

College of Social Sciences

# What do Birmingham postgraduates do?



## Birmingham Business School: Department of Economics

*First destinations of postgraduates*

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- Employability data for Economics postgraduates, 2009–2013
  - Illustration of the range of occupations undertaken by our postgraduates

# Foreword

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE 'WHAT DO BIRMINGHAM POSTGRADUATES DO?' WHICH LOOKS IN DETAIL AT THE FIRST DESTINATIONS OF OUR ECONOMICS POSTGRADUATES.

This publication is designed to give an insight into the kinds of employment sectors and jobs for which a postgraduate degree in your chosen subject at Birmingham can prepare you.

Pursuing a postgraduate degree offers you the opportunity to explore your chosen area of interest in depth, as well as developing your knowledge and understanding in a subject area about which you are truly passionate. Beyond the transferable skills that you will take

with you into the workplace, your postgraduate qualification will give you the chance to engage in critical enquiry, to grow as a scholar and even to become an expert in your field. Here, we show you how your postgraduate qualification can help you make that knowledge and expertise work for you after graduation.

For the school or department that is relevant, you will see a snapshot of the achievements of our postgraduates six months after graduation. All data is taken from the results of a 'Destinations of Leavers' survey issued to our postgraduates after this time. You will be able to see how many of our postgraduates who responded to this survey successfully entered employment and/or further study within just six months, along with a range of the diverse and exciting career opportunities that will be open to you after studying for a postgraduate degree in your chosen field.



Accompanying the data are case studies in which recent postgraduate alumni share their experiences of postgraduate study at Birmingham. Here, our alumni talk about the value inherent in postgraduate study, the knowledge and skills they developed during their degrees and where their qualifications have taken them since graduation.

We hope you find the information presented here useful and our alumni stories inspiring. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our campus soon.



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## EMPLOYABILITY

### ECONOMICS

#### Highlights:

Over the past five years:

- 86.6% of all postgraduate respondents from Economics had successfully secured work or a further study place just six months after graduation
- 100% of respondent alumni from our MSc International Economics programme successfully found work or further study within just six months of graduating

The Department of Economics at Birmingham has a long and distinguished history of research. Our academic staff are active in research in a broad range of topics in Economics, and a number of important advances in mathematical economics and econometrics have been made within the Department.

We collaborate actively with researchers in other schools of the University and with economists in other universities in the UK and overseas.

Research within the department is organised into a number of research groups:

- Environmental and Energy Economics and Management
- Experimental Economics
- Macroeconomics and Finance
- Microeconomic Theory and Applications
- Trade, Environment, Development and Energy (TEDE)
- Cluster for Research in Econometrics, Macroeconomics and Finance (CREMF)
- Cluster for Research in Economic Policy using Theory and Experiments (CREPTEx)
- Cluster for Research in Environment, Trade and Energy (CRETE)

Birmingham's Economics postgraduates are sought after by a wide range of financial, commercial and public sector employers. Postgraduate study in Economics allows for the development of a wide range of skills including analysis and research, numeracy, communication, team working and commercial awareness.

For those entering employment after graduating, traditionally popular areas include business and management consultancy, accountancy and insurance. A good number of our postgraduates also choose to stay in academia and secure posts in university lecturing, and academic research.





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## RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

Below is an overview of the kinds of employment sectors, organisations and professions that recent Economics postgraduates have entered, based on responses to 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys conducted six months after graduation.

### Range of employment sectors

- Accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities; tax consultancy
- Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies
- Data processing and hosting
- Higher education
- Market research and public opinion polling
- Monetary intermediation
- Publishing of journals and periodicals
- Regulation of and contribution to more efficient operation of businesses
- Technical testing and analysis

### Range of employers

- Bank of China
- CapitalVue
- Caterpillar Financial Services
- Deloitte
- Enveco Environmental Economics Ltd
- PwC
- United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
- University of Birmingham
- University of Duisberg-Essen

### Range of occupations

- Assistant Professor
- Banker
- Client Development Analyst
- Conference Producer
- Credit Analyst
- Economic Advisor
- Purchase Ledger Assistant
- Research Assistant
- Risk Manager
- Trainee Accountant



'Birmingham's Economics PhD programme enjoys a good reputation and provided me with a strong economics foundation. The people I met, the professors I had to guide me through my doctoral studies and the friendships I made all added up to make my experience a wonderful one.

While at Birmingham I conducted research in international trade, genetic algorithms applied to trade modelling, intra- and inter-industry trade and comparative advantage issues.' I am now

an Assistant Professor at Rollins Park College in Florida, where I get to work in teaching and interacting with students. The great teaching experience and skills that I acquired during my PhD at Birmingham helped me towards this role, while one of my greatest achievements since my PhD has been proposing and teaching new university courses. I would advise any prospective doctoral researcher to keep an open mind, learn as much as you possibly can, make friends and ask questions.'

**Anca M Voicu, PhD Economics, graduated 2000**

*Anca completed her PhD thesis on export performance and potential of the central Eastern European countries. She is now Associate Professor at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida.*

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