



CAREERS FOR THOSE STUDYING ECONOMICS

This sheet should be used in conjunction with the Careers Service website www.bath.ac.uk/careers and MyFuture (<https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk> – vacancies, events listing and resources).

What jobs do Economists do?

Every year data is collected on what happens to UK and EU graduates from universities in the UK based on what activity they were involved in six months after graduation. Nationally economics graduates had a large concentration of graduates who were working in business, HR and finance professions, with 54.3% of those in employment in the UK in these roles compared to 10% of graduates from all subjects. Figures relate to 2016 cohort.

To find out what students from your course here at Bath have gone on to do look at our *What do Bath graduates do?* web pages at www.bath.ac.uk/guides/what-do-first-degree-bath-graduates-do/. You may be surprised at the variety of jobs. There are large numbers of employers, including those you might naturally assume would have most interest in economics graduates, who are willing to recruit graduates from any subject, for example employers in the City and Finance sector. Therefore your options are wide open and you need not feel as though finance-related careers are your only choice. See the *Researching economics careers* section in this guide for resources to help you find out more about specific economics-related careers.

I'm not sure which career to choose

In some occupations your economics knowledge and skills could be central to the job whilst for other jobs they could be an asset, however getting the job could be more reliant on your broader skills and personal qualities. Take time to explore other factors like your values and strengths. Think about what energises you and what de-motivates you. These factors are equally important to consider as your degree subject. For more general help on self-assessment look at the *Choose a career* section of our website: www.bath.ac.uk/guides/choose-a-career-find-out-what-you-want/ in particular look at *Online guidance tools*.

Combine this research with talking to a Careers Adviser so you can start to get some ideas to explore. You don't need to know what you want to do before speaking to a Careers Adviser but some research will help. To find out how you can access this support see our website: www.bath.ac.uk/guides/careers-service-appointments/. Ideally do not leave this until your final year but don't be put off seeking help if you are in your final year.

I think I'd like to be a ...

Having a few ideas of jobs which interest you is another starting point. You should spend some time finding out more about them. Look at:

- Our information resources for occupational research: www.bath.ac.uk/services/careers-resource-catalogue/
- Occupational Profiles and Job Sector reviews on Prospects website: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles and www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors
- Bath Connection provides access to Bath alumni willing to talk to you about their jobs: www.bath.ac.uk/guides/using-bath-connection-as-a-careers-tool/
- Our Events programme during Semester One and Semester Two which you can book via <https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk/>

I'm thinking about further study

For some specialist economics roles you may need to study at Masters level or undertake a PhD. Talk to your Personal Tutor or lecturer for the specific area of your subject that interests you. Find out what is entailed in further study by attending the Careers Service skills sessions in Semester One which you will find listed in MyFuture (<https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk>) under events. Look at the postgraduate study section of our website www.bath.ac.uk/guides/find-further-study-why-do-postgraduate-study/. There are many courses at a postgraduate level and it would be a good plan to find out the benefits to your career before applying.

If you would like to continue your studies outside the UK, start looking earlier than your final year as the timetable may be different. If you are planning on studying in a country where you will be spending time before your final year then it would be a good idea to check things out while you are there.

At the same time as planning where and what to study you need to think about how you will fund it. Applications for postgraduate study are different to your UCAS applications. In many cases you will make individual applications to institutions, however there are a few professional qualifications where you will still find a clearing house system. Our website should give you some help but always ask us if you are not sure.

As well as providing feedback on a CV, Careers Advisers will do the same for postgraduate study applications.

Researching economics careers

For further ideas of typical roles for Economists you will find the following websites useful:

- **Studying Economics** is a website published by the Economics Network at Bristol University and offers advice, help and information for economics undergraduates. There is advice on module options, doing a dissertation or preparing exams. The section called "After your Degree" has some very useful information about future careers and further study options. See www.studyingeconomics.ac.uk/
- **Why Study Economics** is a website from the same source as above with similar content but some differences: <http://whystudyeconomics.ac.uk/After-you-graduate/>
- **Working as an Economist** is a guide published by the University of Manchester Careers Service. Very useful for the list of employers that both those looking for work experience and graduate jobs will find useful: www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/careersandemployabilitydivision/careersservice/crcpublications/startingpointseriesofhandouts/sectorsandoptions/WorkingasanEconomist.pdf.

- **Economic Consultancy** sector advice is published by the University of St Andrews Careers Service and a nice summary of potential employers and resources for those interested in this type of work. See www.st-andrews.ac.uk/careers/exploring-your-future/career-options/a-z/economic-consultancy.
- **Working in the UK Government Economic Service** – The UK's largest recruiter of Economists is the GES. There are two ways you can join. The first is as part of the Civil Service Analytical Fast Stream. Scheme usually opens: 1 September and closes: 30 September. There is usually a second round in spring but you can only apply once in a calendar year. See www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks/ges. The second way is to apply for a fixed term Assistant Economist post. These come up fairly regularly. It is possible to apply to the Fast Stream whilst you are employed as an Assistant Economist.
- **Economists at the Office for National Statistics (ONS)** are either recruited through the Analytical Fast Stream mentioned above or you apply direct for an Economic Researcher post which is designed to support graduates into the Fast Stream. You have two years to successfully apply. Jobs are advertised via <https://civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk>.
- **Bank of England** – They specifically recruit Economists although most have a Masters or PhD. If you have a very good degree you may get in straight after your undergraduate degree or you could apply for the Postgraduate Sponsorship Scheme if you plan on doing a Masters. Your Masters will be sponsored and you will be offered a summer placement at the Bank before you start the course. They offer internship opportunities for first and penultimate year students as well as placements: www.bankofenglandgraduates.co.uk.
- **Royal Economic Society** – has a useful page of job listing sites www.res.org.uk/view/jobListings.html.
- **Development Economics** – You'll need to combine relevant modules at undergraduate level, relevant experience in developing countries or with relevant development organisations and probably a Masters' degree in the subject. This looks an interesting source of information www.danrogger.com/teaching.html. You could work for governmental bodies such as the Department for International Development (DFID); in major international, financial and development institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or the United Nations; or in the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) but it is likely you will need at least a Masters to achieve that. It might help to look at another helpsheet we have for *Careers in International Development, International Organisations and International Relations* which you can access via www.bath.ac.uk/guides/list-of-careers-service-publications/.
- **Financial Technology** – Describes the evolving intersection between technology and financial services. They involve all kinds of companies and organisations such as start-ups, big tech companies but also well-established big financial institutions like multi-national banks. The sector advertises roles for both tech and non-tech experts, but a passion for technology is a must. To gain commercial awareness about the sector, have a look at sites such as Fin Tech Times - <https://thefintechtimes.com/> and Techfoliance - <https://techfoliance.com/>, listen to podcasts such as London Fintech Podcasts and get involved with online communities on LinkedIn and Meetup.

Further resources

Below are some additional websites for particular areas of economics which are worth a look:

- **Society of Business Economists** - www.sbe.co.uk: a professional body for Economists working in the Business Sector.
- **EDIRC** - <http://edirc.repec.org>: Economics Departments, Institutes and Research Centres in the World
- **Econ-jobs.com** - www.econ-jobs.com will give you an idea of the kind of jobs which are advertised for more experienced Economists.
- **Economics Forum** - <http://economists.ning.com> described as the leading Economics Forum - with economics discussion forums, blogs, resources, videos, and jobs for Economists.
- **Listen to Podcasts** such as EconTalk, VoxTalks or listen to companies' own podcasts

Networking with Bath Graduates

Advice about networking and, in particular using social media for this, can be found in our *Finding a graduate job* guide. Pick up a copy from our office or download it at www.bath.ac.uk/publications/finding-a-graduate-job-guide/

Bath Connection

Bath Connection is a secure online system which allows you to network with our Alumni Experts. They are Bath graduates who have volunteered to talk to current Bath students (and fellow graduates) about working for their employer, what's involved in their job and also diversity issues. We have developed this service as a joint initiative with the Alumni Relations Team.

Bath Connection includes hundreds of graduates working for a wide range of employers and in many types of role, from the high profile to the more unusual. You can use it to ask a quick question or to request more in-depth support.

This is a really great way to get some extra insight from someone who has 'been there already'. The Alumni Experts are ready to share their expertise and advice to help you succeed.

Find out more at www.bath.ac.uk/guides/using-bath-connection-as-a-careers-tool/

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