Economics PhD programme
Welcome to the School of Economics

Based in the heart of England, the city of Nottingham is a great place to work and study. Home to a world-class university, it is a culturally diverse and thriving city.

Part of the University of Nottingham, 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.

The school attracts some of the very best students from across the globe, and has a 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
Why study with us?

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.

Career and professional development

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.
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.

Most academic staff are affiliated to at least one centre as internal fellows. We also have extensive networks of external fellows, drawn from other leading universities and the policy community around the world. As a postgraduate research student, you may be directly affiliated to a research centre, or indirectly linked through your research topic and supervisors.

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.

Centre for Research on Globalisation and Economic Policy
Director: Professor Giovanni Facchinini
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.

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.

Research interests

nottingham.ac.uk/economics/research
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.

Funding your studies

Applicants who do not have English as a first language require an IELTS of 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

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/internationalstudents/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

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/go/research-scholarships

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

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 a specified date. Find out more about our accommodation, including the most up to date details of our guarantee at nottingham.ac.uk/accommodation

Academic English preparation and support

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, socioeconomic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

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 scholarship 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.

Applicants 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

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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

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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, socioeconomic background, disability, religious or political beliefs, trade union membership, family circumstances, sexual orientation or other irrelevant distinction.

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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.

We are committed to excellence in teaching, research and student support, with expert academics who are passionate about their research areas.

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 250,000 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

Based in the heart of England, Nottingham is an old city with a rich history. You can explore the ancient caves beneath Nottingham Castle, or take a relaxing walk through Wollaton Park and visit its imposing Elizabethan Hall.

Music lovers can take their pick from the world-famous Rock City, Motorpoint Arena or one of the smaller gig venues for a more intimate live show. If you enjoy shopping, there are independent boutiques and vintage shops as well as high street names in our large shopping centres.

The city is also a hotspot for dining, with a mix of chain and independent cafes, restaurants and delis on offer. Offering world-class sports facilities such as Trent Bridge cricket ground and the National Water Sports Centre, there is something for everyone in Nottingham.

Getting here is easy, as the city is less than two hours from London, with excellent transport links to the capital and the rest of the UK. East Midlands Airport, one of the UK's fastest growing airports, is only 40 minutes from the city centre via a 24-hour bus service. Frequent rail services run from Nottingham to major UK cities, including London every 30 minutes. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamlife

Nottingham is ranked in the top 100 universities worldwide

QS World University Rankings 2018

“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

15
Green Flag awards
Setting the benchmark for parks and green spaces

10
11