financial institutions, consulting or international organisations. Recent examples include:
- Bank of England
- European Commission
- International Monetary Fund
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Oxford Policy Management
- World Bank

Recent alumni
Georgia Michailidou received her PhD in experimental economics in 2018, researching economic morality using laboratory and field experiments. She is now a Postdoctoral Associate at NYU Abu Dhabi and an Affiliated Researcher at LISER in Luxembourg.

Martina Magli completed her PhD during 2019, researching trade in services and its effects on the labour market in the UK. After a stint at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford, she starts her position as Assistant Professor at Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich in autumn of this year.

Mohamed Diaby also completed his PhD in 2019, studying topics in macro and monetary economics. He will join the International Monetary Fund as an Economist later this year.

“At Nottingham, I cemented my understanding of economics and developed skills in numerical general equilibrium modelling – a method used to evaluate sectoral and regional impacts of economic policies. I’ve used these skills throughout my career, even though the focus of my research has changed from trade policy issues to the analysis of climate and energy policies.”

Niven Winchester, PhD Economics
Environmental Energy Economist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Renowned research centres

Much of our research is channelled through research centres. You can get involved in a working paper series or attend a range of seminars and conferences throughout the year, organised through the school and each centre.

Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade
Director: Professor Oliver Moroney
Through this centre, we focus on economic policies in developing countries, especially relating to international trade, poverty, foreign aid, agriculture and commodity markets.

Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy
Director: Professor Giovanni Facchini
Since we first established this centre 20 years ago with core funding from the Leverhulme Trust, we have used scientific and policy-focused research techniques to examine trade, FDI and labour market issues. We are particularly interested in the links between changes in patterns of international trade, cross-border investment and production, international regulation and labour market outcomes. Our latest project explores China and the world economy.

Centre for Finance, Credit and Macroeconomics
Director: Professor Paul Mizen
We look at issues arising from household and corporate debt through the centre, alongside default on debt and against a wider backdrop of credit markets and macroeconomy. Our interests lie in theoretical and applied public economics and policy evaluation, with a particular focus on public economic theory, political economy, pensions, retirement and consumer finance, economics of education, health economics, and environmental policy.

Granger Centre for Time Series Econometrics
Directors: Professor Steve Leybourne and Professor David Harvey
Our Granger Centre has been recognised as one of the leading research organisations in its field. Under this umbrella, we provide and facilitate rigorous theoretical, applied and computational research methods. We are currently focusing on non-stationary time series methods, bootstrap and other numerical methods in time series, and panel data methods and applications.

Centre for Decision Research and Experimental Economics
Director: Professor Chris Starmer
Our behavioural and experimental economics research, and experimental economics laboratory, is based within this centre, which is one of the largest of its kind in Europe. We examine individual and interactive decision-making through a combination of theoretical and experimental methods. On the theory side, this involves investigating individual choice under uncertainty, cooperative, non-cooperative and evolutionary game theory, and political economy. We apply experimental methods in, for example, the fields of social cooperation and sanctions, individual choice, strategic interaction, and the performance of auctions, markets and other economic institutions.

Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy
Director: Professor Giovanni Facchini
Since we first established this centre 20 years ago with core funding from the Leverhulme Trust, we have used scientific and policy-focused research techniques to examine trade, FDI and labour market issues. We are particularly interested in the links between changes in patterns of international trade, cross-border investment and production, international regulation and labour market outcomes. Our latest project explores China and the world economy.

Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Economic and Political Research
Directors: Dr Anja Neundorf and Professor Cecilia Testa
Established through a collaborative effort between the School of Economics and the School of Politics and International Relations, this centre brings our very distinct approaches together. We look at political institutions and public decision-making through examining representation, political behaviour, political economy and public policy, and quality of government.
The PhD experience

With expert supervision and additional research training, the School of Economics offers an excellent PhD programme.

A PhD is the most advanced form of postgraduate study. It is awarded on the successful completion of supervised research, final thesis and PhD defence (viva voce, verbal examination).

Expert teaching and supervision
Our academic staff conduct world-leading research across a wide range of subjects, so we can offer expert supervision in most areas of the discipline. You will be assigned two supervisors who will help ensure smooth progress of your research work.

For details of potential supervisors, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/economics/phd-supervisors

Skills development
During your first year, you will complete advanced-level taught courses in order to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for research in economics. These are examined and you must pass to progress to the second year of study.

Core modules taught in the first term are in micro, macro and econometrics. In the second term, you can choose from PhD modules covering advanced courses in macro, micro theory, applied econometrics, and behavioural economic research, as well as select MSc modules in trade theory and econometrics, among other topics.

Mastersclasses from visiting academic experts provide additional opportunities for training (for example, Petr Sedlacek, Oxford, and Pontus Rendahl, Cambridge, on computational macro, and Andres Rodriguez-Clare, Berkeley, on trade, industrial policy and welfare).

From your second year, you will focus in more detail on your research while continuing to have access to research and generic skills training provided by the School of Economics and the Graduate School. Training is provided for the preparation of articles for submission to academic journals and for applying for jobs in academia.

Dedicated facilities
The school offers full-time postgraduate research students their own workspace and IT equipment in dedicated rooms. The University has good library facilities, including areas for group work, individual and silent study.

The Graduate School provides research training and professional development for postgraduates and early career researchers, in line with the standards set out by the UK’s major research funders through their researcher development programme. It also provides access to a dedicated space on University Park, which includes computer stations, Wi-Fi, study and social areas, and kitchen facilities.

Student Services provide a range of support and information to enhance the student experience as part of a comprehensive network of University services that includes academic and disability support, counselling, financial support and childcare services.

The Students’ Union is an important source of support with their own Student Advice Centre and dedicated Postgraduate Officer.

From 2020, we plan to introduce a one-year stand-alone research degree, the MRes Economics, which will become the standard route onto the PhD programme. The programme combines intensive taught components with a dissertation intended to become the foundation for the first PhD thesis chapter.

Please check our website or contact us for further details: nottingham.ac.uk/economics

How to apply

Identifying a supervisor
Before you apply, include the details of potential supervisors to ensure we have a supervisor who shares an interest in your proposed area of research. On application, your proposal will be forwarded to academic staff to identify a suitable supervisor. For details of potential supervisors, please visit nottingham.ac.uk/economics/phd-supervisors

What we are looking for
We recruit PhD students on merit, so your past academic performance is the most important criterion to be considered. We review your performance at undergraduate and postgraduate level and ensure that your MSc covered advanced level training in micro, macro, and econometrics.

Your application
The application should include a brief research proposal – a statement identifying a research question and your expected contribution to the field, details of the methodologies and data (if relevant) you plan to use, along with a discussion of the relevant literature published in leading international journals.

Your application must be supported by academic references; at least one from the masters programme you completed, which should comment on your suitability for and commitment to study economics at PhD level, as well as on your ranking within the student cohort.

You should provide information on how you plan to fund your studies, in particular which scholarships you have applied or plan to apply for. You can add a personal statement in the relevant section of the application form. If you wish to give us more insights into your experience and skills, a current CV is also useful.

Tuition fees
Tuition fees are listed on our online course pages and at nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements
Applicants typically require an ESRC-recognised masters for international equivalent in economics, with an average of 62% or above. The school is currently looking at introducing a new research-based qualification (MRes Economics) which we hope to launch in 2020. The MRes will become the standard entry route to our PhD programme.

EU and international applicants
At Nottingham, our global community is made up of staff and students from more than 150 countries. Staff regularly travel to meet prospective students, hosting events in China, Ghana, India, Malaysia and more. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/country/

If you need a visa to study, the University can provide all the information and advice you need. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/student-visa

For country-specific information including entry requirements, contact details and representatives, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/yourecountry

English language requirements
For applicants whose first language is not English, we require IELTS 7.0 (no less than 6.0 in any element). For more information and a list of the alternative English language requirements we accept, see nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Academic English preparation and support
Accredited by the British Council for the teaching of English in the UK, the University’s Centre for English Language Education provides high-quality preparation and support.

Our preessional courses can take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to doctoral study without retaining IELTS equivalent. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/alternativerequirements

Home from home
We guarantee all new postgraduate students University-arranged, single-occupancy accommodation for one year to help make your move to Nottingham as simple and stress free as possible. To qualify for the guarantee, you must accept a place on one of our postgraduate courses and apply for accommodation by the data specified on our website. Find out more about our accommodation, including details of our guarantee at nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Equal opportunities policy
The University aims to create the conditions whereby students and staff are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, age, socio-economic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

Funding your studies
There are many ways to fund your research study including studentship opportunities. The School of Economics offers a number of full-time PhD studentships covering a maintenance stipend and UK/EU tuition fees for four years, subject to satisfactory progress.

Applications are invited for any area of economics offered in the school; successful students will be asked to work as teaching assistants during the course of their studies. For more information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/economics/phd-finance

International scholarships are also available for specific countries and regions. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/go/research-scholarships
University of Nottingham

At the University of Nottingham, we deliver exceptional teaching, led by research that solves global challenges.

We are International and Sports University of the Year, according to The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, and consistently ranked among the world’s top 100 universities by QS. Research at Nottingham generates discoveries, many of which have profound social, economic and cultural benefits. The latest Research Excellence Framework ranked us 8th in the UK for research power. Our cutting-edge facilities, leading academics and industry connections offer opportunities to develop your potential.

As a postgraduate student, you will be supported academically and personally. Our experienced staff can advise you on issues ranging from your course to finances, wellbeing and career planning.

Once you have completed your studies, you will become part of a global network of 280,000 alumni. You will be invited to exclusive events and will also benefit from lifetime access to our Careers and Employability Service.

Inspirational location
Home to the School of Economics, the Sir Clive Granger Building is named in honour of the 2003 Nobel Prize winner who was a student and member of staff at Nottingham for over 20 years.

City life
As the commercial and cultural capital of the East Midlands, Nottingham is home to several major UK employers, including Walgreens Boots Alliance, Experian, Capital One, E.ON and the Inland Revenue.

Many large blue-chip companies and prominent organisations have offices in and around the city and the University has strong links with many of them, including Rolls-Royce, based nearby in Derby.

Nottingham is an old city with a rich history, taking in the legends of Robin Hood, its role in the English Civil War and the industrial revolution. You can explore the ancient caves beneath your feet, or take a relaxing walk through Wollaton Park and visit its imposing Elizabethan hall, which appeared as Wayne Manor in the Batman film The Dark Knight Rises.

Nottingham’s music venues include something for everyone. The legendary Rock City hosts top rock and indie acts, Motorpoint Arena attracts nationwide music and comedy tours, while venues such as Rescue Rooms and the Bodega Social Club showcase the latest alternative acts. The Royal Concert Hall at the Theatre Royal also hosts opera and classical concerts.

As well as the University’s arts centre and museum, you’ll find a selection of contemporary and traditional art galleries in the city. There are multiplex cinemas and independent screens such as Broadway, offering the best in arthouse and world cinema. The city has two large theatres, as well as smaller venues including those with regular comedy nights. Nottingham is also a UNESCO City of Literature. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

“...The school is brilliant. Every staff member makes sure that you learn at every stage and that Nottingham always feels like a home from home. I came from India, but I never felt away from home. There are seminars almost every day, and they help you develop in every aspect of economics and expand your knowledge beyond what you learn in your coursework.”

Natasha Agarwal, PhD Economics
Consultant, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

nottingham.ac.uk/economics

The School of Economics is based on the beautiful University Park Campus – take a virtual tour at nottingham.ac.uk/virtualnottingham

Winner of the Green Flag award for 16 consecutive years

Nottingham is ranked in the top 100 universities worldwide
QS World University Rankings 2019

Inspiring research portfolio worth £799m