

Bachelor of Economics (Honours)



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Chair's Welcome

Congratulations on your excellent decision to pursue the Bachelor of Economics (Honours) degree here at Carleton. It is a unique degree in Canada relative to a standard B.A. degree, with an enhanced focus on student training, experiential learning, Co-Ops, student supports and advising, networking, and research assistantships with faculty members. The B. ECON (H) offers four highly flexible pathways allowing students to choose from eight concentrations. For example, you can do Honours with one or two concentrations.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the relevance of economics in almost every aspect of our lives cannot be overstated. At its core, economics is the study of decision-making in the face of scarce resources and competing interests. The need to make these prudent choices pervades our day-to-day lives – as individuals, as a community, and as a society.

Why is it fun and highly advantageous to do a degree in Economics?

The work of an economist is in many ways like that of a detective. With our economics lens in hand, we look for clues in the data, and mixed with some creative thinking and critical reasoning, uncover the underlying causes of some seemingly odd outcomes that we observe around us. The availability of bigger and more detailed datasets and “super-super” computers has added great optimism about solving the major challenges of the 21st century like global inequality and hunger, economic development through empowerment of women, education, health, immigration, and climate change.

Economics provides causal insights backed by rigorous analysis into important societal issues such as health care, protecting the environment, reducing inequality, universal basic income, the design of social programs, tax systems, monetary and fiscal policies, trade agreements, among others. Further, technical knowledge gained through the study of economics is portable and highly valued by employers in many areas, including: the banking and financial sectors, labour relations, international trade, entrepreneurship, corporate and climate finance. It can also provide a unique leadership edge in your career.

While education in economics is relevant for careers in business and management, its scope and impact are much broader. Economics is a social science; as an intellectual discipline, economics seeks to measure, analyze, and understand a wide range of social phenomena using a rich set of technical tools and methods. The focus of an education in economics is on intellectual growth and development. It fosters critical thinking, which is one of the most valued skills for Canadian employers. This is also reflected in higher salaries and wages for economists in the job market relative to many other social sciences.

I look forward to welcoming you all in-person at the start of the Fall 2022 term!