

Economics PhD

We have about 50 registered research students and have full recognition by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for the receipt of ESRC research studentships.

All first year students must take the module Research Methods in Economics, complete a literature survey and revise and prepare a detailed research proposal as the first task on the way to completing a thesis.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

Course fact file

Type of Course: Doctoral research

Study Options: Full time

Duration: Normally 4 years full-time (this is usually reduced to 3 years for students who have already completed a taught MSc degree in the Department)

Start date: September

Contact

You can contact us on (+44) (0)121 414 3498

Got a question? Use our **[ask us anything](http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24)** (<http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24>) facility to get the answer you need.

[Birmingham Business School](/schools/business/index.aspx) (</schools/business/index.aspx>)

Details

For admission to our research programmes you need to have a good Honours first degree and a Masters degree with at least UK Merit level in Economics or a related subject with relevant mathematical and statistical techniques. You will be asked to provide a detailed research proposal. We may also invite you to contact prospective supervisors in the Department in order to discuss your research proposal.

First year

All first year students must take the module Research Methods in Economics. Depending on the level of your previous studies, you may be required to take some MSc-level courses in your first year, the aim of which is to provide an advanced training in both core and specialist areas of economics. Students are required to achieve a high standard in the examinations for the prescribed courses in order to proceed as research students.

Also in the first year, you will complete a literature survey and revise and prepare a detailed research proposal as your first task on the way to completing a thesis – how much further you are able to advance your thesis will depend on your course load. A research student's key relationship is with the principal supervisor (or with co-supervisors); you are, however, allocated a supervisory panel consisting of two supervisors and a mentor. Once started on research, you meet the principal supervisor regularly to discuss the thesis-related literature and research strategy. You meet your (principal) supervisor at least once every four weeks.

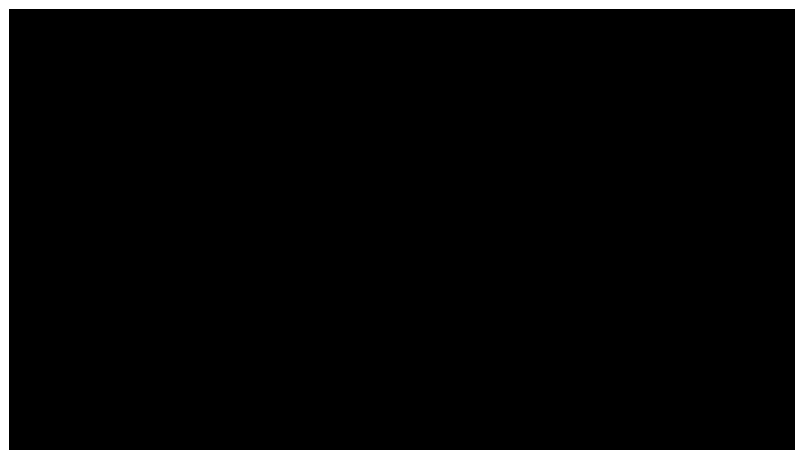
Support and training

Birmingham Business School provides dedicated facilities, resources and support to postgraduate students and early career researchers which includes The Midlands Graduate School and Doctoral Training Programme.

Three Minute Thesis

Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition developed by the University of Queensland in 2008, in which doctoral researchers have just three minutes to deliver an engaging presentation on their thesis topic, its originality and its significance. In 2013 the University of Birmingham started running its own **[3MT competition](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/external/student-recruitment-and-outreach/postgraduate-recruitment/3MT.aspx)** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/external/student-recruitment-and-outreach/postgraduate-recruitment/3MT.aspx>), inviting our own doctoral researchers to participate.

Marea Sing from Birmingham Business School was the 2013 3MT runner-up, delivering her three-minute presentation explaining her PhD research on structural change, economic development and macroeconomic policy.



Standard fees apply

Learn more about [fees and funding \(/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx)

Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships may be available. [International students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/scholarships\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/scholarships) can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

For further information contact the School directly or [www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk \(http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk/\)](http://www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk)

Entry requirements

A good Honours first degree and a Masters degree with at least UK Merit level in Economics or a related subject with relevant mathematical and statistical techniques.

Learn more about [entry requirements \(/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx)

International students

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about [international entry requirements \(/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx)

English requirement - IELTS 6.5 with no less than 6.0 in any band or equivalent.

How to apply

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/pages/COSo22.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/pages/COSo22.htm)

Research interests of staff

If you would like to contact any of our research staff, please visit the [Department of Economics staff listings \(/schools/business/departments/economics/staff/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/departments/economics/staff/index.aspx) for contact details.

Econometrics

- Mathematical methods in economics; economic methodology and philosophy
Contact: Mr Ralph Bailey
Email: [r.w.bailey@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:r.w.bailey@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:r.w.bailey@bham.ac.uk)
- Modelling and forecasting economic time series
Contact: Professor Anindya Banerjee (Econometrics Group leader)
Email: [a.banerjee@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:a.banerjee@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:a.banerjee@bham.ac.uk)
- Time series econometrics
Contact: Dr Marco Barassi
Email: [m.r.barassi@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:m.r.barassi@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:m.r.barassi@bham.ac.uk)
- Applied econometrics – cross-section, panel and time series data
Contact: Dr Marco Ercolani
Email: [m.g.ercolani@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:m.g.ercolani@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:m.g.ercolani@bham.ac.uk)
- Time series econometrics, and estimation of continuous time models
Contact: Dr Joanne Ercolani
Email: [j.s.ercolani@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:j.s.ercolani@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:j.s.ercolani@bham.ac.uk)
- Applied econometrics, in particular the currency, housing and labour markets
Contact: Mr Nick Horsewood
Email: [n.j.horsewood@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:n.j.horsewood@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:n.j.horsewood@bham.ac.uk)

Economic Theory

- Microeconomic theory, specifically economic growth; mathematical economics
Contact: Dr Martin Jensen
Email: [m.k.jensen@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:m.k.jensen@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:m.k.jensen@bham.ac.uk)
- Game theory
Contact: Professor Indra Ray (Economic Theory Group leader)
Email: [i.ray@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:i.ray@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:i.ray@bham.ac.uk)
- Environmental economics, in particular climate change; institutions and capital flight; voting theory
Contact: Dr Colin Rowat
Email: [c.rowat@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:c.rowat@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:c.rowat@bham.ac.uk)

Money, Macroeconomics and Finance

- History of 20th-century economics; economic methodology
Contact: Professor Roger Backhouse
Email: [r.e.backhouse@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:r.e.backhouse@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:r.e.backhouse@bham.ac.uk)
- Financial sector reform; financial institutional behaviour
Contact: Dr David Dickinson
Email: [d.g.dickinson@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:d.g.dickinson@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:d.g.dickinson@bham.ac.uk)
- Open economy macroeconomics; endogenous growth
Contact: Professor John Fender (Money, Macroeconomics and Finance Group leader)
Email: [j.fender@bham.ac.uk \(mailto:j.fender@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:j.fender@bham.ac.uk)

- Dynamic macroeconomics and its applications; trade blocs; crime and crime abatement
Contact: Professor Peter Sinclair
Email: p.j.n.sinclair@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:p.j.n.sinclair@bham.ac.uk>)

- International monetary economics, in particular monetary integration
Contact: Dr Frank Strobel
Email: f.strobel@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:f.strobel@bham.ac.uk>)

Political Economy and Economic Policy

- International trade and industrial organisation; development economics; technology and innovation economics
Contact: Dr Facundo Albornoz
Email: f.albornoz@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:f.albornoz@bham.ac.uk>)
- Public choice; electoral systems; crime, neighbourhood effects and rights
Contact: Dr Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay
Email: s.bandyopadhyay@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:s.bandyopadhyay@bham.ac.uk>)
- Economic growth and income distribution; public economics, pensions and education; debt and default
Contact: Professor Jayasri Dutta (Political Economy and Economic Policy Group leader)
Email: j.dutta@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:j.dutta@bham.ac.uk>)
- Economic development, in particular Asian economies; defence economics
Contact: Professor Somnath Sen
Email: s.sen@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:s.sen@bham.ac.uk>)

Trade, Energy and Environment

- Trade and the environment; economic development and the environment; valuation of non-market goods
Contact: Dr Matthew Cole (Trade, Energy and Environment Group leader)
Email: m.a.cole@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:m.a.cole@bham.ac.uk>)
- Empirical international trade; intra-industry trade; economic geography; European integration; trade and the environment
Contact: Dr Rob Elliott
Email: r.j.elliott@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:r.j.elliott@bham.ac.uk>)
- The electricity industry; electricity markets; economic regulation
Contact: Professor Richard Green
Email: r.j.green@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:r.j.green@bham.ac.uk>)
- Economics of climate change
Contact: Dr David Maddison
Email: d.j.maddison@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:d.j.maddison@bham.ac.uk>)
- Trade bloc formation under oligopoly; trade, foreign direct investment and mergers
Contact: Dr Toby Kendall
Email: t.kendall@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:t.kendall@bham.ac.uk>)
- Trade in financial services; trade, foreign direct investment and mergers; business cycles
Contact: Professor Cillian Ryan
Email: c.ryan@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:c.ryan@bham.ac.uk>)

Employability

Career prospects

The University of Birmingham has recently been ranked 9th in the UK, and 55th in the world, for post-qualification employability in a global survey of universities commissioned by the *International Herald Tribune*.

Birmingham's Business graduates are sought after by a wide range of financial, commercial and public sector employers. They can typically offer a wide range of skills including analytical & research, numeracy, communication, team working and political & commercial awareness.

For those entering employment after graduating, traditionally popular areas include banking, accountancy/professional services and financial services. Many of our programmes involve studying towards a professional qualification. Outside of these areas, options include teaching abroad and retail management. Many PhD graduates also go on to forge successful academic careers of their own in teaching and academic research.

Doctoral Research career assistance

The University of Birmingham has invested heavily in careers and employability support. The Careers Team have been praised for enhanced developments within their team and for adopting a model of integrated employability and internship support; something that has been rolled out and implemented across all Schools and Colleges at the University.

Doctoral researchers at Birmingham Business School benefit from its own well qualified dedicated Careers Team to support students with employment opportunities, work placements, internships and how to succeed at interview. In addition, a range of career management, personal development and employer events are run each year by the Careers in Business Team to help you make the most of the opportunities available.

The University also has dedicated careers advisors for [International students \(/International/students/index.aspx\)](#) who run workshops and networking opportunities with potential employers. These are especially popular with International postgraduate researchers.

