



Master of Arts (MA) Program in Economics

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Welcome from the Graduate Chair

Welcome to our MA in Economics program at the University of Saskatchewan! Our faculty and staff at the Department of Economics are looking forward to being part of this next important stage of your postsecondary journey.

Our Department currently offers two graduate programs, the MA in Economics (with project, thesis and co-op options) as well as a Ph.D. in Applied Economics, which is administered jointly with other departments on campus.

Our incoming MA students normally take four classes in fall: Math (ECON 805), Micro (ECON 800), Macro (ECON 801) and Econometrics. This year, the math course will be held from August 26 to September 11 as an intensive course with classes almost every day. The other three courses will start on or after the official first day of classes on September 2 and run until the end of the term in December.

I wish our graduate students and faculty a successful academic year! If you would like to learn more about our programs, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Andreas Pollak
Associate Professor
Grad Program Chair

To-Do List

- read this handbook
- accept (or decline) your admission offer
- register in your courses for fall (ECON 990, 992, 800, 801, 805, AREC 898, and GPS 960)
- make your plans for coming to Saskatoon (if you are not here already)
- contact the instructor if you cannot attend ECON 805 in person
- keep us posted if your plans change, or if there are risks regarding your arrival in September

Important Data

- Contact: Anna McKenzie, grad.economics@usask.ca
- Courses to register in in your first term: ECON 990, 992, 800, 801, 805, AREC 898 and GPS 960
- Official first day of classes in fall term: September 2
- ECON 800, 801, AREC 898 first day of classes: September 2 or 3
- ECON 805 (Math) dates and times: Aug. 26-29, 31; Sept. 1, 3-5, 8,10, 11; from 8:30 to 11:20 am

GRADUATE STUDIES IN ECONOMICS

2. ***Disclaimer***

This handbook was designed to help ECON MA students navigate the program. It is not the official document laying out the relevant rules and regulations. The current course catalogue and Graduate Student Handbook (General Information and Regulations) of the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS) are the authoritative source of information and take precedence over this handbook. The Department of Economics reserves the right to change the procedures described in this handbook at any time.

3. ***Curriculum***

All ECON MA students must complete the following four core courses (12 credit units or CU in total):

ECON 800.3	Microeconomic Theory	ECON 801.3	Macroeconomic Theory
ECON 805.3	Mathematical Analysis	ECON 808.3/AREC 898.3	Econometrics I

MA Thesis Option:

In addition to the 12 CU of core courses, students are required to take at least one elective graduate level course (3 CU) in their area of specialization. A thesis must be submitted and successfully defended in partial fulfillment of the MA degree requirements. Each student must have a thesis supervisor and two additional faculty as members on their advisory committee. Students are required to register in ECON 994 every term until the requirement for thesis completion is satisfied.

MA Research Paper Option:

In addition to the 12 CU of core courses, students are required to take at least four elective graduate level courses (12 CU). An independent project (ECON 992) must be completed under the supervision of a faculty member and must be submitted in partial fulfillment of the MA degree requirements. The research paper is evaluated by the supervisor and two other faculty members. Students must register in ECON 992 every term until all requirements for project completion are satisfied.

ECON 990

Students in both thesis and project options must register in ECON 990 until the requirements of the course are satisfied.

The first requirement is that students attend at least six seminars presented by faculty speakers in the Economics Seminar Series or similar seminars during the first year of study. Students may be required to submit a written report to the graduate programs coordinator about the seminars they attended. The form for the report is determined by the graduate chair.

The second requirement is that students attend all ECON 990 presentations by fellow graduate students while registered in the course.

Finally, when determined by the supervisor, students shall present their research project or thesis. Once all requirements are satisfied, students earn credit for the course. There is no registration for ECON 990 in the summer term.

GPS 960 - Introduction to Ethics and Integrity

Students register in GPS 960 in term 1 of the first year of their program. It is an online course which is completed during term 1.

ECON 987 – MA Co-op Internships

This course is for those MA students who are on a co-op placement. Students register in this course once they receive and accept a placement offer that is approved by the graduate programs chair. There is an additional tuition fee for this course. The current rates are \$602 for domestic and \$1,354 for international students per term in addition to the regular tuition rates. The current tuition rates for graduate students can be found here:

<https://students.usask.ca/money/tuition-fees/graduate-tuition.php>

4. *MA Economics with Co-op designation*

Co-op internships are available to MA Economics students upon enrollment in the “MA Economics with co-op designation” degree. Internships are intended to complement study terms with work terms and to provide students with hands-on experience. Such internships are valuable for students seeking Canadian work experience and for students planning to enter the job market upon completion of the program. Companies participating in co-op internships benefit from the opportunity to connect with students and observe them in a work environment.

- The program is open to any MA Economics student with 70% GPA. There is no enrollment fee.
- Each co-op placement is for 4 months (or 12-17 weeks).
- At least one placement is **mandatory** for the co-op designation.
- Co-op internship experience is an integral part of the program leading to the “**MA Economics with co-op designation**” degree.
- A student can participate in a maximum of 3 co-op terms with the same or different employers.
- Co-op terms start in January, May, or September.
- Students can participate in consecutive co-op terms or can alternate between study and co-op terms.
- Students on co-op terms register in ECON 987.0 Co-op Internships course and pay differential tuition. Students are also required to maintain registration in ECON 990 and ECON 992 or ECON 994.
- At the end of each co-op placement, students are required to submit a written report to receive credit for ECON 987.
- International students currently do not require a Co-op Work Visa, but regulations are subject to change. Please **check current visa requirements**.
- The first co-op placement can take place in May of the first year of studies, provided all required coursework is completed.
- Co-op terms cannot exceed 50% of the time in the program.
- Relocation costs are responsibility of students unless the host organization covers such costs.
- Co-op internships are full-time (37.5-40 hours per week) and paid by host organizations according to the market conditions.

5. *Academic Advising*

The graduate chair establishes the program of study (POS) for each student, determining the course sequence based on research interests. After the end of their second term, students are expected to choose a research topic and advisor. Graduate students will typically sign a Supervisor Agreement before starting to work on the project or thesis.

Please refer to our website for a list of current faculty members and their research:

<http://artsandscience.usask.ca/economics/people/>

Elective courses can be taken outside the Department, but in an area related to the student's field of specialization. All elective courses must be approved by the graduate chair. The graduate committee may grant transfer credit for graduate courses completed at another university.

6. *Course Offerings*

We offer graduate level courses in Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Econometrics and Mathematical Analysis each year. In addition, we offer a selection of courses that can be chosen as electives. In recent years, we have offered Econometrics II, Macro II, Micro II, Game Theory, Health Economics, International Trade and Environment, Labour Economics, Resource Economics, and Development Economics. For current course offerings refer to:

<http://students.usask.ca/academics/classes.php>

7. *Thesis or Project Proposal*

Each MA student will prepare a thesis or project proposal consisting of a problem, objectives, literature review, conceptual/theoretical model, and approach to study (methodology), prior to undertaking the research.

8. *Graduation Standard*

Students must obtain 60% in each graduate course required in their Program of Studies, and a cumulative weighted average of at least 70% for all courses.

9. *University Policy on Academic Dishonesty*

Academic dishonesty is subject to severe penalty at the University of Saskatchewan. Please refer to the University Calendar: Student Rights, Discipline, and Appeals. The Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct of the University of Saskatchewan Council can also be found at <https://governance.usask.ca/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php#About>

10. *Research Publication*

Following CGPS regulations, electronic copies of all theses are submitted to the College of Graduate Studies.

A list of recently completed Theses and Projects is located at:

<https://artsandscience.usask.ca/economics/research/student-research.php>

11. *Time Limit*

All requirements for a master's degree must be completed within four years of the date of registration in the first course, or other requirement of the program of studies as approved, for the award of the degree.

12. *Facilities*

Graduate Student Study Spaces

All graduate students are provided study space and lockers by the College of Arts and Science. These study spaces are located in Arts 22. All graduate students are assigned a mailbox in Arts 824.

Computing & Library Facilities

Room 22 Arts Building is equipped with computers and a printer for use by our graduate students. All the computers in the grad room are connected to the Arts and Science network. In addition, graduate students have access to the Arts and Science computer labs. All the necessary software required for graduate student research is available. Please aim to print no more than 500 pages per student per term.

The seminar room, called the Timlin Room (Arts 807), in the Department contains a small library with leading economics journals. Items may **not to be removed**. However, older theses may be borrowed with permission. The Murray Memorial Library is the main university library which contains collections of economics journals and books. Internet learning resources, such as electronic journals and databases, can be accessed through the library webpage.

13. *Contact Information*

If you have questions about or need help with registering for courses, department or university related procedures, please get in touch with our graduate programs coordinator Anna McKenzie, who can either help you or direct you to right person to ask: grad.economics@usask.ca

The graduate chair Enchuan Shao can help with any problems or questions related to your program of studies and other academic issues, including questions about the co-op program: enchuan.shao@usask.ca

If you have questions related to immigration or visa issues, or need help relocating to Saskatoon, the ISSAC will be able to assist you: <https://students.usask.ca/international/issac.php>

14. ***Other Information and Next Steps***

Many incoming students will be busy making plans for relocating to Saskatoon in the coming weeks and months. If you need help or advice, feel free to contact our office coordinator Martha Valencia or the grad program coordinator Anna McKenzie.

They may be able to put you in contact with existing MA students. As our current MA students went through the same process you are in right now, they are a great resource for getting helpful tips and information about all kinds of issues related to starting our program.

While courses officially start on September 2 at our university, we have set up our program start a little differently.

We start with our math bootcamp ECON 805 in late August. Math runs as an intensive course until mid-September. While ECON 805 is regular course that is taught in person, we will be able to accommodate students who are unable to attend. If you cannot be on campus in time for this course, please contact the instructor to inquire about how to participate remotely. The exact dates for this course are:

August 26-29 and 31; September 1, 3-5, 8, 10 and 11, from 8:30-11:20 am Saskatoon time.

The three remaining fall term courses (ECON 800 – Micro, ECON 801 – Macro, AREC 898 – Econometrics) will start on or after September 2.

Please register in all required courses for the fall semester (no need to register for anything in any other term at this time). We will, at some point this summer, start to send program-related information only to those students who are registered.

Once you have registered in these courses, you can access the course websites. They may contain information about the courses once the instructors have set them up, in some cases long before the term starts. You may be able to access syllabi with details on course contents and textbooks this way. You can find the course websites by following the “Canvas” link on PAWS. If you have questions about a particular course, feel free to contact the instructor. The current ECON 805 syllabus will soon be available here (currently, last year’s syllabus is online):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hG-WVJbxtfCs2fwsHLcCYvhcBfHfSDps/view?pli=1>

There is no reason to worry about your MA project or thesis, finding a supervisor or participating in the co-op program at this point. We will have information sessions about all this once everyone is here.