

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	<b>Cert HE Economics</b> (Level 4)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	N/A
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home School/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Business School
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Part-time (usually 2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
<a href="#">QAA subject benchmark group(s)</a> <a href="#">Higher Education Credit Framework for England</a>	N/A
UCAS code and URL	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	UEHECNMC
HECoS Code	100450 economics
Start date of programme	October 2008
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2008
Date of last programme amendment approval	June 2021
Valid for academic entry year	2023/24
Programme Director	Anthony Conibear
Date of last revision to document	01/06/2021

## Admissions requirements

In general there are no formal entry requirements and, since courses are taught at an introductory level, they are open both to graduates and non-graduates. Each module is designed to be free-standing and most can be taken with no prior training in economics. All modules are taught at a level comparable to the early stages of an undergraduate degree and students should therefore be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Students should be able to write a 1,500 word essay.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

## Course aims

- To provide insight into current economic issues and the ways in which economists look at contemporary society and economic problems
- To appeal to those whose current or future work touches on issues of financial, commercial and social policy or business affairs and those who wish to take modules for personal interest

Topics covered include: core economic principles and their relevance to key policy issues, financial markets, changes in economic structure and regulation, the developing world, globalisation and history of economic thought.

## Course structure

This programme is designed for students as an introduction to economics.

To gain the Certificate of Higher Education, students must successfully complete 120 credit points. Students must take one of Economic Principles modules (FFEC002S4 or FFEC902S4) plus option modules to a total of 90 credits. Within the 90 credits, they can take a maximum of two 15-credit half-modules.

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
<b>Part-time</b>					
4	FFEC002S4 FFEC902S4	Economic Principles OR Economic Principles (fast track)	30	Compulsory	2-3 TBC
<b>Option modules</b> Students select a further <b>90 credits in options</b> , with a maximum of two 15-credit half modules					
4	FFEC918S4	Applied Data Interpretation and Analysis (fast track)	30	Option	2
4	FFEC021H4	Economics of Natural Resources	15	Option	2
4	FFEC019H4	Introduction to Financial Markets	15	Option	TBC
4	FFEC015S4	Macroeconomics	30	Option	2-3
4	FFEC911S4	Quantitative Economic Methods (Fast Track)	30	Option	3

*Core:* Module must be taken and passed by student

*Compulsory:* Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

*Option:* Student can choose to take this module

## **How you will learn**

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Teaching sessions are either

- 1) 2 hours a week for 11 weeks (one term 15 credit module) or
- 2) 2 hours a week for 22 weeks (two terms 30 credit module) or
- 3) 3 hours a week plus 2 Saturdays a term for (one term, 30 credits, fast track)

Approximately 4 hours of independent study per week are required for each module.

Teaching takes the form of lectures, seminars, presentations, group discussions by students who work both individually and in groups.

Students are encouraged to prepare for lectures to ensure the best possible use of tutors' time and discussion between students.

Course notes accompany lectures and lecturers are encouraged to use Moodle as much as possible.

## **How we will assess you**

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Assessment for each 30 credit module, apart from Quantitative Economic Methods, is by two essays worth 30% each, one due at the mid-point of the module and the other at the end. A 2 hour in-class test will carry 40% of the marks.

Quantitative Economic Methods is assessed by a 3 hour examination.

Assessment for each 15 credit module is by coursework of 1,500-2,500 words, apart from Financial Markets which is assessed by 1.5 hour examination.

## **Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)**

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

### **Subject specific**

L01 Understand contexts in which economic theory can be used, and where economists can provide insight and guidance to different users

L02 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main current theories, such as neo-classical, new Keynesian along with previous developments such as Classical Political Economy

L03 Distinguish the parameters of the subject in contrast to other social theory

### **Intellectual**

L04 Demonstrate capacity for the critical evaluation of arguments and evidence

L05 Demonstrate ability to draw reasoned conclusions for information

L06 Demonstrate ability to extract and analyse information from a variety of sources

L07 Grasp different patterns of thought and consequent conclusions

### **Practical**

L08 Demonstrate understanding of the main sources of economic information and materials

L09 Knowledge of the main current terminology and language used in the subject

### **Personal and Social**

L10 Work independently

L11 Demonstrate good communication skills, including presenting qualitative and quantitative data.

### **Careers and further study**

Graduates can pursue careers in:

- the private and public sectors
- banking and finance
- industry (UK and overseas).

This certificate also allows you to progress to further study.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

### **Academic regulations and course management**

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

### **Support for your study**

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal

tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

### **Quality and standards at Birkbeck**

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

[Further information](#) about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.

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