

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION  
(Undergraduate)**



<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	BSc (Hons)
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	Economics Economics (with Placement) Economics (with Study Abroad) Economics (with Work Placement and Study Abroad)
<b>5</b>	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	L100 / L101 / L102 / 1444U
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	Economics
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 6
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	April 2024

**10 Programme Aims**

The overall aims of the programme are to:

- 1 Provide an education in the principles of economics;
- 2 Enable the students to apply the knowledge and understanding they have acquired to address theoretical and applied problems in economics;
- 3 Equip students with a range of skills which will be of value in employment and provide them with the knowledge and opportunity to acquire skills to pursue further study in economics;
- 4 Provide an environment that encourages and supports the student learning process and develops their capacity for critical and creative thinking.

And which fully:

- Meets the requirements of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmark statement for Economics degrees;
- Conforms to the criteria for a level 6 award as degree laid down in the Higher Education Qualifications Framework of the QAA (2023).

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- 5 Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.
- 6 Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.
- 7 Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans.
- 8 Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the work place, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

- 9 Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills,

- intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness.
- 10 Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.
  - 11 Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

## **11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Economics and provide students with opportunities to demonstrate disciplinary competency. Students develop their Knowledge and Understanding of the key principles and theories of Economics. They also enhance their Intellectual Skills, Practical Skills and Transferable/Key Skills.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should have:

- A1 Knowledge and a coherent understanding of the theoretical concepts, analytical tools of economics and of associated empirical methods;
- A2 An awareness of the economic issues that confront the modern globalised society where different national economies are linked internationally;
- A3 An awareness and ability to understand the policy implications of economic analysis so that appropriate normative recommendations can be made based on welfare and ethical considerations;
- A4 An opportunity to develop in-depth, specialist knowledge in specific areas of Economics through optional modules.
- A5 An understanding of the history of economic thought and a knowledge of economic history.

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

- A6 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.
- A7 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.
- A8 Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.

- A9 Relate their work based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

- A10 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Lectures provide the principal means to impart knowledge and understanding (A1 to A4). Student learning and understanding are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).

<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Unseen examinations are the principal means to test knowledge and understanding (A1 to A4). Assessed coursework (essays, projects, presentations, numerical problems) is also used.
<b>Intellectual Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should have:
B1 The ability to apply subject-specific concepts, and verbal, graphical, mathematical and econometric methods of analysis to address economic issues;
B2 The ability to conceptualise and handle economic issues in an abstract fashion;
B3 The analytical skills needed to present and defend economic arguments;
B4 Developed the ability to interpret and critically evaluate the results of empirical research in economics.
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Lectures provide the principal means to impart intellectual skills (B1 to B4). These skills are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Unseen examinations are the principal means of testing intellectual skills (B1 to B4). Assessed coursework is also used.
<b>Practical Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to:
C1 Understand and employ economic terminology to explain and convey technical information;
C2 Demonstrate skills of problem solving and numeracy by applying the appropriate techniques and interpreting or critically evaluating the results within an economic context;
C3 Identify, locate and retrieve relevant economic materials;
C4 Apply knowledge to practical situations.
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Lectures provide the principal means to impart practical skills (C1 to C4). Seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources) enhance students' practical skills.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Practical skills (C1 to C4) are tested by a combination of unseen exams and coursework, with the former usually having the greater weight. Assessed coursework is also used, particularly when it can test skills not easily tested in an exam (such as information and data gathering.)
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to:

D1 Articulate, communicate and present arguments verbally and in writing;

D2 Work in a team, contributing appropriately and effectively towards the team-based activity;

D3 Use a variety of information technology skills, including word-processing, use of spreadsheets and databases, statistical software and online information services;

D4 Manage their time effectively, and be able to meet deadlines.

For Students Undertaking a Placement Year

D5 Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace.

D6 Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process.

D7 Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place.

For Students Undertaking a Study Abroad Year

D8 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

General study skills are introduced during student induction week. Oral presentation skills (D1) are practised in seminars, while written skills (also D1) are enhanced through formative feedback. Team work (D2) is practiced in a number of modules. Workshops are the principal means of teaching D3 skills. These skills are then developed throughout the programme by students having to prepare coursework and communicate their results. Time management skills (D4) are first taught in induction week; thereafter, the students learn to manage their own time, work independently and organise their work schedule such that they are able to prepare for seminars/exams and meet deadlines as well.

### **Assessment Strategy**

Oral presentation (D1) is tested in a number of modules, while written communication (also D1) is assessed through unseen exams and assessed coursework (essays and projects). The ability to work in a team (D2) is tested in a number of modules, through a team presentation or report. D3 is assessed directly in exams and coursework, and also indirectly, through coursework. Time management skills and the ability to work independently (D4) are tested indirectly through the need to prepare material and meet rigid deadlines.

## **12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

### **Basic structure of the programme**

All undergraduate degree programmes in Economics have a modular structure linked to a pattern for the academic year. This is based on a two semester system consisting of one 15 week semester and one 16 week semester located within a 3-term framework. Week 1 of Semester 1 is Induction Week, given over to registration and induction activities; weeks 2-13 are teaching and learning weeks; weeks 14 and 15 form the assessment period. In Semester 2 the first 12 weeks are teaching and learning weeks with the remaining weeks given over to assessments.

Each academic year of the degree programme is referred to as a Stage, so that students complete Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their degree. In each Stage of their degree students are required to study modules to a total credit value of 120, in accordance with degree programme regulations; usually taking modules with a credit value of 60 in Semester 1 and 60

in Semester 2, although a 50-70 or 70-50 split across semesters is permitted. A 10 credit module is equivalent to 100 notional hours of study.

The BSc Honours Economics (with Placement L101), the BSc Honours Economics (with Study Abroad L102) and the BSc Honours Economics (with Work Placement and Study Abroad 1444U) degree programmes are studied over four years. Stage 1, 2 and 3 are shared with L100 (BSc Honours Economics) whereas L101/L102/1444U introduces an Intercalating Year between Stages 2 and 3.

Stage 1 of the BSc Honours Economics degree programme introduces students to the fundamental concepts, analytical, mathematical and statistical techniques which are essential to an understanding of modern economics. Basic modules give students an awareness and understanding of the principles of economics. At this stage students are introduced to a variety of information technology skills which will be of use both during and after their degree studies. Basic study and communication skills are also developed at this Stage.

Stage 2 of the degree programme builds on the knowledge and skills acquired at Stage 1 and develops an intermediate level of analysis which will enable students to proceed to the more advanced undergraduate level in Stage 3. Compulsory intermediate level modules in microeconomics and macroeconomics provide deeper insights into how economists analyse the workings of the modern economy. Further compulsory modules aim to equip students with the tools needed to carry out basic empirical research in economics and to interpret and critically evaluate the results of such research. Another compulsory module deals with current economic issues and applied economics; it provides an opportunity for students to engage in group work and to develop key skills such as the ability to present and defend, both orally and in writing, economic arguments on topical issues. Students also have a choice of optional modules in economics, giving them the opportunity to start specialising in areas that interest them.

***Intercalating year:***

Students on BSc Honours Economics (with Placement)(L101) have chosen to transfer to L101 from BSc Honours Economics(L100) to undertake a placement year between stages 2 and 3. Permission to transfer to L101 is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme Director. The objective of the placement is to enhance basic skills and to provide an opportunity to make links between the academic content of the programme by reflection. The placement is usually with a large UK or international company that operate full-year placement schemes, though one-off opportunities also arise with other organisations. Students are responsible for sourcing the opportunities but the jobs are advertised to the students through the Business School Placement and Study Abroad Team, which plays an active role in identifying opportunities, and students then have to apply and undergo full selection procedures.

At this stage of the degree programme students also have the opportunity to take part in an exchange scheme which involves a period of study at a partner university. Permission to take part in an exchange is subject to the approval of the Degree Programme director. This involves transfer to L102 BSc Honours Economics (with Study Abroad).

For students who wish to undertake a combination of both work placement study abroad, there is an opportunity to transfer to 1444U BSc Honours Economics (with Work Placement and Study Abroad).

**Stage 3**

The final Stage of the degree programme further develops the knowledge and skills acquired at previous stages. Throughout this stage, students are encouraged to follow some more recent research developments in the field. The compulsory modules are those in advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics. Through the choice of appropriate optional modules students are able to apply rigorous economic analysis to those areas of economics that are of greatest interest to them. This includes the opportunity to undertake some original research through a dissertation, under the supervision of an academic who is research active in that particular field.

**Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

- The broad range of core subjects as well as optional modules. The rigorous and extensive analytical content of all modules.
- The scope for integrating theoretical academic studies in economics with applications and policy-based analysis by means of the final-year dissertation project.
- The opportunity and training on a placement.

**Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

[L100 L101 1444U Programme Regulations 2024-25](#)

**13 Support for Student Learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

**14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

*Accreditation reports*

None

*Additional mechanisms*

None

**15 Regulation of assessment**

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus:

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.