



The University of  
Nottingham

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# Economics@Nottingham

School of Economics newsletter 2015



## Study abroad experiences

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**Impressive graduate destinations**  
Find out where our recent graduates are working

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**Exciting overseas experiences**  
Read about our students' experiences studying abroad

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Quick news

# Welcome to the School of Economics



Professor Kevin Lee.

The School of Economics is a vibrant community with both academic and social events filling the year. This newsletter will give you a flavour of some of these and I'm sure you will find it interesting reading.

Staff in the school are engaged in the latest research in their fields, and we convey this to students through our teaching as well as a range of other activities organised around our research centres. The School of Economics is one of the largest in the UK and has been judged as one of the strongest in research – this means we are able to offer a very wide range of specialist options on our degree programmes, all taught by leaders in the sector.

We also pride ourselves in the way in which we encourage students to think critically and undertake their own research, with seminar work and one-to-one supervision leading to dissertations in the final year of undergraduate degrees and in the summer of masters programmes.

One of the highlights of studying Economics at Nottingham is the range of opportunities we offer to study abroad as part of your degree. We are a truly global university, with campuses in China and Malaysia where you can spend a semester. You can also spend part of your degree at other leading universities around the world, as part of the Universitas 21 and Erasmus schemes. You can read more about our students' experiences abroad on pages 4-5.

Our students are very well-regarded by employers and our undergraduates are highly successful in obtaining internships with top firms in the UK and overseas during the summer months after the second year, which very often lead to a graduate job offer. Our graduate average starting salary is one of the highest in the University and the country. You will see some of our most recent graduate destinations on page 7 of this newsletter.

Those of you who have decided to study with us will be sure to find your experience at Nottingham fulfilling and rewarding. For those of you who are still thinking about it, contact us using the details on the back page of this newsletter and let us know if we can be of any help to you in coming to a final decision. If you have graduated from Nottingham, please keep in touch – we love to know what our alumni have gone on to do, and to celebrate your successes.

## Professor Kevin Lee

Head of School and Professor of Economics

*Front cover image:* Student Jake Walker snorkelling at the Great Barrier Reef while on a U21 exchange to UNSW, Sydney. Read about his experiences on page 4.

# Nottingham Economics and Finance Society (NEFS)

The Nottingham Economics and Finance Society (NEFS) is one of the biggest and most active societies on campus, with many prestigious sponsors, exciting events and exclusive opportunities.

This year NEFS have welcomed 13 big name sponsors including RBS, PwC, Barclays, and Rothschild. The society has run many events with our sponsors, from CV clinics, to networking drinks, and exclusive brunches. We held a trip to London's financial district to tour the trading floor of RBS, network with the alumni of Credit Suisse, and develop personal brands at ICAP.

NEFS also organised a trip to Prague, and hosted a Financial Forum Conference with speakers including leading figures in government and finance. The opportunities we are able to provide through our work with our sponsors has helped many students secure places on incredibly competitive internship and graduate programs.

If you want to get more involved with the society, you can apply to join one of the four Finance Divisions within NEFS:

- The Equity Fund offers the opportunity to experience investing first hand, and even make money!
- The Research Division produces weekly wrap-up newsletters that are widely published, and cover macroeconomics and financial developments.
- The Corporate Finance team enables members to learn about working in the Mergers and Acquisitions department of an investment bank.
- The Women in Finance team holds events with our sponsors to encourage women to pursue finance careers.

NEFS work closely with the Nottingham School of Economics and from 2015 all Nottingham Economics undergraduates will automatically have free membership of the society.

*Written by Josh Martin, BA Economics second year*

## NEFS sport

The Nottingham Economics and Finance Society (NEFS) netball team have had a great year, coming third in both semesters in division one.

It was great to see many new players join from first year, creating a stronger and more versatile team. The definite highlight of the year was winning against the seventh University netball team, 17-12. An added bonus was a new team kit, reflecting the colours of NEFS.



The NEFS netball team.

We are looking forward to a new league and future students joining us in the new academic year.

The NEFS football team, captained by Toby Katz, won 13 out of 15 games this season and topped the league.



The NEFS football team.

*Team members:* Harriet Grant (Captain), Kate Starkey (Vice Captain), Charlotte Bradbury, Charlotte Casserly, Vicky James, Ellie Duffy, Kristine Sim, Rebecca Moss, Emily Heath, Tanvi Shah, Phoebe Dyer, Amy Robinson, Katie Harvey, Gabby Paul, and Sophie Cowper.

*Team members:* Toby Katz (captain), Jonty Parsons (vice-captain), Josh Martin, Dom Moir, Aaron Roberts, Albert Neuendorf, Bode Bamkole, David Dean, James Balzan, Matt Shevlane, Ali Blackhouse, Peter Benson, and James Fitzgerald.



PhD conference at Nottingham, April 2015.

## Postgraduate news

In 2014, one of our PhD students, Salamat Ali, presented an initial draft of the first chapter of his PhD thesis on trade costs and trade composition in developing countries in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) inaugural conference on trade facilitation held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Senior policy makers from the World Bank, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the WTO and Customs administrations around the globe participated in this event.

This year he will be presenting his work about the impact of exchange rate on firms trading agricultural commodities in the annual meeting of Canadian Economic Society.

Currently, Mr Ali is helping the Economic Policy Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, in analysing the role this organisation in promoting the flow of goods, services and investment in the former British colonies.

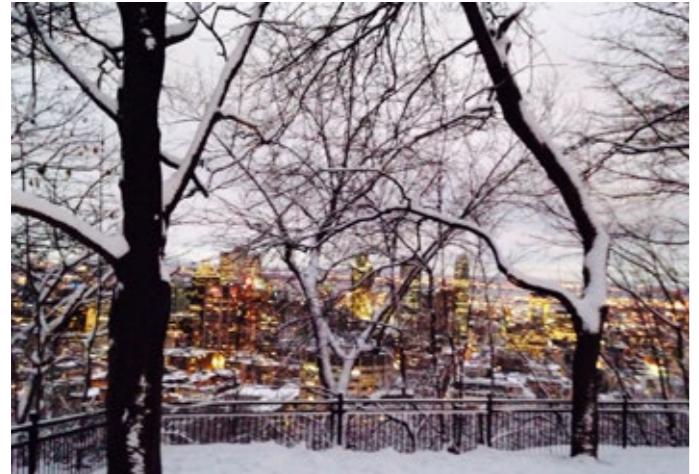
## Sporting achievements

- Petros Djakouris (third year) participated in the UK's first national student fitness competition, Mr University. He finished third in the athletics division.
- Francesca Miller (third year) is President of The University of Nottingham's Women's Football Club.
- Harry Martin (third year) played hockey for Great Britain in the 2012 Olympics and has set his sights on Rio for 2016.
- James Gall (first year) and Joe Sharp (third year) are both in the GB U21 hockey squad.
- Liam McTiernan (first year) is ranked 10th in the UK for table tennis in the U21 age range and is in the GB squad.

Find out more about all the different university sports clubs you can join at: [www.su.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk)

# Study abroad experiences

Some of our students tell us about their study abroad experiences in countries across the world.



Montreal, Canada.

## Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Taran Kler, BA Economics (second year)

Montreal is the most amazing, diverse city I have ever gone to. I met hundreds of people who were just as friendly as the stereotype.

Freshers week, called 'frosh week' there, was completely different to any in the UK, and included beach parties, camping parties and BBQ events. The food is incredible (from all parts of the world) and my new favourite food became 'schwarma' from a small late night restaurant called Boustans.

One of the most amazing parts of Montreal is the casino which is so big it is on a separate island. However, the best part about the city was 'Mont Royal' which is a huge hill overlooking the whole of Montreal. The day before I left to return home, I stayed up there all night with my friends and watched the sunrise on the city.

The most memorable part of my trip were the people who made every day of my trip honestly incredible and one of the best experiences I've ever had.

## Internship in Barcelona, Spain

Chiara Peluso, Economics with Hispanic Studies (third year)

I decided to spend my year abroad in Barcelona, on an internship with the British Chamber of Commerce in Spain. Here I hold the role of Membership Officer, which entails the organisation of events for our members which range from large companies such as Burberry, EY, and Ferrovial, to small businesses such as law firms and consultants.

I also spend a lot of my time contacting and conducting meetings with businesses who I find have interests in Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as doing a lot of translation for our website and newsletter.

This internship has been a fantastic opportunity to meet high profile people in a range of business sectors, and living in Barcelona has made it an unforgettable year.

## University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Jake Walker, BA Economics (second year)

Study abroad was an opportunity that I would recommend everyone to apply for! It's easy to make friends with Australians, and others on exchange from universities worldwide. The course out there is very similar and there are always people who you can speak to if you need help.

Living in Sydney was amazing and there was so much to do, whether it was whale watching, climbing a pirate ship on the harbour, visiting the zoo to see kangaroos and koalas, watching an AFL game or taking a ferry to Manly beach. The main thing about studying abroad is about having new experiences and just enjoying yourself.

Getting a job isn't too hard, and in Australia, the wages are very high with most jobs paying between £15 and £20 an hour for a shop assistant or bar attendant. I was a bar attendant at the racecourse opposite University and it was easy to manage alongside everything else, to help for some extra travel money, for a weekend trip to the Great Barrier Reef or for my mid-term break holiday to Thailand.

## Granada, Spain

Aarath Shah, Economics with Hispanic Studies (third year)

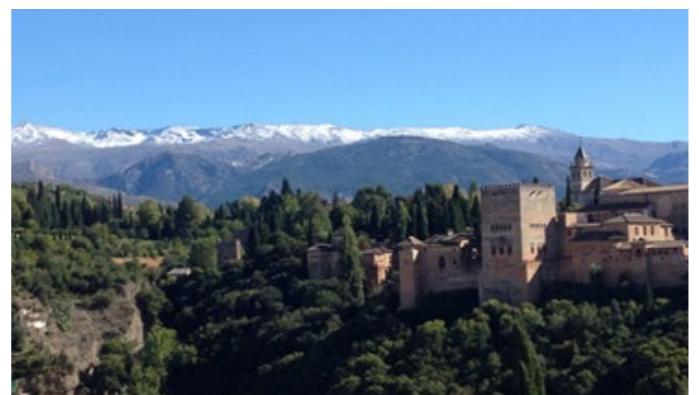
"My year abroad has definitely been the best year of my life" – a cliché that you'll hear all the time from anyone who has been on a year abroad – but it's true!

At first, Granada was a culture shock; being from busy London and then finding myself in a small relaxed Andalusian town – where everything is closed during siesta (2-5pm) and on Sundays – was a challenge. But this is soon forgotten.

Granada has it all – you can go skiing in the snowy Sierra Nevada and to the beach all on the same day! It is one of the last places in Spain to continue the true tradition of tapas – that is, when you buy a drink you get a free tapa which is perfect on a student budget!

Granada's Moorish past is still alive today: you can go from hearing Spanish in the strong Andalusian accent (incomprehensible more often than not) to Arabic in the teterías (tearooms) along Calle Elvira.

Granada is a fantastic place to meet other students from all over the world and there is a lot to see and do here. For me, the biggest highlight of studying here is the opportunity to travel: I've been able to go to many Andalusian towns such as Seville, Cordoba and Ronda, and to Gibraltar, Portugal and Morocco as well.



The Alhambra Palace from the viewpoint, Mirador de San Nicolás.



Capitole de Toulouse, home to the town hall and theatre.

## Toulouse, France

Zenab Haq, Economics with French, third year

This year I've been studying at the Toulouse School of Economics (TSE) in the sunny south of France. When applying to study abroad, I had a choice between going to Lille, Poitiers, and Toulouse. So why did I choose Toulouse?

Here are just a few of the many reasons:

- It's the fourth largest city in France
- Toulouse is ranked number one student city by L'Étudiant
- TSE ranks among the world's 10 best research centres in economics

Now you know how great Toulouse is, here are eight things to consider, if you too want to study there:

### 1. Immersion

In order to completely immerse yourself in a language, you need to be speaking French wherever, whenever and as much as you can. Whether that means sparking conversation before/after lectures, joining a society or befriending the French people in your accommodation, just make sure you are always speaking French.

### 2. Accommodation costs

Rent is relatively cheap in Toulouse, with the added help of CAF (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales) which is a sum of money from the French government to help pay for accommodation costs. The process is long, hard and involves a lot of paperwork, but you could be entitled to almost 170 euros per month.

### 3. Transport

The city has great transport links, including the metro, tram and buses. As a student, unlimited travel (on any mode of transport) will only cost you 10 euros per month with your Carte Pastel (similar to an Oyster Card).

### 4. Jean Tirole

TSE's Professor Jean Tirole was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2014 for his analysis of market power and regulation. If you're lucky, you'll be taught by him.

### 5. Transferring money abroad

Depending on your bank, transferring money and using your bank card abroad can be expensive. My solution was to get a travel money card from the Post Office UK which I can transfer money to (free of charge) using my phone.

### 6. Travel

After lectures, your weekends are free and what better way to spend them than by travelling. Spain, Andorra and the French Riviera are at your doorstep being only a few hours away. A bus from Toulouse to Barcelona will cost you five euros. Otherwise car sharing is very popular in France with most people using BlaBlaCar through the website Covoiturage.fr. Personally, I have had only good experiences using it and if anything, it's a great way to practise your French with local people.

### 7. Lectures and exams

Each lecture is 90 minutes long and you will have around 15 hours of lectures in total per week. The content is comprehensive, easy to follow and definitely doable – if you choose your modules wisely. Inevitably, you will have exams and yes they will be in French (either oral or written) and yes you will be fine because...

### 8. ...You can always rely on Jo Morgan

Even if everything goes disastrously wrong, Jo Morgan (Undergraduate Admissions Officer and the Study Abroad Co-ordinator) is only an email away. Whether it's an accommodation crisis, exam crisis or any other form of crisis, (and I have had all of the above) you will always have someone there for reassurance and advice, should you ever need it.

# A peek at my week

Poppy Fox, first year BA Economics student, takes us through a week at Nottingham.



## Monday

This semester I have six hours of lectures on a Monday, as I chose to do two subsidiary modules from the Business School, so it's a rather full-on day.

Monday evening is usually film night. A trip to the Savoy is half the price of what it costs to go to the cinema back home in the Cotswolds, so my friends and I all take full advantage by going most weeks.

## Tuesday

On Tuesday mornings I have a lecture for the module 'Current Economic Issues'. This is my favorite module this semester as it covers topics such as China's growth and the 2008 financial crisis, which really interest me. I have a large gap between morning and afternoon lectures, so I go to the gym with a friend on my course.

Every Tuesday evening I receive maths tuition from a second year economics student as the 'Quantitative Economics' module is part of the course that I find hardest. I came to Nottingham without A-level maths and so this help gives me the extra support I feel that I need.

## Wednesday

On Wednesdays I have another 'Current Economic Issues' lecture, again at 9am. I have up to four 9am starts this semester which I've found rather difficult adapting to, as last semester lectures often started in the afternoon. On the plus side, it means I never miss breakfast in halls and generally my days are much more productive as I wake up earlier.

I will often play netball for my hall on a Wednesday afternoon, which is a great way to socialise whilst keeping fit too.

On Wednesday evenings I meet with the other members in my Equity Fund Division; this is a sector within the Nottingham Economics and Finance Society (NEFS). Each week we propose a new stock that we would be interested in investing in (each member puts in £200 of their own money at the start of the year). This has been a great opportunity to get involved with, as it has developed my understanding of markets hugely.

**"I don't think there is such a thing as a typical week as an Economics student at The University of Nottingham. Every week is different."**

**Poppy Fox**  
BA Economics student

## Thursday

Typically I have this day free, with the exception of some weeks where there is another 'Current Economic Issues' lecture. I usually use this as my day to complete all tutorial work and read through all the notes I've made in lectures during the week.

On Thursday evening, I attend a Junior Common Room (JCR) meeting. I'm Social Sec for my hall so I am responsible for organising events for the hall and liaising with hall management to make sure we have the go ahead with any future plans. This role has been quite time demanding recently as our JCR is organising two weeks of activities for our hall after the end of exams and each event has to have several forms submitted and approved by the Students' Union in advance.

## Friday

All my tutorials take place on a Friday, which makes Friday quite a busy day, but often the most productive and successful. I feel that I benefit a lot from tutorials as it reinforces what I've learnt in the lectures as well as giving me the chance to clarify anything that I haven't understood. I like to celebrate the end of the week by going clubbing with my friends.

## The Weekend

My closest friends from home are at Leeds and Newcastle University, so we take it in turns to visit one another every other weekend. On weekends when I am in Nottingham, Saturday is often unproductive due to a late Friday night, but I'll make up for it on Sunday, by spending most of the day in the library, either catching up on any lectures I was unable to attend in the week or completing the extra reading. On the odd occasion, I play hockey for the hall in the afternoon if there aren't enough players.

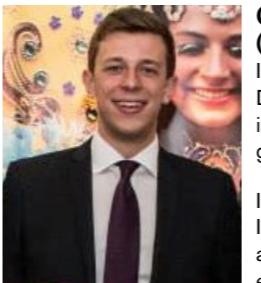
I know that I've described my typical week to you, but I don't think there is such a thing as a typical week as an Economics student at The University of Nottingham. Every week is different. For example, if I had written this a month ago, this would have included finishing applications and preparing for interviews to Spring Week programmes. Whereas, next year, I'll hopefully be in Malaysia studying at the Nottingham campus.

So, whilst this is an insight into my typical week and outlines a few aspects that occur every week, every day studying Economics at Nottingham has been a different experience, but it has been an experience that I am enjoying thoroughly and one I know that I will continue to enjoy in my final two years.

# Professional development

At Nottingham our students acquire a range of economic and transferable skills, enabling them to enter careers in diverse areas such as government, international agencies, private sector organisations and education.

## Student profiles



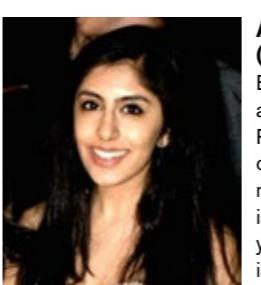
### Christopher Reeve, BA Economics (third year)

I was lucky enough to be accepted onto the Deloitte Scholar scheme in London which involved seven months' full time work in my gap year before going to university.

I worked in the audit service line within the Infrastructure Services and Real Estate team and really enjoyed the experience. I had exposure to three of the biggest clients in the department. My work ranged from producing long-term business plans for five airports, including Heathrow, to being part of year-end audit teams which audited all aspects of the client balance sheet and profit and loss accounts.

Since then I have undertaken three other placements during summer and Easter breaks, ranging from strategy consulting to mergers and acquisitions within corporate tax.

I have used my contacts within the London office to explore the possibility of obtaining a graduate role overseas and I am currently in the process of completing a move out to New Zealand to work in the Christchurch office.



### Anandi Thakrar, BA Economics (first year)

Being one of the 100 chosen out of 2,700 applicants for the Barclays Front Office Spring Program was daunting, but it presented an opportunity to challenge myself and find out more about possible career paths. This week is for first years (or second years on a four year course) and is designed to give you an insight into what a career in the Front Office would be like.

It consisted of work shadowing, case studies from different divisions and a trading game (I had done a similar task in the Nottingham Economics and Finance Society). There was also networking, group presentations and mini interviews to assess your suitability for an internship.

At the beginning of the week I wanted to go into markets (specifically sales) and during the middle, I wanted to go into wealth management, because I wanted more client contact.

However, when I work shadowed in equity research, I did not expect to enjoy it so much. My perception of it changed – I did not realise how client facing the role was, nor the depth that is needed, especially when conducting research into pharmaceutical companies. I enjoyed the week more and more as it progressed, and came out feeling confident, informed and satisfied.

## Graduate destinations

These are some examples of where our students will be going after graduation this year:

### HM Revenue and Customs

- Fergus Claridge

### Telefonica Digital

- Anna Clarke (Anna will eventually be based in Spain, South America or San Francisco)

### Rolls Royce

- Vivek Panchmatia

### Deutsche Bank

- Scott Hayden

### L'Oréal

- Katie Harvey

### Macquarie Funds Group

- Aisha Natamkar

### Fidelity Worldwide Investments

- Genie Huang

### RBS

- Sarah Aird

### Goldman Sachs

- Amelia Derry

### De Vere Group

- Ajay Jones

### HSBC

- Lucinda Goldklang
- Georgina Coleman
- Anjali Rao

### Self-employed

- Tom Lansdowne and Louis Adams co-founded a start-up business, London Accent Ltd, while on their year abroad in Paris. They will both be working on this full-time.

## MSc student destinations

Destinations of some of our MSc students:

- Noemi Schramm moved to Sierra Leone for an ODI fellowship and is now heading up the Health Financing Unit, trying to fight the Ebola outbreak, among other things
- Clotilde Mahe is doing a PhD at the University of Maastricht, researching migration and entrepreneurship
- Cindy Smith is an analyst at KPMG in their infrastructure strategy team
- Jade Siu is an analyst at the FAO in Rome and is then starting a PhD in agricultural economics at the University of Kent

# Quick news

## Staff news

- Dr Silvia Sonderegger acts as principal academic advisor in the cross-government project 'Understanding the Behavioural Drivers of Organisational Decision Making'.
- Dr Tim Lloyd sits on the Economic Advisory Panel of DEFRA, and will be President of the Agricultural Economics Society next year.
- Dr John Gathergood advises the Financial Conduct Authority on the design of a price cap for payday loans.

### Saying goodbye

Academics come and go, as is common in universities. However, special goodbyes will be said this year to two academics who started in the school as PhD students together in 1987, and are leaving this summer:

Dr Tim Lloyd is taking up a chair in the University of Bournemouth, and Professor Wyn Morgan is going to be Pro-Vice Chancellor for Learning and Teaching at the University of Sheffield. It really is the end of an era!

## PhD successes

Congratulations to the following students who passed their PhDs this year:

- Marta Barazzetta
- Frank Agyire-Tettey
- Milan Vanko
- Sara Ornati
- Joerg Weber
- Susan Kavuma Namirembe



## Student ambassadors

Thank you to this year's team of cheerful student ambassadors, who help out at all our UCAS Visit Days, University open days, and our annual sixth form conference.

## Charity cake sale

**Every year, we raise money for Comic Relief and Children in Need by holding a cake sale in the Sir Clive Granger Building.**

Over the two events this year, we have raised over £400. That is a lot of cakes!

Edible contributions came pouring in from students and staff alike, and volunteers gave up their time to man the stall.



Students Johanna Kristjansdottir and Nicola Mounteney helping out at the Comic Relief cake stall, March 2015.

## Annual Economics Sixth Form Conference

Every June we host a free conference for sixth formers from the local area, and from schools and colleges in Northampton, Lincoln, Bedford and Birmingham.

Activities include a loud, chaotic and interactive trading game, as well as taster lectures.

Lectures this year included:

- "Why Do Food Prices Matter?"
- "Trade, Growth and the Environment"
- "Winners and Losers from Globalisation"
- "Payday Lenders: Heroes or Villains?"
- "What is Economics Really About?"

## Prize winners

Congratulations to the following students who won prizes at Graduation 2014.

- Best first year:** Jan Spolenak
- Best second year:** Agata Kasicka
- Best third year:** Andrea Bernini and Anastasis Andreou
- Best dissertation:** Stephen Moses and Adam Greenberg
- Entrepreneurship prize:** Sandy Tsin
- Essay prize:** Kevin Sharp, Euan Ritchie, Wing Wilson Chow and Justin Beresford

## Staff Oscars

In this year's Staff Oscars, run by the Students' Union, Professor Richard Upward received the Oscar for Best Feedback. Hundreds of nominations are received each year for these coveted awards, so it's great to have one in the school again this year.

### Get involved

- [UoNEconomics](#)
- [@UoNEconomics](#)

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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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t: +44 (0)115 951 4591  
Produced April 2015. Undergraduate course information is available at:  
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