

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MRes Economics (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Diploma Economics PG Certificate Economics
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	Full-time (1 year) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMRECNCMC_C
HECoS Code	100450
Start date of programme	Autumn 2019
Date of programme approval	October 2018
Date of last programme amendment approval	November 2022
Valid for academic entry year	2023-24
Date of last revision to document	31/08/2022

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in economics (or from a quantitative oriented discipline such as engineering, mathematics, statistics and alike). We may also ask for GRE scores.

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

This research oriented taught programme aims to prepare full time students who may wish to conduct MPhil/PhD level research later on.

- The programme will be a one year course with some daytime teaching.
- Students (FT) will receive research oriented training.
- Students will get a good understanding of economics and financial economics through doing Masters-and MPhil level modules in each of those subjects.
- Students will take advanced core and optional MSc level courses to equip them with the theoretical knowledge and analytical techniques necessary for research.
- Students will have the opportunity to specialise in any particular area via option modules available in MSc programmes.
- Students will conduct original research to fulfil the substantial MRes dissertation component of the degree, which can form the basis of a doctoral work later. As the aim of the programme is to prepare our students for research they may embark on later on, the weight of the MRes dissertation will be higher than usual.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	EMEC024S7	Microeconomics	30	Comp	T1
7	EMEC025S7	Macroeconomics	30	Comp	T2
7	EMEC026S7	Econometrics	30	Comp	T1+T2
7	BUEM091S7	Research Topics in Macroeconomics	30	Comp	T1+T2
7	BUEM092D7	MRes Dissertation	60	Core	

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.

The primary method of teaching is through lectures and guided reading, to outline the core material in each module, as well as a range of supplementary material available over Moodle. Students will supplement lectures with considerable amount of time on self-study.

One-to-one dissertation supervisions, enabling detailed and feedback on the student's choice of topic, as well as intensive training in academic writing as they improve successive drafts.

Learning activity is supported by our Virtual Learning Environment, which serves to convey programme content (lecture handouts, access to readings, possible audio and video recordings) and serves as a communication channel. Courses make use of substantial handouts designed to help digest material for busy students. Specific directions to texts, or extensive lecture notes also help students to obtain a clear idea of material covered in a particular lecture. Lectures also specify precise objectives at the outset. This knowledge is also particularly helpful in calibrating oneself with the state of the course if work commitments force absence at a previous lecture. Regular coursework and a variety of assessment methods are also designed to be formative and promote learning.

An important ingredient of learning is private study. Apart from providing reading lists, the programme requires students to produce independent project work, aiding development of analytical, quantitative as well as written communication skills.

The Dissertation, completed over the summer break, is the final piece of study where students demonstrate their ability to conduct independent research in a written long essay. Assigned supervisors ensure that the written project meets the academic standards expected at the Masters level.

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:

- Unseen two-hour or three-hour examinations
- In-class tests
- Assessed take-home assignments
- Project work
- Essays

Both the second internal and the external examiners scrutinise all examination papers before they are finalised. Exams are all double marked, and are moderated by an external examiner, who is invited to comment on the suitability of the assessment methods, criteria and procedures. These comments influence any changes that are recommended at the programme review meeting. Coursework is marked by the first examiner and moderated by a second internal examiner. For these feedback is provided, and those with failed marks are asked to meet with the lecturer.

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.

Students will receive a high-quality research oriented education in economics and/or financial economics. They will get a good understanding of key research questions in economics via our existing MSc level courses, the newly created core economics module and the MRes dissertation. Students will have the opportunity to specialise via free choice of additional option modules and via free choice of dissertation topic and if they satisfactorily complete requirements they will be transferred to our MPhil in Economics programme.

Subject Specific

To gain the MRes qualification the student will have demonstrated separately the skills specified in the learning outcomes for approved modules in the programme and will conduct independent research. These will ensure that they understand key principles and analytical constructs used in economics.

Intellectual

The ability to think in a structured manner about issues in economics, and in the social sciences more generally. They will conduct their own research for newly created core module and MRes dissertation. Furthermore, if they meet the requirements, they will be in the position to conduct advanced level research in economics through our MPhil programme later on.

Personal and Social

The ability to study independently, to learn from a wide range of sources including journal articles and the ability to transfer knowledge from one context to another. They will also be asked to conduct MRes level research.

Careers and further study

Our students go on to build successful careers with a variety of employers in a range of sectors, including government departments, the Bank of England, UK regulatory bodies, commercial banks and teaching, as well as continuing to PhD in economics.

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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