

2025-2026 Program Handbook:

M.A. Economics



This handbook is intended to provide answers to some of the questions that you might have both before and during your time as an M.A. Economics student at Carleton. If you cannot find the answer to your question here, please ask an appropriate person. For questions of an academic nature, please contact Professor Maya Papineau, M.A. Supervisor, at maya.papineau@carleton.ca For questions of an administrative nature including course registration support, please contact Renée Lortie, Graduate Administrator, at renee.lortie@carleton.ca

M.A. Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the M.A. program, applicants should have an Honours (4 year) undergraduate degree in Economics from a recognized university with a minimum B+ average. Applicants are expected to have had adequate preparation in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory, econometrics, and mathematics. This could be satisfied, for example, by having completed at least four 4th-year level advanced undergraduate courses, such as advanced microeconomic theory, advanced macroeconomic theory, econometric theory and methods, and mathematical analysis in economics, or their equivalents. All admission decisions are subject to the M.A. committee's discretion based on their assessment of students' academic preparation and performance.

Students with credentials from outside of Canada are strongly advised to complete the [GRE](#) and submit their score in their application package. Some applicants may also need to submit proof of English Language Proficiency. For details on this, please see our webpage on [English Proficiency Requirements](#).

For more information on admission requirements, please visit the Economics Program Section of the 2025-2026 Graduate Studies Calendar and select the 'Admission (M.A.)' tab. You can find the calendar page here: <https://calendar.carleton.ca/grad/gradprograms/economics/>

M.A. Program Requirements

The typical M.A. program consists of 4.0 credits (equivalent to eight 0.5 credit courses), spread over two terms. Full-time students are expected to complete the program in one year, whereas part-time students may complete in two years. These 4.0 credits must include the four core courses along with four electives.

The four core courses of the M.A. program are ECON 5020 (Microeconomic Theory), ECON 5027 (Econometrics I), ECON 5021 (Macroeconomic Theory) and ECON 5029 (Methods of Economic Research).

Students must achieve a minimum of B- in each of these courses. Failure to do so will require students to repeat the course. In addition, students must satisfy the Carleton University Graduate Studies regulations on adequate academic performance. See [Section 11](#) of the Graduate Regulations manual.

Please note: Students must successfully complete both ECON 5027 and ECON 5020 before they are eligible to enroll in ECON 5029. Furthermore, the first attempt at any of these courses must be completed at Carleton University.

Extended MA Program Requirements

The Admissions Committee may offer an applicant admission to the extended M.A. program where an applicant meets most admission requirements but is missing some advanced coursework. In this program, students must complete some or all the following courses before beginning the M.A. 5000-level program requirements:

ECON 4001 (Mathematical Analysis in Economics), ECON 4002 (Statistical Analysis in Economics), ECON 4020 (Advanced Microeconomic Theory), ECON 4021 (Advanced Macroeconomic Theory), and ECON 4706 (Econometrics I).

Registration

Carleton Central central.carleton.ca, our Web-based information system, is the registration tool for Carleton University. Through Carleton Central, you will be able to register for courses, view tuition fee information, check your grades, create your timetable, change your address, load funds on your campus card, and much more. Information and instructions on how to register can be obtained at [https://carleton.ca/registration/Course Registration | Current Grad Students](https://carleton.ca/registration/Course%20Registration%20|%20Current%20Grad%20Students).

Registration for all Graduate level students opens July 8th, 2025.

Conditions of Admission

Often, students accepted to the M.A. program will have conditions on their offer of admission. These conditions are typically related to official Canadian transcripts sent directly from the institution or official WES Evaluations for international transcripts, English language proficiency scores, or official letters of withdrawal in cases where an applicant is transferring from another graduate program. To register for courses, all the conditions on an offer of admission must be met and verified by Graduate Studies. If admitted as an international applicant WES evaluation should be requested as soon as possible, as having conditions on your offer of admission may delay the study permit application process.

Please refer to the [Checklist for New Graduate Students](#) for more information.

Mathematics & Statistics Review (ECON 4995)

Each year the Department of Economics schedules a complementary online condensed review course for incoming M.A. students, "Review of Mathematical and Statistical Methods of Economics". Although it is not a required course, the Department of Economics strongly encourages all incoming M.A. level students to enroll in ECON 4995 unless you have been admitted to the extended M.A. and completing ECON 4001 & ECON 4002 in the fall.

For 2025, this course will be delivered online, weekdays **from August 18th-28th**. Please note that this course does not count towards elective program requirements. Rather, it is a supplemental course meant to prepare students with refresher material for the advanced nature of graduate courses.

To register, you can find ECON 4995 listed among the [fall courses](#) in Carleton Central.

2025-2026 Course Offerings

Core Courses: ECON 5020, ECON 5021, ECON 5027, and ECON 5029 will be offered in both the fall and winter terms. *Again, please note that students must complete ECON 5020 and 5027 with a minimum B- in each before they are permitted to continue in ECON 5029.*

Electives: Below is a list of the currently planned **2025-2026 elective course offerings**. For electives, students are permitted to take courses at either Carleton University or the University of Ottawa. **Registration for exchange courses at UOttawa is not done on Carleton Central**, rather through the submission of the Exchange Form. Please email renee.lortie@carleton.ca directly to request an exchange form.

Fall 2025:

Electives at Carleton University

ECON 5051 (Asset Pricing), Econ 5055 (Financial Econometrics), *ECON 5065 (Selected Topics in Economic Policy), ECON 5402 (Public Economics: Taxation), ECON 5505 (Topics in Development Economics), ECON 5602 (International Monetary Theory and Policy), ECON 5708 (Economic Data Science-Analytics), and ECON 5712 (Micro-Econometrics).

Electives at The University of Ottawa

ECON 5362 (Labour Economics II), ECON 5500 (Development Economics I), ECON 5607 (Topics in Monetary Economics), ECON 5804 (Economics of the Environment) and ECON 5880 (Selected Topics in Economic Theory).

Winter 2026:

Electives at Carleton University

ECON 5052 (Financial Markets & Instruments), ECON 5361 (Labour Economics I), ECON 5603 (Topics in International Economics), ECON 5709 (Economic Data Science – Applications), ECON 5713 (Time-Series Econometrics), ECON 5805 (Topics in Environmental Resource Economics), ECON 5880 Z (Special Topics: Individual Decision-Making) and ECON 5880 W (Special Topics: Economic Data Science Applications).

Electives at The University of Ottawa

ECON 5403 (Topics in the Theory of Public Economy), ECON 5460 (Health Economics), ECON 5504 (Development Economics II), and ECON 5609 (Explorations in Monetary Economics).

*Econ 5060, 5063 and 5065 are Graduate Diploma in Economic Policy courses. M.A. students can count at most **one** of these courses for credit if any M.A. Economics program, and subject to the M.A. program supervisor's approval.

Course Registration – External Units

The Department of Economics maintains partnerships that allow students to take courses in other academic units at Carleton University and/or the Department of Economics at The University of Ottawa. Please see below for specific processes for each.

The University of Ottawa: Under our agreement with The University of Ottawa, students registered in the M.A. Economics program may take one exchange ECON/ECO elective without paying additional fees.

Registration for exchange courses at UOttawa is not done on Carleton Central, rather through the submission of the Exchange Form. Please email renee.lortie@carleton.ca directly to request an exchange form.

You must retain the signature approval of Renee Lortie, Graduate Administrator, Economics Dept. at Carleton University. Renee will then email your form to Carleton's Graduate Studies Department on your behalf. Grad Studies will then notify the administration at The University of Ottawa of your intention to register for one of their courses. *If space is available*, you will be notified via email of your registration and given access to The University of Ottawa's Brightspace course page.

Again, please note, registration is only possible through this process and is not available through Carleton Central.

Courses in other Carleton academic units: Students in the Economics M.A. program may be permitted to take up to two one-term courses (1.0 credit) at the 5000 level from among those offered by other academic units.

To do so, you will need the permission of the M.A. Supervisor for Economics (Professor Maya Papineau) as well as permission from the M.A. Supervisor and Graduate Administrator of the other academic unit.

Concentrations, Specializations, and Joint Programs

Within the M.A. Economics program, we are pleased to offer 3 Specializations and one Concentration option. Given the level of coursework required for each, students may only select one of the options listed below.

Collaborative Specialization in Data Science: This is a joint program between Data Science and Economics and is only available to students who apply directly to the M.A.-D.S. program. As spaces are extremely limited, students in the M.A. Economics program typically will not have the option to transfer into the Data Science specialization after they begin their program in the fall.

In addition to their core courses, students in this specialization will need to complete:

- DATA 5000 (Data Science Seminar), *offered winter only*.
- 0.5 credits in ECON 5708 (Economic Data Science – Analytics), *offered fall only and required for ECON 5709* (Economic Data Science – Applications), *offered winter only*.
- 0.5 credit of Data Science elective (approved by the MA Program Supervisor) which may include ECON 5055 (Financial Econometrics) *typically offered fall only*, ECON 5709 (Economic Data Science – Applications), *offered winter only*, ECON 5712 (Micro Econometrics), *offered in either fall or winter*, ECON 5713 (Macro Econometrics), *offered in either fall or winter*.
- A satisfactory research paper for ECON 5029 that covers a Data Science related topic

Collaborative Specialization in African Studies: This is a joint program between the Office of African Studies and Economics. It also requires students to apply to the program directly and typically does not admit transfer students from other M.A. Economics programs.

In addition to their core courses, a student in this specialization must complete the following:

- AFRI 5000 (African Studies as a Discipline: Historical and Current Perspectives), *offered winter only.*
- 0.5 credits in African Studies.
- 1.0 credits in Economics, including at least one of ECON 5500 (Economics of Development), ECON 5504 (Economics of Development: Domestic Aspects) or ECON 5505 (Economic Development: International Aspects).
- AFRI 5800 (Scholarly Preparation in African Studies).
- A satisfactory research paper for ECON 5029 that focuses on African Studies.

Collaborative Specialization in Climate Change: This specialization is a unique interdisciplinary program that offers courses on various topics related to Economics and climate change. It is available to students who apply directly for the M.A. Economics Collaborative Specialization in Climate Change Program.

In addition to the **2.0 Credits in core courses**, students in this specialization will need to complete:

- **1.0 Credit** in CLIM 5000 (Climate Change Collaboration), *offered as a full year course Sept-April, therefore if being admitted directly into the M.A. with no additional ECON 4000-level courses to complete, applicants must begin the Specialization in Climate Change in the fall.*
- Climate Seminar Series (CLIM 5800) 0.0 Credit, *with registration in both the fall and winter.*
- **0.5 Credit** in Economics, including at least one of ECON 5507 (Environmental Aspects of Economic Development), ECON 5803 (Economics of Natural Resources), ECON 5804 (Economics of the Environment), and ECON 5805 (Topics in Environmental and Resources Economics) or an approved Special Topic in the area of Climate Change.
- **0.5 credit** in ECON at the 5000 level with sufficient Climate Change content (may be an additional course listed above), chosen in consultation with the Department of Economics.
- A satisfactory research paper for ECON 5029 that focuses on Climate Change related topics.

Concentration in Financial Economics: Applicants may choose this Concentration upon admission, or a student may subsequently switch into the M.A. Economics with Financial Concentration upon completion of the required coursework.

In addition to their core courses, students in this program must complete the following:

- ECON 5051 (Asset Pricing), *offered in either fall or winter.*
- ECON 5052 (Financial Markets and Instruments), *offered in either fall or winter.*
- One of ECON 5055 (Financial Econometrics) *typically offered fall only*, ECON 5708 (Economic Data Science – Analytics), *offered fall only*, ECON 5712 (Micro Econometrics), *offered in either fall or winter,* ECON 5713 (Macro Econometrics), *offered in either fall or winter.*
- One additional elective (0.5) credits

Additional Program and Course Options

The following courses and programs are opportunities students should carefully consider and require the permission of the M.A. Supervisor. Students wishing to participate in any of these options should consult with Professor Maya Papineau and/or Renée Lortie directly.

Thesis Option: Though the M.A. Economics program follows a course-based structure, students may apply to complete the M.A. Economics with a thesis component. The thesis option includes 1.5 credits of core courses, 1.0 credit of elective courses, and 1.5 credits allocated to the thesis itself.

Before applying for the thesis option, students must meet the following requirements:

- Completion of ECON 5020 and ECON 5027
- A- (10.0) or above in all core courses
- Completed thesis proposal form
- Signed supervision agreement with an Economics Department Faculty member.

For questions related to the thesis option, please consult Professor Maya Papineau or Renée Lortie directly.

Directed Research: Students looking for an enriched research experience at the M.A. level may consider the Directed Research (ECON 5906) course. This course includes regular meetings with a faculty member with the ultimate culmination of a major research paper at the end of the term. To enroll, students must:

- Have completed both ECON 5020 (Microeconomics) and ECON 5027 (Econometrics) with a B- grade or higher in each.
- Find a faculty member willing to supervise for the duration of the course – including participating in bi-weekly meetings for progress review and the assessment/grading of the final paper.
- Complete the appropriate form and submit it to the M.A. Supervisor for approval.

Success in ECON 5906 and the final grade will be determined by the final research paper. ECON 5906 does not serve to replace ECON 5029 (Research Methods).

Internship Program

The internship program is only available to students who are registered full-time; have successfully completed 2.0 credits which must include ECON 5020 (Microeconomics) and ECON 5027 (Econometrics) with a minimum grade of B- in each; who are in good standing overall; and who have at least 0.5 credits remaining in their program to return to full-time studies, the term immediately following the internship.

Our internship program is registered with the Government of Canada's Post-secondary Co-operative Education and Internship Program, meaning that Carleton M.A. Economics students are eligible for positions under this program. Applicants must be eligible to work in Canada. *International student applicants should confirm their residency status when applying for federal government internships.*

Internship opportunities will be emailed to eligible students by the Graduate Administrator as employers submit them. However, students are encouraged to seek out their own internship opportunities.

Following a formal offer of employment students must obtain an approval letter from the M.A. Supervisor to be submitted to the employer. This letter can be obtained by contacting the Graduate Administrator (Renée Lortie).

Once an internship contract has been signed, students must change their registration status to part-time for the term of their internship by completing the [Graduate Academic Registration Change Form](#) and submitting it with the required Graduate Administrator's/Supervisor's signature to Graduate Studies at GraduateServices@cunet.carleton.ca

Graduate Studies will register you into ECON 5902 (Internship Course) on your behalf.

Students may register concurrently in a maximum of one (0.5 credit) course while participating in an internship.

Internship Report

To be successful in the internship program, students are required to present their experience in the form of a written report.

The final report is due on the 15th day of the final month of the placement and must include a letter from the employer confirming that all job performance on the part of the student was satisfactory as well as a 1000 to 1500 word written report based on the instructions below. The report must be submitted to the Graduate Administrator via e-mail by this deadline.

The written portion of the report should contain a description of one major project, or two smaller projects completed during the work term. For example, the report could contain a description of econometric work or cost-benefit analysis undertaken or summarize the main conclusions from a literature survey carried out for the employer.

When no major projects have been undertaken, the report may focus on a description of the technical aspects of the placement (e.g. economic techniques used) or describe problems solved during the placement. When sensitive information is involved, the contents of the report may be kept confidential.

Teaching Assistantships

Upon admission, some students are offered funding in the form of Teaching Assistantships (T.A. ships).

To accept and be placed for your T.A. position, students must first fill out the T.A. Profile tool in Carleton Central (under the T.A. Management section). Once your profile is complete, the Department will work to match you with an appropriate course. Due to the number of positions, students are not permitted to self-select their assigned courses. Rather, the placements are assigned internally with the best pairings for each student with their own course schedule and T.A. profile selections in mind. Once your assignment has been confirmed, it will be visible on Carleton Central.

There are many T.A. resources and training materials available on the [Teaching Assistant Information](#) pages. All graduate students who have accepted a teaching assistantship from Carleton University must have completed the [Online Employee Intake Form](#) before they are able to receive compensation. The first payment for T.A. duties is issued on the 30th of the first month of the term assignment and then every two weeks until the end of the term assignment.

Program Contact Information

Not sure who to contact? Please send us your questions to economics@carleton.ca and we will refer you to the appropriate person. *Please refrain from emailing multiple people with the same question.*

Carleton University

General Inquiries economics@carleton.ca

Patrick Coe, Chair

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Maya Papineau, M.A. Supervisor

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Dawn Bjornson, Departmental Administrator (*T.A. Assignments*)

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Renée Lortie, Graduate Administrator

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