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.

“I've been in Nottingham for more than five years, and the memories are just too numerous to list! I love the campus, which really is a park, and I love the friendly environment of the school. I've made a lot of lifelong friends here – not just among my fellow students but among the staff – and these are obviously gifts that I'll treasure forever.”

Kian Ong, PhD Economics Research Fellow, University of Melbourne
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

“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

![Chart based on known destinations of full-time PhD graduates from the School of Economics between 2007 and 2016.](chart.png)
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 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.

**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.

**Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade**

*Director: Professor Oliver Morrissey*

Through this centre, we focus on economic policies in developing countries, especially relating to international trade, poverty, foreign aid, agriculture and commodity markets.

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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, verbal examination and final thesis.

Expert teaching and supervision

We are a large and culturally diverse school and you will benefit from being taught and supervised by globally renowned research-active academics.

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 compulsory and recommended taught modules. In the first semester you will take core modules in microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics, in order to acquire the necessary skills and background knowledge for your research. In the second semester, the compulsory modules cover more advanced material. Moreover, in discussion with your supervisor you will be recommended modules that are relevant to your research interests.

In subsequent years further advanced training is provided, mainly via intensive courses lasting one or two weeks, delivered by visiting lecturers who are world leaders in their field.

You will also have the opportunity throughout your degree to undertake research and generic skills training, provided by the School of Economics and the Graduate School.

Our seminars and workshops allow you to engage with top international academics in various fields. Each year, masterclasses on specific themes are held by leading researchers who visit the school.

You will be encouraged to present papers at external conferences, and funds are available to support you with this. There is a weekly seminar series and an annual conference where you will present your work to academic staff and fellow students.

Research focus

From your second year, you will focus in more detail on your research. Training is provided for the preparation of articles for submission to academic journals and for applying for jobs in academia.

Economics research areas include:
- Behavioural economics
- Development economics
- Economic policy
- Econometrics
- Environmental/resource economics
- Experimental economics
- Financial economics
- International economics/finance/trade
- Macro/microeconomics
- Political economy
- Public economics

Dedicated facilities

In addition to IT facilities provided by the University, the school offers full-time postgraduate research students their own workspace in dedicated rooms.

You will be provided with computer, printing and photocopying facilities and will have a generous printing and photocopying allowance.

PhD programme

How to apply

Identifying a supervisor

Before you apply, consider 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

Tuition fees

For the most up to date fee information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/fees

Entry requirements

Applicants typically require an ESRC-recognised masters (or international equivalent) in economics, with an average of 63% or above.

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/international/meetus

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/yourcountry

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

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

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 presessional courses can take your English language and academic skills to the level you need to progress to doctoral study without retaking IELTS or equivalent. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/cele

Home from home

We guarantee all 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 a specified date. Find out more about our accommodation, including the most up to date 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.
A world-class university

The University of Nottingham has campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia, and an outstanding reputation for ground-breaking research and teaching excellence.

Research at Nottingham generates discoveries, many of which have profound social, economic and cultural benefits and address major global challenges. Our postgraduate students make significant contributions to this pioneering work and can get involved in projects which have been rated internationally excellent.

Once you have completed your studies, you will become part of our family of 270,000 alumni in all corners of the globe. You can enjoy benefits including invitations to exclusive events, lifetime access to our Careers and Employability Service and access to a network which may prove invaluable in your future career.

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, the 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 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

"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

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Inspiring research portfolio worth £799m