

Economics Graduate Programs at George Mason University

PROGRAM PROFILE

The Department of Economics at George Mason University offers a master's degree and a doctoral degree in economics. The department is noted for its emphasis on both quantitative and qualitative comparative institutional analysis and its focus on the relations among economic, political, and legal institutions. This is reflected in the specializations associated with the department: Austrian economics, constitutional political economy, experimental economics, law and economics, new institutional economics, and public choice. We offer a strong core of courses in applied economics and our faculty apply economic theory to a wide range of allied disciplines, including: political science, philosophy, sociology, history, and classics.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS AT GEORGE MASON?

The Department of Economics has graduated many successful economists who are employed throughout the worlds of academia, business, philanthropy, and government. Students who have earned their economics PhD at Mason have joined universities including: Carnegie Mellon University, Duke University, Harvard University, New York University, Stanford University, and UC Berkeley, among many other leading universities and colleges throughout the world.

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report*, George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See <http://economics.gmu.edu> for a complete listing of faculty, courses, and program requirements.

DOCTORAL DEGREE

The PhD program prepares students for careers in academia, business, and government. Core courses train students in modern theory and quantitative techniques, while field courses stress the application of theory to relevant economic problems. Dissertation work requires students to master and apply skills to carry out original research. The department emphasizes publishing and many students have articles accepted for publication in professional journals while in the graduate program. Research in the Department of Economics covers a broad spectrum from problems of immediate policy importance to fundamental questions of economic and social organization.

The department offers the following fields of study: Austrian economics, constitutional economics, economic history, experimental economics, industrial organization, institutions and development, law and economics, monetary economics, Public Choice, Smithian political economy, history of thought, and individualized fields.

Students who are pursuing a doctorate degree at Mason can earn a master's degree as a secondary program. Students who plan to pursue this option should apply directly to the doctoral program.

MASTER'S DEGREE

The MA in Economics strengthens students' knowledge of economic theory and improves their skills in applying the theory to economic problems. Graduates are qualified to read and judge existing research and conduct their own research, either individually or as members of government or business teams. They are also prepared to write policy analysis studies. Graduates move on to become successful in government, business, and non-profit roles.

The master's degree is designed to be a self-contained course of study for students who are not planning to pursue the doctoral program at Mason.



RESEARCH CENTERS

Center for the Study of Neuroeconomics (CSN)

The Center for the Study of Neuroeconomics was started in 2004 by Dr. Kevin McCabe as a joint venture of Mason's School of Law, the Department of Economics, the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, the Mercatus Center, and the Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science. The Center works closely with the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics. CSN is a research center and laboratory dedicated to the experimental study of how emergent mental computations in the brain interact with the emergent computations of institutions to produce legal, political, and economic order. More information is available at

<http://www.neuroeconomics.us/>

The Center for Study of Public Choice

Scholars at The Center for Study of Public Choice focus their research on public choice or political economy, the reunification of economics, political philosophy, and political science. Building on the groundbreaking work for which James M. Buchanan was awarded the Nobel Prize, The Center scholars conduct innovative research, publish, and teach across the United States and abroad. The Center, which is located at Mason's Fairfax campus, draws both visiting and resident scholars and students from all over the world. More information is available at

<http://www.gmu.edu/centers/publicchoice>

F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

The F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics is devoted to the promotion of teaching and research on the institutional arrangements that support free and prosperous societies. The work of the Program pays particular attention to the connections and relationships between economics and other branches of the humane studies, such as law, politics, philosophy, and history. In so doing, it touches upon areas of interest within contemporary economics scholarship, such as Austrian economics, new institutional economics, the German tradition of *ordo-liberalism*, law and economics, evolutionary economics, and economic sociology. More information is available at

<http://ppe.mercatus.org/>

Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science (ICES)

The Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science, founded by Nobel Laureate Vernon Smith, is a world leading research center and laboratory specializing in experimental economics. ICES brings together researchers and students interested in using the methods of experimental economics to answer research questions from a variety of fields. Using both laboratory and field experiments, research at ICES has been conducted in such areas as public choice, development, bargaining, neuroscience, and economic systems design. ICES is located at Mason's Arlington Campus and interacts with several units on Mason's campus including: Mason's School of Law, the Department of Economics, and the Mercatus Center. More information is available at

<http://ices.gmu.edu>

FUNDING

A variety of fellowships and assistantship are available on a competitive basis for full-time PhD students. Assistantships generally require 20 hours of work per week. These awards are available both through the Department of Economics and through the affiliated Mercatus Center.

Limited funding for MA students is available through the Mercatus Center MA Fellowship Program.

<https://asp.mercatus.org/content/master-fellowship>

HOW TO APPLY

All applicants for graduate study at George Mason University must meet the admission standards specified in the Admissions chapter of the University Catalog. Prospective graduate students should visit the "Apply" page on Mason's homepage to learn more about the admissions process.

Prior to beginning an application, please review the program's specific requirements and deadlines found under the program's "Applying" tab on

<http://economics.gmu.edu/>

3/2018