

Programme Specification

Integrated PhD Economics (2018-19)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	4
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Name of award	Integrated PhD Economics
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate
	Master of Science (MSc)
	Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 8
UCAS code	N/A
Programme code	7151
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	N/A
Programme Lead	Jose Olmo (jbo1v12)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This is a 4-year Programme. In the first year, students entering the Integrated PhD programme are required to complete the taught element of our MSc in Economics programme. Progression onto the research element of the programme is determined by satisfactory completion of these taught elements, with a minimum average of 60% across all modules (and a pass mark of 60% for the Level 7 dissertation) and with no module below the University passmark for Standalone Masters programmes. The Integrated PhD offers a structured PhD pathway that includes a wide choice of formal instruction, coupled with an extensive range of specialist research topics across the breadth of the subject. There is a progression from an initial emphasis on instructional modules towards full time research, supported by high quality supervision.

The integrated PhD programme is highly flexible and student-centred.

Our postgraduate research programmes are conducted under expert individual or joint supervision. Supervisors are research-active members of staff with expertise in your area of interest. The MSc Programmes Director acts as Personal Academic Tutor to students during the taught component of the programme before the supervisory team for the research element is identified.

The course is particularly suitable for overseas students seeking to convert from other scientific disciplines, and also those who are awarded four-year scholarships through their government or other sources. Please note that there is no funding available for this programme through the University of Southampton, ESRC or NERC.

Year PhD Programme

Students entering the Integrated PhD programme are required to complete the taught element of our MSc in Economics programme.

In the following years, students will have the opportunity to attend different complementary field modules. The field modules are taught by internationally renowned experts visiting the Economics department on a regular basis and internal academic staff.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

- Modules are taught using a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, group or project work.
- Each module will involve one or two sessions each week spread over the semester. For each module, students will be expected to write one or more essays (or equivalent), make presentations and contribute to seminar discussions.
- Lectures offer an overview of a topic, an explanation of difficult concepts or a discussion of key issues. Lectures presume a certain amount of additional reading, so it is often a good idea to read references before attending the corresponding lecture.
- Seminars provide a forum for a closer examination of particular aspects of each module and are an important part of the learning process. Usually it is only by discussing and questioning aspects of a subject that their full implications can be understood. Students prepare papers and lead discussions or debates, and so develop their written and presentational skills.
- A particular feature of the learning environment in the Economics Department is the research-led teaching. Academic staff research in areas of important contemporary significance and bring to their teaching modules their experience of working in the wider world.
- The increasing use of web-based, video-based and PowerPoint-based teaching methods demonstrates our commitment to the effective use of available equipment and resources.

Assessment

- Some modules are assessed by essays, others by exams and some by a mix of these methods. Exams are held at the end of each semester.

Special Features of the programme

This programme involves one year with a taught component and three further years of full time research. During the research period students are encouraged to participate in seminars in other institutions, attend and present their research in workshops and conferences, and also spend research stays in other universities with valuable expertise in the research field of interest. All these opportunities need to be discussed and agreed with the supervisory panel.

Opportunities to Teach

Students may have the opportunity to develop their careers through applying to take on some teaching or demonstrating duties. Students who undertake such duties must successfully complete ITSPG1 and ITSPG2 <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/professional-development/> or, for laboratory-based activities, an Introduction to Demonstrator Training. Module leaders will also be expected to provide additional training on the particular

teaching required. The availability and precise nature of the teaching opportunity may vary from semester to semester. Some remuneration may be available.

For further information please contact our Head of Teaching, Dr Jian Tong.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

Our goal is to produce Economists and Social Scientists who are well rounded and well prepared for careers in research and teaching at leading academic institutions, research centres, consulting or financial firms and international organisations.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Experience of, and the opportunity to gain expertise in, rigorous, leading edge research in different fields of economics;
- Broad knowledge of the contextual background of your research problem in the general field of economics;
- A comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations of your chosen discipline and area of research;
- Training in generic and transferable research skills;
- A high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive, research-led environment;
- Communication and presentation skills through seminar presentations and production of a research proposal and dissertation;
- The ability to interpret and critically evaluate research and scholarship in areas of economics;
- The ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication;
- The capacity to present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. Mathematical and statistical tools for economic analysis;
- A2. The theoretical foundations of microeconomics and macroeconomics;
- A3. The process of model formulation, analysis and validation in economic theory;

- A4. The application of economic theory and economic reasoning to a range of topics, including the analysis of economic policy;
- A5. Qualitative and quantitative economic data and the appropriate methods for structuring and analysing such data;
- A6. The statistical foundations of econometric methods;
- A7. Recent developments in econometric inference and their application to economic data;
- A8. Alternative approaches to quantitative modelling in economics;
- A9. Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontier in two specialised areas of the subject.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures, seminars, problem classes and independent research.

Assessment Methods

- Written examinations, problem sets, project-based coursework and periodic meetings with supervisory panel.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Demonstrate the ability to abstract the essential features of complex data and to formalise and construct a model for the critical analysis and evaluation of theory, of its application and of policy.
- B2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the application of inductive reasoning to assumption based models.
- B3. Demonstrate the ability to validate empirically economic models through a process of estimation, testing and evaluation using a range of statistical methods applied to a variety of economic data.
- B4. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate the applicability of a range of research methodologies to the conduct of economic research.
- B5. Demonstrate the ability to formulate research questions in economics and/or econometrics and translate these into appropriate research designs.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures, seminars, problem classes and independent research.

Assessment Methods

- Written examinations, problem sets, project-based coursework and periodic meetings with supervisory panel.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Communicate complex economic arguments in both written and oral form;
- C2. Make effective use of a range of ICT including the Internet, word-processing, databases and spreadsheets;
- C3. Identify, select and access a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence;
- C4. Demonstrate awareness and understanding of the ethical and legal issues associated with the conduct of research in the social sciences;
- C5. Design, implement and manage a piece of research.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures, seminars, problem classes and independent research.

Assessment Methods

- Written examinations, problem sets, project-based coursework, Master's dissertation and periodic meetings with supervisory panel.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- D1. Make informed judgements on the design and effective implementation of policies to address a range of economic problems;
- D2. Have an extensive knowledge of the principal sources of economic information and data;
- D3. Master a range of statistical software for the organisation, presentation and analysis of economic data.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. The following is an indicative list. Where there is a definite requirement to undertake a certain activity this is stated.

4 Year PhD Programme

Year 1

Students entering the Integrated PhD programme are required to complete the taught element of our MSc in Economics programme. Students who satisfy the progression requirements for the iPhD proceed with PhD research.

In addition to the taught components, students entering the programme are offered training in statistical packages and Matlab and Stata in particular. During the first year of the programme students will be provided with two library skills sessions: one at the start of the academic year and one at the start of the dissertation period. The University also provides English courses for students wishing to improve their English skills. This may be particularly useful for improving writing skills. Supervisory teams will also provide timely advice to students on this matter during the master's dissertation period.

Option modules will be chosen during Semester 1, with advice from the programme team. The modules which will run will be based on student demand.

Year 2

In the following years, students will have the opportunity to attend different complementary field modules. The field modules are taught by internationally renowned experts visiting the Economics department on a regular basis and internal academic staff offering modules tailored to PhD students. In the past the Department has offered modules taught by international experts on Time Series Econometrics, Industrial Organization, and Economics of Migration Networks.

Students wishing to gain further training in research methods are also able to attend the specialised training offered by the National Centre for Research Methods led by the University of Southampton.

Year 3

An important component of the subsequent research based training involves participating in research workshops and seminars in Economics. All PhD students are required to present their research in one workshop per year during their third and fourth years of registration. The Department is also running weekly external speaker seminars and internal staff workshops to which PhD students are asked to attend. During this year the department also offers specialised training and mini-courses on topics of interest to a critical mass of PhD students. In the recent past we have offered

mini-courses in Quantitative Macroeconomics, Optimization problems with Matlab, Matching Mechanisms in Economics or Behavioural and Experimental Economics. Students are not formally assessed on these courses but may be required to do some coursework that can be of relevance for their own research.

Between months 30 and 33 of the start of the programme students are assessed on their performance. If students meet the requirements they will be confirmed on the PhD programme, otherwise they may be given further time to satisfy the confirmation requirements or be asked to terminate their studies without the PhD award.

Year 4

Evidence of continued progress is provided by publications and presentations in a suitable venue (e.g. an international conference). It is unlikely that further major training will be needed at this stage. The target date for submission of the PhD thesis is normally at the end of Year 4 as this may coincide with the end of any supporting studentships.

For students in full time registration, the final PhD thesis must be submitted at the latest by the end of the 60th month (excluding periods of suspension) unless special dispensation is granted by the Graduate School. The latter will only be granted rarely, in the case of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

Typical course content

The taught programme component consists of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study six modules (60 ECTS/120 CATS). Students who complete the taught component undertake a three-month period of supervised research for a Level 7 dissertation at a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS). Upon satisfying the progression requirements of the taught elements students proceed with PhD research.

Programme details

The structure of the first year of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are core and/or compulsory and others are optional. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are core and/or compulsory and which are options. The option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between years. A complete list of option modules currently available on your programme can be found via the Student Record Self-Service system.

The taught modules of the first year of the iPhD are those taught in our MSc in Economics programme, which is designed to equip students to undertake independent research in economics and also to provide the training necessary for a career as an economist in the public and the private sector.

In addition to the modules listed below, you will be required to participate in Research Skills Workshops organised by the Department and designed to develop your skills in designing, implementing and managing independent research in economics. These are complemented by a series of faculty workshops in generic research skills for the social sciences including bibliographic skills, ethical issues in social research, writing and dissemination skills, personal and career development. The material covered in these workshops is assessed through the Master's dissertation and further progress on the research phase of the study.

Mode of Delivery

Candidates are required to undertake the scheme of study over a period of four years full-time registration, to pass the required examinations according to the University Regulations, and to submit a thesis not more than 12 months later than the end of the fourth year of study. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods.

Methods of teaching and learning include lectures and classes, coursework exercises, and directed independent study. To support this, students will have access to a range of course materials (lecture notes, reading lists, problem sets, links to relevant data resources etc). On completion of the taught part of the programme in the first year, students will start having regular meetings with their supervisors to discuss a small piece of Level 7 research. Students are encouraged to use this assessed component of the programme to develop their writing skills and focus on a research topic that can be further expanded into a PhD dissertation topic. During this period students can refine the original research proposal submitted for entry into the Integrated PhD programme, identify and obtain appropriate data and draw up a programme of research that is agreed with the supervisory panel. This is also the time when students attend a sequence of research skills workshops.

Supervisory Team

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the 'main supervisor'. The main supervisor should be an academic member of University of Southampton staff. The supervisory team must comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice.

The MSc Programmes Director acts as Personal Academic Tutor to students during the taught component of the programme before the supervisory team for the research element is identified.

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances. The research project originally proposed at the time of the application to the iPhD programme can also vary at the end of the first year of the programme as a result of the research carried out during the Level 7 dissertation and interaction with academic staff.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6001	Project	30	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6004	Quantitative Methods	10	Core
ECON6023	Macroeconomics	10	Core
ECON6021	Microeconomics	10	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6042	Financial Derivatives	5	Optional
ECON6043	Financial Econometrics	5	Optional
ECON6038	Health Policy and Economics	5	Optional
ECON6040	Panel Data and Microeconometrics	5	Optional
ECON6044	Principles of Corporate Finance	5	Optional

ECON6041	Time Series Econometrics	5	Optional
ECON6015	Finance	5	Optional
ECON6008	Industrial Economics	5	Optional
ECON6016	International Trade	5	Optional
ECON6007	Labour Economics	5	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON6020	Dissertation	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 –

15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.

- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Research infrastructure
- Support of supervisory team
- A research training and support grant of at least £750 per annum for up to 3 years.
- Access to appropriate desk space and computing facilities (as per faculty policy).
- A supervisory team consisting of at least two members of staff.
- The graduate school office for the faculty of social, human and mathematical sciences
- Finance- for details of your personal rtsg subproject code and claims
- The economics department's bloomberg suite.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report.
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience).
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

Successful iPhD doctorates will be able find work taking up positions as teaching and research academics. They will also be leading economic or econometric analysts in public or private sector, including central and local governments and the institutions of the European Union, in statistical offices, central banks, financial supervision authorities, international aid organisations, commercial banks and financial institutions, etc. Finally, this programme also forms a solid basis for a career in private sector in management, or in consultancy.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Patrick W Marsh - University of Nottingham

Name: Professor Dieter Balkenborg - University of Exeter

Name: Dr Panayiotis Pourpourides - University of Cardiff

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	Publicly available software in public workstations and some available via iSolutions, but otherwise purchase.
Hardware	Publicly available workstations and some available via iSolutions, but otherwise purchase.
Stationery	For Masters Programmes within Economics: You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile. For Integrated PhD in Economics: You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	For Masters Programmes within Economics: Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module. For Integrated PhD in Economics: Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved model is Casio FX-570 This may be purchased from any source and no longer needs to carry the University logo.
Interim Exit award	In the academic year 2015/16 the increase in the fees due to the transfer from PhD to MSc as a result of an exit award is £3828 for UK/EU students and £320 for overseas students.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module

Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.