

Programme Specification

BA Economics with International Foundation Year

UCAS Code: L1F1 L1F2

For students entering Foundation year in September 2025

UFECBAFF

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Economics

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a thorough degree level education in economics. It aims to produce economists with a wide knowledge of a range of subject areas, with a particular appreciation of the economic analysis of key societal and policy challenges and the data handling skills to inform and analyse economic policy. It does not involve as high a level of compulsory mathematics as our BSc Economics programme and gives you more choice through optional modules.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) with entry points in both September and January. The IFP provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the Part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

The programme is of value either to students who wish to go on to become professional economists or to those who wish to gain a mix of skills that is known to be particularly valuable in modern job markets, such as numeracy, writing, computing, data analysis, and analytical thought. It also has intrinsic value to those with an interest in the economic analysis of various real-world problems.

Foundation year:	In the Foundation year you will study 140 credits, which includes developing transferable skills through in the compulsory 20 credit Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will take two 20 credit modules in economics and there is a choice of optional modules for the remaining
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	<p>credits. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, you will take two 20-credit modules in Academic English.</p> <p>Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.</p>
Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to the basic underpinnings of modern macroeconomics and microeconomics, and supplements this with an introduction to statistics and mathematics as used in economics. Students also have a choice of optional modules.
Part 2:	Part 2 enhances your knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics to intermediate level. Your ability to analyse data and use software is also enhanced through an introduction to econometrics. You will also be taught about the economics of social policy and be given more opportunity to pursue your interests through optional modules.
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge of economics in areas which interest you through optional modules. This includes the opportunity to do a dissertation. This allows you to do research supervised by a staff member, enhancing independent learning, research, writing and analytical skills.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Economics with International Foundation Year

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Critically understand the fundamental concepts and tools of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2	Appreciate the history and development of economic ideas.
3	Apply the most frequently used mathematical techniques in economics, and basic econometric/statistical techniques for data analysis.
4	Apply analytical principles to a range of problems.
5	Critically assess the impact of past and contemporary changes of economic policy.
6	Formulate and critically analyse economic questions and policy challenges.
7	Use IT (word-processing, visual communication, Excel, econometric software, Web search).
8	Communicate ideas in a logical way both verbally and non-verbally to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
9	Contribute to group discussions on economic policy and societal problems.
10	Collate, interpret and present economic and policy relevant data and information.

11	Manage time and prioritise workload.	
12	Plan career strategy.	
<p>You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.</p> <p>To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.</p>		

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
N/A	

Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Students entering the programme in September will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
IF0EC1	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0EC2	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, you must take the modules Academic English 1 (IF0AE1) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2).

Students entering the programme in January will take the following compulsory modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0
IF0C1J	Foundation Economics - Microeconomics	20	0
IF0C2J	Foundation Economics - Macroeconomics	20	0

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, you must take the modules Academic English 1 (IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0E2J).

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC140	Principles of Economics 1	20	4
EC141	Principles of Economics 2	20	4
EC142	Applied Economics and Policy	20	4
EC143	Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

All students will take a preparatory module in core skills required for transition to undergraduate study.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20	5
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20	5
EC204	Introductory Econometrics	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Economics with 20 credits of modules permitted from an approved list of modules.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must take 120 credits of optional modules available in the Department of Economics.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional

modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, tutorials (including some computer classes) and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The International Foundation Programme will include at least 15 hours of classroom-based teaching each week.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations and coursework (including class tests). Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- (i) obtain an overall weighted average of 50% over 120 credits taken in Part 0; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all individual modules.

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1 and be eligible for transfer to BA Economics, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) at least 50% in each of Academic English 1 (IF0AE1 or IF0E1J) and Academic English 2 (IF0AE2 or IF0E2J) (if taken).

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Transferring from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme

Students are able to transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to fulfilling the Part 1 University Threshold Standard, achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules in the subject to which they wish to transfer, and fulfilling any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

Students who transfer from a Joint Honours to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Four year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Five year programmes, including study abroad / placement year:

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. However, actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements. Some textbooks are available to our students for free online which can significantly reduce costs. Students can also reduce their costs by buying books second-hand. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Economics with International Foundation Year for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

27 October 2025

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