Economics BSc (Hons) Programme Specification

Academic Entry Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Subject Benchmarks:	Economics (Quality Assurance Agency 2015)
Qualifications Framework:	HE Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (FHEQ: QAA 2014)
Target Degree Award:	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc Hons) Accounting and Finance [Level 6]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Ordinary Degree of Bachelor (BSc) [FHEQ Level 6] Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) [FHEQ Level 5] Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) [FHEQ Level 4]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Date(s):	September
Course Modes of Study:	(UCAS code L100) 3 years full-time (UCAS code L104) 4 years full-time with sandwich placement or study abroad (UCAS code L101) 4 years full-time with Integrated Foundation Year (UCAS code L105) 5 years full-time with Foundation and placement year. Partner entry only: 4-5 years full time (international incorporated Bachelors)

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. View our Student Contract for further details. Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Recent changes

1. April 2024: Updated options
2. July 2025: Annual Changes for 2025 entry, including changes to academic regulations and curriculum
3. April 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry including changes to options, admissions and study abroad.
4. November 2026: Fixed formatting glitch and cleared typos affecting legibility.

Programme Overview

Careers in economics are extremely diverse. Depending on the student's area of interest, an economics degree will help them enter a multitude of industries as a professional economist, or as another type of professional with an eye for economics. Their studies will equip them with all the

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necessary tools, including analytical and problem-solving skills, to analyse global economic phenomena. We provide excellent support and opportunities for students who wish to undertake an internship or study abroad as part of their studies. Our Economics degree is taught by staff who are experienced academics as well as having experience advising or working for numerous organisations. The programme is oriented towards research-led-teaching from academic staff with research interests in various fields including trade, economic integration, macroeconomic policy, finance, and accounting. Our staff are active in key economics networks and have an awareness of on-going developments (e.g. **CORE**) as well as working as external experts and external examiners in other institutions.

The BSc in Economics programme provides a structured approach to the discipline of economics that is informed by the Quality Assessment Agency for Higher Education (QAAHE) Benchmarking Statement in Economics 2015 with respect to the aims of the programme, subject knowledge and understanding, together with subject-specific skills including numeracy and quantitative skills. This programme has an emphasis on transferable skills in addition to subject knowledge and aims to develop skills in rigorous data analysis and communication.

The BSc in Economics aims to equip students with a thorough background to various aspects of economics, including microeconomics and macroeconomics, qualitative and mathematical research methods as well as to develop a deep knowledge of current global and national economic trends, institutions and policies, highlighting the link between theoretical aspects and real-world applications. Apart from core modules at each level of study the programme also offers a choice of complementary options from other subject disciplines.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

A1. Provide students with a thorough grounding in economic principles, concepts, theories, methods and tools.

A2. Give students strong foundations for further studies in economics and allied disciplines and equip them with the necessary skills for successful job employability.

A3. Provide students with an appreciation and understanding of the wider international economic context as well as knowledge and understanding of historical, political, institutional, international, social and environmental contexts in which specific economic analysis is applied.

A4. Give students knowledge of how to apply economic reasoning to policy issues in a critical manner.

A5. Examine the factors that shape economic sustainable decision-making and the developments in government policy that impact on the regulatory environment.

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Programme Learning Outcomes

Students who start the programme in Stage 0 and are eligible to progress to Stage 1 are able to:

0. Apply knowledge and understanding of key academic and professional skills, through exploration of contemporary issues, research, analysis and problem-solving in the subject discipline.

To be eligible for the FHEQ Level 4 Certificate of Higher Education award, students will be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate, at an introductory level, the theories and concepts of economics at macroeconomic- and microeconomic-levels, the relevant methods and analytical techniques, and the applications of economic principles to diverse areas of national and international affairs.

2. Apply IT skills, use written and electronic sources of information, discuss and communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing. Students will also develop the capacity to work in a team, to work independently and to self-manage their learning.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education award, students will be able to:

3. Abstract and examine essential features of complex systems. Demonstrate analysis, deduction and induction applied to assumption-based models. Show awareness of the potential problems of economic theories, models and methods and their applications and get the ability to be critical and creative in problem solving.

4. Display understanding of data sources and of data access, synthetisation, quantification, design and organisation and framing of parameters in economic problems. Apply critical thinking and use numerical and statistical techniques to construct reasoned arguments and present empirical evidence.

5. Recognise and explain the factors influencing the investment and finance behaviour of private individuals and firms both in national and in international contexts. Research, make decisions and action plans, demonstrate self-evaluation and reflection, and construct effective applications in relation to career planning.

Additionally, to be eligible for the FHEQ Level 6 Degree award of Bachelor, students will be able to:

6. Select and apply the relevant methods and techniques to critically review, consolidate, or extend knowledge and understanding in economics at both theoretical and applied level.

7. Recognise that many economic problems may accept more than one approach and several solutions. Be aware of different methodological and theoretical approaches and of their drawbacks.

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8. Show the skills required to be an independent learner, seek out solutions to unfamiliar problems and work collaboratively. Evaluate and debate theory and practice in economics.

9. Critically evaluate and discuss current economics research, practice and policies related to economics and how this research impacts individuals, businesses and societies. Apply critical thinking to construct reasoned arguments and present empirical evidence.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

The approach to teaching and learning aims to integrate applied and theoretical knowledge, taking into consideration the learning outcomes, progression through the levels of study, the nature of the mode of study and the need for students to take greater responsibility for their own learning as they progress through the programme.

The strategy for learning is to enable students to achieve their optimum level of competence and understanding at each Stage in order to be well prepared, and feel confident, to progress to higher levels of skill and knowledge. For all taught modules their learning will be directed, supported and reinforced through a combination of lectures, tutorials, virtual learning environment activities and guided private studies.

For each module, students will generally attend one lecture and one tutorial each week during which they will be in contact with teaching staff. Their learning will be supplemented by private study following the direction of module teaching staff. All teaching will be supported by information and activities provided through the University's virtual learning environment.

Alongside these, in Stage 1 key graduate learner skills including communication and the correct sourcing, use of and presentation of information including referencing will be introduced. Such skills will enable students to write in an academic manner and begin to reflect on the value and usefulness of the information with which they are presented, engage in team working and consider their future career paths. Personal and professional skills will develop further over the course of the programme.

By the end of Stage 2 students will have a critical awareness of the tools and principles of microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis and their applicability to policy issues, an understanding of statistical techniques relevant to economic enquiry, an awareness of the skills necessary to identify, frame and research a dissertation topic in their chosen area of economics as well as an understanding as to how they can develop their career and set appropriate personal goals.

By the end of Stage 3 students will demonstrate understanding of advanced economic analysis by expanding their knowledge of the relevant econometric methods. Students will develop a deeper, more specialised knowledge and understanding of the application of economic principles to specialised areas and contemporary policy issues. Students will have the opportunity to examine economic issues from a range of perspectives; for example, social dimensions, ethics, finance, trade and policymaking.

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One of the School of Management's main aims is to address major challenges for business and society such as global responsibility and sustainable development. Accordingly, the School seeks to prepare students who are able to contribute in an effective manner to debates about sustainable development and critically appraise the relationship(s) between the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Our intention is to nurture students who can apply the principles of sustainable development in their professional capacity. Whilst there are a number of individual modules that focus specifically on sustainability issues, awareness of the importance and principles of sustainability is emphasised in modules. The School of Management is also committed to demonstrating the relevance of taught material to real economic and business problems; and students can expect to see guest industry lectures and the use of real business and economic problems for assessment purposes.

Assessment Strategy

Methods of assessment vary according to the learning outcomes of particular modules and the stage of study. Accordingly, a mixture of essays and other written work, problem solving exercises will be used in assessment of their work. While mid-semester tests are intended to provide feedback on their progress. Throughout the programme their learning will be supported using various methods of formative assessment and feedback. This is to help students progress their studies and support their continuing development.

Students will acquire skills that will be useful not only in Economics, but in whatever profession they choose to follow. The Stage 3 dissertation is a substantial piece of work that gives students the opportunity not only to increase their specialist subject knowledge, but also to demonstrate their ability to undertake independent study.

Curriculum Structure

The BSc (Hons) Economics programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core and optional modules. Students take 120 credits at each Stage. Each 'Stage' or taught 'year' of an Honours programme consists of two semesters. The study period of a module can be in Semester 1, Semester 2 or across the Academic Year. This integrated programme is designed to prepare and support you for a career in economics, finance and related fields.

From the moment you enrol, you will begin developing the knowledge and analytical skills needed to understand how economies operate. As you progress, you will explore microeconomics, macroeconomics and applied economics. You will develop your ability to analyse data, understand economic trends and evaluate policy. The programme prepares you for careers in finance, business, policy and consultancy.

Students may start the course directly in Stage 1 or enter our foundation years before joining stage 1.

Stage 0
Students who join before stage 1 will build a strong foundation for studying at university level. Students will develop key academic and professional skills such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking and independent learning, while exploring contemporary issues affecting

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people, communities and society. Through project work and practical activities, students will develop skills in research, analysis and problem-solving.

UK/home students can join the **"Stage 0"** foundation year and study 4 core modules:

Table 1: Economics Stage 0 modules (cores) RQF Level 3

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Period
SIB3003-C	Fundamentals of Business and Management	30	Semester 1
OIM3002-C	Becoming my professional self	30	Semester 1
AFE3004-C	Introduction to Finance, Accounting and Economics in a Digital World	30	Semester 2
SIB3004-C	Applied Project (Business and Management)	30	Semester 2

Stage 1
Stage 1 consists of core modules which provide the essential foundation for a students' further study. By the end of this year students will have gained knowledge and understanding of the basic ideas in economics, finance, and quantitative methods.

All students study 6 core modules:

Table 2: Economics Stage 1 modules (cores) FHEQ Level 4

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period
AFE4016-B	Global Economy: History and Modern Challenges	20	Academic Year
AFE4015-B	Finance and Accounting for Managers	20	Academic Year
AFE4011-B	Introduction to Macroeconomics	20	Academic Year
AFE4010-B	Introduction to Microeconomics	20	Academic Year
OIM4013-B	Principles of Responsible Management and Practice	20	Academic Year
AFE4013-B	Quantitative Methods for Economists	20	Academic Year

Stage 2
In Stage 2 students will study economics, finance and investment at an intermediate level and they will further enhance their knowledge of the relevant research and statistical methods used in economics. The Employability and Enterprise Skills module will develop their understanding of the job market, their goals and how they can present themselves to prospective employers.

Students take 5 core modules and select one module option in Semester 1 from a wide range of options related to financial and business economics:

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Table 3: Economics Stage 2 modules (cores/options) FHEQ Level 5

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Selection
AFE5021-B	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	Sem 1	Core
HRM5015-B	Entrepreneurship and Employability	20	Sem 1	Core
MAR5012-B	Consumer Behaviour and Digital Insights	20	Sem 1	Option 1
MAR5016-B	Marketing in Digital Transformation	20	Sem 1	Option 2
SIB5001-B	International Business Strategy	20	Sem 1	Option 3
AFE5008-B	Financial Accounting	20	Sem 1	Option 4
AFE5011-B	Financial Management	20	Sem 1	Option 5
HRM5008-B	Human Resource Management	20	Sem 1	Option 6
AFE5013-B	Multinational Finance and Investment	20	Sem 2	Core
AFE5022-B	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	Sem 2	Core
AFE5024-B	Research Methods and Data Analysis	20	Sem 2	Core

The options AFE5011-B, HRM5008-B and SIB5001-B are also offered at Stage 3.

Pre-requisite rules apply for selecting options 3 or 4:

- to select SIB6007-B at Stage 3 you must select SIB5001-B as your option.
- To select AFE6012-B at Stage 3 you must select AFE5008-B as your option.

At the end of stage 2, students will be eligible to progress to Stage 3 or to the elective work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3 if they are registered on the sandwich year route. See the **Placement and Study Abroad Options** section for more details.

Table 4: Economics Stage 2E modules (placement/study abroad) FHEQ Level 5

Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Study Period	Module Selection
MAL5009-Z	Placement	0	Full year	Elective work placement
MAL5010-Z	Study Abroad	0	Full year	Elective international opportunities

Stage 3
In Stage 3 students will complete 100 credits of core modules, this will include research and write-up their chosen dissertation with guidance from their supervisor in a topic chosen by the student. This will build upon the Level 5 module Research Methods for Economists and will be complemented by the semester 1 Level 6 Econometrics module.

Upon completion of the BSc (Hons) Economics degree programme students will be able to explain ideas to a wide range of audiences and complex ideas to non-technical audiences. Students will possess insight into the current direction in economics teaching regarding interlinkages between microeconomics and macroeconomics.

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At Stage 3 students will study 100 core credits and select one 20 credit option in Semester 1 from a wide range of School of Management options:

Table 5: Economics Stage 3 modules (FHEQ Level 6 cores, FHEQ Level 5/6 options)

Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Selection
AFE6017-D	Dissertation in Economics	40	Year	Core
AFE6021-B	Applied Econometrics	20	Sem 1	Core
HRM6014-B	Leading and Managing People	20	Sem 1	Option 1
MAR6014-B	Digital Campaign Planning and Content Management	20	Sem 1	Option 2
MAR6013-B	Product and Corporate Brand Management	20	Sem 1	Option 3
AFE6013-B	Risk Management and Derivatives	20	Sem 1	Option 4
AFE6012-B	International Accounting and Reporting	20	Sem 1	Option 5
SIB6007-B	Current Issues in International Business	20	Sem 1	Option 6
HRM5008-B	Human Resource Management	20	Sem 1	Option 7
SIB5001-B	International Business Strategy	20	Sem 1	Option 8
AFE5011-B	Financial Management	20	Sem 1	Option 9
AFE6022-B	Digital Economy	20	Sem 2	Core
AFE6018-B	Contemporary issues in Economics	20	Sem 2	Core

A number of pre-requisite rules apply for selecting options 5-9:

- You must have studied SIB5001-B at Stage 2 to select SIB6007-B at Stage 3.
- You must have selected AFE5008-B at Stage 2 to select AFE6012-B at Stage 3.
- AFE5011-B, HRM5008-B and SIB5001-B are each only available if students did not select them at Stage 2.

Placement and Study Abroad Options

This programme provides the option for students to undertake study abroad in Stage 2 or a longer work placement or period of study abroad between Stages 2 and 3. Placements are a fantastic way of building on the professional skills developed during the programme and boosting students' practical industry experience prior to graduating. Equally, study abroad opportunities can be very valuable in giving students experience of academic and/or industrial contexts in other countries. Students wishing to take this option can register directly for, or can transfer to, the 4-year variant of the programme.

There are regular visits to the School of Management by representatives of both local and national companies, looking to recruit graduates. Placements enable students to further develop their transferable skills and may even secure their entry onto the graduate career ladder as many employers use a placement year as a method of recruitment onto their graduate training scheme.

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There are also great opportunities for students to do shorter internships (6 or 8 weeks) or in-company projects. The International Opportunities team can advise students about the available funding to support their study or work experience abroad.

Any placement or period of study abroad is subject to approval by the Programme Team. Students who wish to participate in a placement or period of study abroad will be required to find, apply for and make the most of their chosen opportunity, and will be supported in doing so by the Programme Team as well as the central University Careers and Employability Service.

Further information about **internships and placements** and **study abroad opportunities** is published on the University's website.

Placement Year
Work placements are extremely valuable in helping students to develop their understanding of all aspects of finance and business. Our students are highly successful in securing both summer and year-long internships and placements with prestigious employers, including the competitive Government Economic Service placement scheme (e.g. Department for Work and Pensions, Department of Health and the Treasury), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and a range of private sector companies involved in marketing, finance and the voluntary sector.

Study Abroad Year
Instead of a placement year, students can opt to study abroad for one year in one of our partner institutions worldwide, where students will be taught in English. Study abroad has a number of benefits, not only as a unique experience in itself but also enhancing academic insights, employability and life skills and the Faculty and the University wish to encourage it, if the circumstances are appropriate. During the exchange the students will have support from the relevant University services.

Study Abroad Semester
Alternatively, students can choose to study abroad for Semester 1 or Semester 2 in Stage 2 and only in specified approved partner Universities. This is a cost- and time-effective way of getting international experience as you can complete your degree within 3 years.

The list of Study Abroad Semester partners is a subset of the Study Abroad Year partners offered and changes year-to-year depending on the curriculum offered. This option can be available ONLY if the modules offered by the host institution allow the student to meet the learning outcomes of the Bradford Programme at stage 2.

Unlike the year abroad exchange, the semester exchange requires students to study only modules suitable to the Bradford programme when abroad. Therefore, all modules selected for the exchange will have to be mapped to the Bradford programme learning outcomes and be approved by the Programme leader in Bradford in advance of the exchange. During the exchange, if the student needs to change the modules, this can only be done after approval of the Bradford Programme Leader. If the student fails a module abroad, the student must explore the possibility of re-taking any exams at the host university and immediately inform the International Opportunities Team.

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During the exchange, students will have support from the relevant University services. All credit successfully obtained whilst on study abroad semester will count towards the students final degree.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website for undergraduate courses (**Regulation 2**).

Award of the Honours degree requires 360 FHEQ credits and completion of the award learning outcomes. Students who exit the programme with 300, 240 or 120 credits completed may be eligible for an intermediate award in line with the regulations.

Admission Requirements

We are proud to be **one of the most inclusive universities in the UK**. All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

As the programme is taught in English and relies on numeracy skills, all applicants are required to have GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language and Mathematics. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent.

For international students, the level of English required is listed on the **University of Bradford English language requirements website**.

Academic Entry Requirements

A typical offer to someone joining the BSc Economics would be different for Stage 0 entry (4/5 year programme) or Stage 1 entry (3/4 year programme):

- Stage 0 (Foundation Year) entry: 64 UCAS tariff points plus Higher Level grade 3 or Standard Level grade 4 in English. GCSE English grade C/grade 4 (equivalents accepted).
- International students may be nominated to join BSc Economics at Bradford through our partnership **University of Bradford International College** (UBIC) to the International Foundation Year if they do not meet the Stage 1 entry requirements. For 2026/27 entry there is no direct International Stage 0 pathway

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be 112 points:

- A-Level: BBC - no subject requirements but Maths would be an advantage.
- T-Level: Merit

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- BTEC Extended Diploma: DMM.
- Access to HE Diploma: At least 112 Ucas points e.g. D24 M12 P9, D21 M18 P6
- International Baccalaureate: At least 112 Ucas points including 2 HL subjects and Maths at HL3 or SL4.

Examples of equivalent international qualifications are provided on the **University of Bradford page for your country or region**.

On completion of a Ucas form students will be invited to the Faculty for an Open Day where they will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss "the Bradford experience" with current students. Students will be made aware of the range of programmes available within the Faculty, including the optional Foundation Year in Management stage permitting entry to this programme or others with 64 Ucas points.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about **recognition of prior learning decisions** on the University website.

If you are thinking of coming or have recently applied to the University of Bradford, don't wait until you have arrived to contact our Disability Service. We can arrange for you to talk to a member of our team about what support is on offer here at the University including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the **request support form**.

We are committed to raising aspirations and widening access to higher education, regardless of your background. The **University of Bradford Progression Scheme** welcomes applicants from a number of groups including adult learners who are 21+ on the first day of term, British armed forces families, carers and care experienced learners, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller family members.

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: **https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/economics-bsc**

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