



Leverhulme Centre
for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy

Conference to highlight growing interest in economics

Conference briefing

The booming interest in economics in light of the global financial crisis is set to be demonstrated when GEP hosts its annual Sixth-Form Conference later this month.

The event was first staged in 2006 and quickly became so popular that last year it had to be doubled in size to accommodate the number of students wanting to take part.

Record numbers of budding economists are now expected to attend this year's back-to-back one-day conferences, which will take place on June 22 and June 23.

As ever, the idea is to give sixth-formers interested in studying economics a genuine idea of what is involved, courtesy of GEP's world-renowned team of academics.

This year's event comes at a time when, thanks to the global credit crunch and financial meltdown, the subject is attracting more attention than ever before.

It seems the stereotypical image of a deadly-dull academic manipulating complex equations has been blown apart by the all-enveloping drama of the crisis.

The University of Nottingham's School of Economics, which houses GEP, has seen a 29% increase in undergraduate applications from the UK.

There has also been a notable rise in applications from overseas as students clamour to learn the ins and outs of the global financial system – and where it all went wrong.

Professor Alan Duncan, Head of the School, said: "Our Sixth-Form Conferences have repeatedly shown the strength of interest in economics among students.

"But the level of curiosity has recently become quite extraordinary – and for that we can thank the credit crunch for raising the subject's profile sky-high.

"Prior to the downturn, economics stories were buried inside

the business sections of newspapers. However, current events have promoted the discipline of economics to the front page.

"More and more people are realising economics can be exciting and that the stakes are sometimes incredibly high. There's nothing boring about trying to save the world from meltdown."

GEP founder and long-time Director Professor David Greenaway – now the University's Vice-Chancellor – spearheaded the idea of the Sixth-Form Conference.

The inaugural event was so successful that the conference was enlarged in 2007. When even this produced a reserve list, two one-day conferences were introduced in 2008.

Each year a series of lectures and practical exercises gives students valuable insights into themes including globalisation, offshoring, trade and the environment, outsourcing and migration.

Professor Duncan said: "There's no doubt that the conference is already firmly established as one of GEP's core events, and we're extremely proud of the role it plays.

"It's also worth remembering that an economics degree can open up a range of careers, so even students who ultimately don't go on to economist jobs will benefit."

Conference highlights

June 22

Protectionism and the Global Recession (Professor Chris Milner)
The Economics of Migration (Dr Peter Wright)
Credit Crunch: What Caused the Financial Crisis? (Dr John Gathergood)
Globalisation and Growth (Dr Richard Kneller)
The International Trade Game (Dr Wyn Morgan)

June 23

On the Case for Free Trade (Professor Daniel Bernhofen)
Financial Crisis, Recession and the World Economy (Professor David Greenaway)
Will China Become the Next Economic Superpower? (Dr Zhihong Yu)
Offshoring and Jobs (Dr Richard Upward)
The International Trade Game (Dr Wyn Morgan)

Full details can be found at

<http://www.gep.org.uk/leverhulme/events/Conferences%20>

About GEP

GEP is based at the University of Nottingham and is substantially funded by grants from the Leverhulme Trust.

In January 2008 it opened GEP in Malaysia at the University of Nottingham's purpose-built Semenyih campus, 30km from Kuala Lumpur.

In November 2008 it launched GEP in China at the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, China.

GEP is keen to promote its research work and is committed to communicating its expertise through the media and to assisting journalists whenever able.

Website: www.gep.org.uk

University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham is ranked in the UK's Top 10 and the World's Top 70 universities by the Shanghai Jiao Tong (SJTU) and Times Higher (THES) World University Rankings.

It provides innovative and top-quality teaching, undertakes world-changing research and attracts talented staff and students from 150 nations. Described by The Times as Britain's "only truly global university", it has invested continuously in award-winning campuses in the United Kingdom, China and Malaysia.

Twice since 2003 its research and teaching academics have won Nobel Prizes. The University has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in both 2006 (International Trade) and 2007 (Innovation — School of Pharmacy).

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