

Economics

Final award	BA (HONS) ECONOMICS Certificate of Higher Education
Intermediate awards available	Diploma of Higher Education
UCAS code	L100
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Economics
Date specification last up-dated	October 2013

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
AKMI Metropolitan College, Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece	Single honours programme only with restrictions on the availability of option modules	No	Yes	Full-time and part-time in the Greek language

BANNER BOX:

The BA (Hons) Economics programme is aimed to provide students with a clear understanding of the principles and practices of economics so that they are able to make informed choices based on the understanding of the financial and economic environment and of the key institutions within it. Students will also be introduced to the key analytical techniques and skills required to interpret economic and financial events. Students reading BA Economics will have the opportunity to participate in our new Money, Banking and Finance module delivered on-site in the heart of Canary Wharf.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For admission, applicants normally need to have either:

- 280 Tariff points with at least two A2 passes or equivalent
- 25 points (pass) International Baccalaureate
- Pass in a recognised Access Course or International Foundation Programme

In addition to the above, we require GCSE Maths and English grade C or equivalents, unless competency is part of the qualification gained.

We also welcome mature student applicants with relevant professional qualifications, and these will be dealt with on an individual basis and may require an interview.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then an IELTS score of at least *5.5 in all components* (or equivalent). International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - AKMI Metropolitan College

Entry Requirements for students wishing to study at AKMI Metropolitan College, Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece:

- For students entering level 1 - the Greek Secondary School diploma (Apolytirion of Lykeio) with particular attention given to subject specific modules.
- Non-Greek nationals who have obtained this qualification through attendance in the Greek schooling system are eligible for admission on the same basis as Greek nationals.

- Greek nationals who have been schooled overseas may be admitted to the programme on demonstrating that:
 - They hold a qualification recognised by UEL for admission to undergraduate programmes in business.
 - They have demonstrated command of the Greek language through possession of an appropriate qualification recognised by the Greek educational authorities

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Why BA (Hons) Economics?

All individuals and societies must organise themselves to meet their material needs: this is '*economic life*'. But economic life is changing. It is becoming more interconnected, more networked across countries and more 'globalised'. Rapid growth of economic life in China, India and Brazil has moved millions out of poverty. Across the world, increasingly large business corporations coordinate the networks of economic life, shaping the opportunities for smaller businesses, setting the pace of change, influencing local communities in many different countries. Globally interconnected banks and money markets finance these business operations, operating 24 hours a day, every day. 'Economic' issues and events nightly make the news: of a widening gap between the rich and the rest, of some business corporations being 'too big to fail', of bankrupt governments and personal debt, of sudden shifts in the 'markets', of changing prices and changing numbers of jobless people.

As economic life changes and new economic events happen, an *understanding* of these issues and events and why they happen has never been more important. This degree is designed to help you *make sense* of the world, *be more effective* in this world and through this, help you *find your place* in the world.

By studying 'Economics' at the University of East London, you build up the ideas, explanations, techniques and experiences to help you make sense of this world. Economics offers an understanding of how financial markets (and many other markets) work- and why they can fail to work. Economics seeks to understand how individuals make decisions in a changing, uncertain world. Economics analyses the motives, strategy, performance and

relationships of different ‘species’ of business – from the very large to the very smallest. Economics provides an explanation of how national ‘economies’ work, how they are linked together and how well they provide jobs and a better quality of life. Economics explains what governments can do to influence the operation of markets, businesses and economies. Economics can help you understand why even expert professional economists can disagree about the role of markets, businesses and government in economic life. Economics can help you decide where you stand on these issues. As you do so, you begin to understand more clearly what you can offer to the world.

As you study Economics, you develop your mind, especially your powers of analysis. You will more easily see the larger picture in which events happen. You will know how to interpret and measure economic events and test economic ideas. You will have a better grasp of why economic events happen. You will be more aware of the reasons why different economic groups have different interests and perspectives on these events.

Employers *value* Economics graduates with these developed powers of analysis. Employers, communities and the wider society needs people who can make intelligent judgements in a rapidly changing world. Across over 40 years of economics at the University of East London, our Economics graduates have successfully moved into careers in a wide range of different occupations.

Economics at UEL

The programme delivered at UEL’s Docklands campus differs from similar programmes offered elsewhere in several ways.

First, this programme recognises the global context in which economic events occur and recognises the increased contestability of economic ideas within the economics discipline. The programme emphasises an integrated understanding of business behaviour with financial institutions and markets informed by a strong core of economic theory and policy analysis and a further core of institutional context and plural perspectives. The programme situates economic ideas in their institutional context (important in building students’ capacity for intelligent judgement) and offers a plurality of theoretical perspectives on economic events (important for building students’ awareness of their own values, so clarifying their personal sense of self and self direction, increasing study motivation and employability).

Second, the programme is offered by a dedicated and enthusiastic team of permanent lecturers. They draw on their experience from a wide range of countries.

Third, our students come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds which enhances classroom discussion and interaction as they contribute their views and experiences from a wide range of countries and cultures.

Fourth, the programme is taught at the Royal Docks Business School’s state-of-the-art Docklands Campus within easy reach of the City of London and Canary Wharf. Eligible students can, in their final year, choose one module studying within Canary Wharf itself, guided by a set of guest speakers in the areas of Money, Finance and Banking.

Fifth, students are able to gain international experience and exposure through our study abroad programmes in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Programme structure

BA (Hons) Economics is offered as a Single Honours, Joint, Major or Minor award and is normally completed in three years of full-time study. A part-time option over four-and-a-half to five years is also available but very few modules are taught in the evening. It is possible to switch between full-time and part-time mode, within the limits of timetabling although it is recommended that students speak with the school in depth about this due to the change in funding. At our overseas partners students will need to refer to their institution to check which modes of study are available to them. Please also note that overseas partners only offer single honours programmes.

In line with all RDBS undergraduate degrees, students undertake eighteen 20 credit modules to complete their degree. A small number of modules are shared with other business degrees (e.g. International Business, Business Management, Marketing) broadening the student experience and knowledge base by exposing students to new and alternative viewpoints in related fields of study.

There are three sets of core modules in each year: those that emphasise economics principles, those that emphasise finance and financial institutions and those that provide context with a particular emphasis on the global dimension to corporate activity. Optional modules including work-based learning, languages, a project and other economics or finance related subjects are available in Years 2 and 3. To further students' skills in the workplace, an optional placement of 9-12 months' duration is available between Years 2 and 3. However, at our overseas partners students will need to refer to their teaching institution and Programme Leader for further information on how the programme is delivered.

Details of the programme structure for Single Honours students are outlined below. Details for Combined Honours students can be found in the section 'What you will study and when'.

Year 1

- Developing as a Manager
- Global Business Environment
- Introduction to Economics
- Financial Services in the Modern World
- Accounting and its Regulatory Framework
- Analysing Business

Year 2

- Research in Business and Management
- International Economic Policy
- Macroeconomics and Money
- Microeconomics and Institutions
- Fundamentals of Finance
- One Option (See Option List for Year 2 on pages 11-12 below)

Year 3

- The Business Professional
- Public Finance
- International Macroeconomics and Finance
- Three Options (See Option Lists for Year 3 below)

Learning environment

The programme is offered at our Docklands campus where students can take advantage of our modern lecture theatres and seminar rooms, the contemporary and well-stocked library and wireless networking facilities. We will help students to maximise their potential and benefit from these powerful resources. Student learning is supported by our virtual learning environment which has the added benefit of improving your technology skills.

We will help where possible in assisting students to develop their academic and professional skills including researching, professional writing, team working and presentation techniques.

We also provide the opportunity to add an international dimension to the degree. Students can choose to study for one semester in Europe, Asia or the Americas as part of their degree and gain first-hand experience in a foreign learning and work environment. For students who are studying the programme at one of our overseas partners they will need to refer to their local teaching institution for information on whether this is available to them.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods will be used to evaluate students' learning and progress on the programme. The majority of assignments will be completed individually but some group work will also be undertaken to simulate the requirements of the work environment.

Assessment formats are generally a combination of individual coursework (including essays, presentations, tests, reports, case analyses, critical reviews of academic literature) and end of semester examination.

Weightings of coursework and examinations vary from module to module, though within the University's assessment template. In line with RDBS policy, Semester A First Year modules do not have an end of semester examination.

Each module is assessed separately, and assessment requirements and marking criteria are communicated to students at the start of each module. Only second and final year marks count towards degree classification.

Work experience/placement opportunities

Students have the opportunity to undertake a placement year between levels 2 and 3. They can also choose to undertake volunteering or a work-based learning module as an option at Level 3. For students who are studying the programme at one of our overseas partners they will need to refer to their local teaching institution for information on whether this is available to them.

Project work

In their final year of study, students have the opportunity to undertake a research project under the supervision of a member of staff. This allows them to produce an extended piece of work that is based on independent research in an area that is of particular interest to the student. Students' eligibility for the project will depend on staff evaluation of their Second Year performance.

Added value

The programme incorporates a distinctive skills curriculum that is specifically designed to develop students' skills for work and life and to improve their employment prospects after graduation.

To further enhance their attractiveness to future employers, students have the opportunity to obtain academic credits for practical work in a broadly economics-related volunteering activity or workplace.

Given academic performance in your second year, we can offer students taught at Docklands the opportunity to study a module at Canary Wharf itself, at the core of London's financial services industry. A range of invited expert guest speakers will each week cover today's central issues in finance, money and banking.

Students can choose to learn a foreign language and /or study overseas for one semester. However, at our overseas partners students will need to refer to their local teaching institution for information on whether this is available to them.

Students will discuss current issues in the UK and beyond with classmates from a wide a range of cultural backgrounds under the guidance of lecturers and tutors who have worked in various countries.

At Docklands students benefit from extensive library resources that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week onsite and online. FT.com, ESDS, Data-stream and Bloomberg databases are available to download financial and economic data and information. Many of the economics-related books are also available in electronic form to allow students easy access to lecture and seminar materials.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

It is if you are interested in....

- How economic ideas can be used to understand individual behaviour, business behaviour and performance, the operation of markets and national economies
- How financial markets and institutions affect individual opportunities, business performance and national economies
- How the globalisation of economic life affects individual opportunities, business behaviour, national economies and government policy
- How to recognise and interpret economic changes, how to measure them and how to predict and quantify future economic changes
- How economists test their ideas
- Why economists disagree

It is if you enjoy....

- Following economic and social events in the news
- Acquiring skills, identifying problems and finding solutions for them
- Understanding theories and applying them to real-world problems or issues

It is if you want....

- To develop a wide range of important employment-related skills
- To understand the reasons why economic life and society is changing
- To make intelligent assessments of the operation of businesses, markets, economies and their interactions
- To be able to make informed judgements about future actions in a personal, business-related or public policy context
- To understand why the interests and views of important economic decision makers in society can be different

Your future career

The Economics programme is designed to support future careers in any sector. Economics graduates have moved into a wide range of careers including occupations in for-profit private business, not-for-profit private organisations, the financial sector and the public sector (including the civil service and teaching at primary, secondary and higher levels).

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

1. Academic Support

- A personal tutor will be allocated to you for the duration of your degree who can advise you on academic and personal development matters.
- Module leaders and seminar tutors provide feedback on your progress in each module to assist with your learning.
- The programme leader can help if you have any programme-related issues.
- The subject librarian is available for any queries regarding the use of library resources for your research and can advise you on locating sources for relevant materials.
- The student representatives who study Economics in the same year as you can raise any concerns regarding the programme or individual modules with the teaching team on behalf of your student cohort.

2. Administrative Support

- The staff at the Royal Docks Business School Helpdesk will be able to answer the queries you may have about the operation of your degree. Overseas partners will have an equivalent dedicated person to refer to. Students at an overseas partner should refer to their institution for the local arrangements.
- At Docklands the Student Services team can assist with financial matters, health and wellbeing as well as offering support for students with a disability.

3. Support for Employability

- The Royal Docks Business School offers a range of opportunities to engage with industry through its lecture series.
- The Royal Docks Business School offers a mentoring scheme where you can benefit from the experience of a personal business mentor.
- Our employability team will recommend opportunities for work placements, assist with writing your CV and advise you on your interview skills and technique.

BONUSES OF STUDYING WITH US IN LONDON

The Docklands Campus

The Royal Docks Business School is located at our state of the art Docklands campus near London City Airport and the ExCel exhibition centre. The campus offers a large range of new student facilities including modern lecture theatres, IT labs and library.

Library

Our library is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the semester, allowing you to undertake your guided and independent research and reading when it is most suitable for you. We hold a wide range of Economics, Finance and Business journals that enable you to find relevant materials for your degree and beyond, thus supporting you in developing an extensive knowledge base. FT.com, ESDS, Data-stream and Bloomberg databases are also available to download financial and economic data and information. Many of the economics-related books are also available in electronic form to allow students easy access to lecture and seminar materials.

Study Abroad

During your second level you can study in Europe, Asia or the Americas. We have links to universities that offer their programmes in English and you will study modules which we have previously agreed. The grades obtained abroad will count towards your degree classification at UEL.

Canary Wharf Study

Given your academic performance in your second year, we can offer you the opportunity to study a module at Canary Wharf itself, at the core of London's financial services industry. A range of invited expert guest speakers will cover today's central issues in finance, money and banking.

2. Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Develop knowledge of 'core' economic theory;
- Apply this knowledge in areas relevant to business and non-business organisations, finance and public policy;
- Understand the methods of reasoning used by economists;

- Develop an understanding of individual and organisational decision-making and an awareness of the institutional and social context within which economic life occurs;
- Develop appropriate quantitative skills;
- Develop the ability to communicate economic ideas and to consider opposing ideas and interpretations;
- Build appropriate study skills and ability to make use of basic information technology skills;
- Build transferable skills in the form of the abilities to formulate and analyse problems, use relevant sources in seeking to clarify problems, reach reasoned conclusions, choose between available alternatives and present ideas coherently in both verbal and written form.

What will you learn?

Knowledge

You will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of the assumptions, logical structure, implications and limitations of core economic theory
- apply economic theory to the analysis of business and non business organisations, national and global financial structures and public policy
- demonstrate knowledge regarding the nature and development of key economic (and economics-related) institutions and socio-economic structures affecting the operation of business and non business organisations, national economies, the global economy and government.

Thinking skills

You will be able to:

- critically evaluate the relevance of diverse theories and concepts
- apply these theories and concepts to various topics
- discuss, evaluate and analyse government policies and assess the performance of the UK, other national economies and the global economy
- discuss the relationship between economic theory, the broader institutional context, and government policies

Subject-Based Practical skills

You will be able to:

- locate and interpret sources of information that will assist you in identifying and solving economic problems
- use quantitative skills in the identification and analysis of economic problems
- use industry-standard (e.g. Excel) software to solve problems
- apply the analytical techniques of economics to a range of issues and contexts

Skills for Life and Work (General skills)

You will be able to:

- identify gaps in your own knowledge and deliberately undertake steps to fill these
- identify, interpret and synthesise a range of theoretical and empirical data to develop a sophisticated and reasoned argument,
- undertake independent research and make practical recommendations based on the evaluation of different data sources,
- communicate effectively in written and oral form to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

3. The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help students understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

0 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme

1 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

2 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

3 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme

M equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is three years when attended in full-time mode or four-and-a-half to five years in part-time mode. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may affect the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and ends in June but some programmes also allow students to join at the start of Semester B, in February.

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to 80 credits in any academic year.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will take six 20 credit modules (or fewer, if any are 40 credit modules) per year. An honours degree student will complete modules totalling 120 credits at level one, modules totalling 120 credits at level 2 and modules totalling 120 credits at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one field with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

Single	120 credits at levels one, two and three
Major	80 credits at levels one, two and three
Joint	60 credits at levels one, two and three
Minor	40 credits at levels one, two and three

Table 1: Single Honours Programme Structure

Level/Year 1		Level/Year 2		Placement Option (not available at all overseas partners)	Level/Year 3	
Semester A	Semester B	Semester A	Semester B		Semester A	Semester B
Introduction to Economics	Accounting and its Regulatory Framework	Macro- Economics and Money	Micro- Economics and Institutions		International Macro- Economics and Finance	Option*: Recommended Options [see option list 2]
Financial Services in the Modern World	Global Business Environment	Fundamentals of Finance	International Economic Policy		Public Finance	Option*: Recommended Options [see option list 3] also include
Developing as a Manager	Analysing Business	Researching in Business and Management	Option*: Recommended Options [see module list 1] includes Languages		The Business Professional	Option*: Recommended Options [see option list 4] also include

Option list 1

- Introduction to Econometrics
- Principles of Investment
- Portfolio Analysis and Management
- Principles of Islamic Finance

Option list 2

- Money Banking and Finance
- Asset Pricing
- Governing Global Business

Optional module list 3

- Applied Econometrics
- Industrial Organisation and Regulation
- International Trade and Development
- Options, Derivatives and Risk

Optional module list 4

- Project
- Economics of Business Strategy
- Corporate Finance

Table 2: Combined Honours Programme Structure

LEVEL	TITLE	SKILLS	CREDITS	STATUS	STATUS	STATUS
		MODULES (insert Y where appropriate)		MAJOR	JOINT	MINOR
1	Global Business Environment		20	Core	Core	Core
1	Financial Services in the Modern World		20	Option	Option	
1	Developing as a Manager	Y	20	Core	Skills option	
1	Introduction to Economics		20	Core	Core	Core
1	Analysing Business		20	Option	Option	
1	Accounting and its Regulatory Framework		20	Option	Option	

LEVEL	TITLE	SKILLS	CREDITS	STATUS	STATUS	STATUS
		MODULES (insert Y where appropriate)		MAJOR	JOINT	MINOR
2	Macroeconomics and Money		20	Core	Core	Core
2	Fundamentals of Finance		20	Option	Option	
2	Research in Business and Management	Y	20	Core	Skills option	
2	Microeconomics and Institutions		20	Core	Core	Core
2	International Economic Policy		20	Option	Option	
2	Option		20	Option	Option	
	[Module list 1]					
3	The Business Professional	Y	20	Core	Skills option	
3	International Macroeconomics and Finance		20	Core	Core	Core
3	Governing Global Business		20	Core	Core	Core
3	Option		20	Option	Option	
	[Module List 2]					
3	Option		20	Option	Option	
	[Module List 3]					
3	Option		20	Option	Option	
	[Module List 4]					

Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an Honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an Ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher.

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

In order to gain an Associate Certificate you will need to obtain a minimum of 20 credits at level one or higher.

4. Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Class participation
- Guided, directed and general reading
- Guided and independent primary and secondary research

Thinking skills are developed through

- Preparation of tasks for lectures, seminars and workshops
- Seminar discussions
- Group work and peer learning
- Online discussions on set topics
- Completion of written and oral assignments

Practical skills are developed through

- Case study analysis
- Problem solving exercises
- Use of information technology

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Developing and defending ideas and arguments in class and assessments in different formats including essays, reports and presentations
- Managing time by meeting deadlines for ongoing work throughout the semester and assignments

Assessment

Assessments may be conducted individually or in groups.

	Knowledge is assessed by	Thinking skills are assessed by	Practical skills are assessed by	Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by
Exams	x	X		
Essays	x	X	x	x
Reports	x	X	x	x
Critical review of academic literature and business documents	x	X		x
Presentations	x	X	x	x
Case Study Analyses	x	X	x	x
Guided and moderated online discussion	x	X		

5. How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole Subject Area is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- notifications on the programme site in the Virtual Learning Environment

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire

- The Royal Docks Business School Advisory Board

6. Where you can find further information

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- Royal Docks Business School web pages (<http://www.uel.ac.uk/business/>)