



POSTGRADUATE



Master of Economics

It's all about choices

The Master of Economics (MEcon) provides the skills needed by professional economists in the public and private sector, and by academic researchers in Economics. It also provides a pathway to doctoral-level study in Economics.

The MEcon is designed for students with an undergraduate major in Economics that includes a solid grounding in mathematical economics and econometrics. The MEcon can be studied either full-time (12 months) or part-time starting either Semester One (February) or Semester Two (July) over 24 months.

The programme involves both coursework and a research dissertation. The coursework component covers modern economic theories, models and econometric methods relevant to current research on a variety of economic topics. The dissertation involves the application of economic theory and/or econometric methods to analyse a particular research question.

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Programme admission

Entry into the MEcon normally requires:

- A bachelor's degree in Economics that includes 300-level papers in both econometrics and mathematical economics (i.e., ECON 375 and ECON 377*)
- An average grade of at least B+ for the best four 300-level papers that can count towards the Economics major subject requirement

(*As a transitional arrangement, applicants for the MEcon degree who have not had the opportunity to take ECON 377 will be required to have passed ECON 270, ECON 371 and ECON 376 instead.)

Teaching style & methods

You will be taught using a mixture of lectures and in-class discussions, seminars, tutorials, and group work. While completing the MEcon you may be assessed in a variety of ways such as by essays, individual or group presentations, or a final exam.

Career opportunities

Possible destinations for MEcon graduates:

- Private sector economic consultancy, forecasting and policy analysis
- Central and commercial banking
- Local and central government (e.g., Treasury, Economic Development, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Commerce Commission, Inland Revenue)
- International economic organisations (e.g., OECD)
- Academic teaching and research

For questions about
Master of Economics

otago.ac.nz/economics/study/postgraduate/index.html



Programme structure

The programme of study shall consist of six papers, including ECON 410 and ECON 411 plus at least one of ECON 412 and ECON 413, selected from:

ECON 402 Growth, Institutions and Development 20 points
Examines theoretical and empirical aspects of economic growth and development, with emphasis on the role of institutions and human capital.

ECON 403 Monetary Economics 20 points
Examines theoretical and empirical aspects of the role of money in the macroeconomy, New Classical and New Keynesian Economics and their implications for monetary policy.

ECON 404 International Economics 20 points
Covers advanced topics in international trade (including intermediate goods trade, inter-temporal trade, increasing returns and new trade theory) and open-economy macroeconomics (including empirical tests of PPP, exchange-rate and currency-crisis models).

ECON 405 The Economics of Natural Resources and Public Choice 20 points
Covers advanced topics in natural resource economics (including dynamic optimisation of harvest/depletion rates, fisheries policy and multi-species modelling) and the economics of collective decision-making.

ECON 406 Labour and Population Economics 20 points
Covers advanced topics in labour and population economics, and provides an in-depth study of how individuals and households make important life decisions.

ECON 407 Special Topic in Advanced Economics 20 points
Covers advanced topics in macro and/or micro economics.

ECON 410 Advanced Microeconomic Theory 20 points
Advanced analysis of microeconomic models of consumer choice, production theory, market equilibrium, and social choice and welfare.

ECON 411 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory 20 points
A modern approach to macroeconomic theory with an emphasis on the microeconomic foundation of macroeconomic models.

ECON 412 Macroeconometrics 20 points
This paper examines aspects of time-series econometrics that have become widely used in the estimation and testing of macroeconomic relationships over the last 25 years.

ECON 413 Microeconometrics 20 points
This paper provides students with practical experience of applying standard microeconomic techniques to large sample surveys.

together with:

ECON 580 Research Dissertation 60 points
The aim of the research dissertation – expected to be 15000-20000 words long – is for students to gain experience in undertaking economic research.

A candidate may be exempted from some of the required papers on the basis of previous study, subject to the approval of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Commerce). Alternative papers will be required at an equivalent level of study.

A candidate must pass both the papers and the dissertation components.

