

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Programming and Technology

**Q: How much programming is included in the BSc Economics course, and what programming languages will I learn?**

**A:** The programme includes substantial programming content designed to prepare you for modern economics careers:

#### **First Year:**

- **Python** - One of the most important programming languages for data analysis and economics, integrated in EC1P1 Economic Reasoning and EC1B1 Macroeconomics I
- **Stata** - Statistical software widely used for econometric analysis in the profession, integrated in EC1C1 Econometrics I
- You'll complete a Python-based macroeconomics project involving data analysis and visualisation

#### **Second Year and Beyond:**

- Advanced Stata work including research projects where you'll replicate published research papers in EC2C1 Econometrics II
- Optional exposure to **R** (another statistical programming language) in optional courses
- Increasing integration of **AI tools** to accelerate learning and improve coding proficiency

The programme emphasises practical application rather than just theory. For example, you'll use AI tools like ChatGPT to help write code, focusing on learning how to structure data, ask the right questions, and create effective prompts rather than memorising syntax.

**Q: Do I need prior programming experience?**

**A:** No prior programming experience is required. The courses are designed to teach you programming from the beginning. With modern AI tools, you can quickly reach a high level of proficiency. The faculty specifically mentioned that students this year were able to produce code of higher quality than they themselves could without AI assistance.

## **Career Support**

**Q: What support is available for students interested in non-traditional career paths like fintech or tech roles rather than traditional finance?**

**A:** While most students in the LSE Department of Economics traditionally enter finance roles, the School provides several resources for alternative career paths:

**1. Course Options:**

- Data Science Institute courses covering AI, machine learning, and data science
- Mathematics Department courses on blockchain, cryptocurrencies, and Web3 technologies
- Flexibility to take optional courses from other departments

**2. Career Services:**

- Dedicated LSE Careers division offering workshops and lectures
- Alumni networking events across various industries
- First-year career workshops covering CV design, interview preparation, and career exploration
- Internship guidance and support

Visit the [LSE Careers website](#) for more information about available support services.

**Q: What are some typical career paths for graduates?**

**A:** Graduates from the LSE Department of Economics have excellent career prospects in a wide array of fields. These include finance (investment banking, asset management), consulting, government and policy institutions (e.g. central banks, treasury), international organisations, and further academic research.

**Q: Does the programme help with career development?**

**A:** Yes, the programme is designed to equip students with strong analytical and quantitative skills that employers highly value. Furthermore, LSE has a dedicated Careers service that provides support with internships, job applications, and career planning.

**Q: Are there opportunities for internships?**

**A:** While not formally built into the curriculum, LSE encourages and supports students in pursuing internships. LSE Careers helps students find and apply for internships across various sectors.

**Q: How does studying economics at LSE prepare you for the future?**

**A:** The programme provides a solid foundation in economic theory and its applications, equipping students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. This rigorous training makes graduates adaptable and well-prepared for a variety of challenging and rewarding careers.

**Research Opportunities**

**Q: What research opportunities are available for undergraduate students?**

**A:** LSE offers several levels of research engagement:

**1. Group Research Projects**

- Voluntary teams supervised by faculty (typically Dr. Shapiro)
- Work throughout the year on projects that may be published in undergraduate research journals
- Focus on learning research methodology

**2. Funded Research Positions**

- Competitive positions assisting faculty with their research
- May involve data analysis, literature reviews, or other research tasks
- May include remuneration
- Limited availability with high demand

**3. Course-Based Research**

- Research projects integrated into coursework (e.g. econometrics)
- Third-year courses often include research components
- Option to join our BSc Econometrics and Mathematical Economics (EME) programme in third year, which focuses on research and includes a dissertation

**4. Pre-doctoral Positions**

- Available for students planning to pursue PhDs
- Highly selective positions at LSE and other universities

**Important note:** Most opportunities focus on learning research skills and working on faculty-led projects rather than pursuing your own independent research ideas.

**Q: Can LSE students publish their own research?**

**A:** Yes, but with realistic expectations:

- Undergraduate research journals are the typical outlets
- Faculty can guide you to appropriate publication venues
- **Recommendation:** Focus first on developing proper research skills, as economic research has become highly technical
- High-quality undergraduate research can be published with faculty support and guidance

**Study Abroad**

**Q: Can I study abroad during my degree, and will it count toward my BSc degree?**

**A:** Yes, you can study abroad, but there are important considerations:

**LSE GO Exchange Programme**

- Official exchange programme with partner universities (e.g. UC Berkeley)
- Students participating in the programme do not pay additional tuition fees to the partner institution
- **Does NOT count toward your BSc degree requirements**
- Extends your programme by one year (typically done in second year, then return for third year)
- Limited places and highly competitive

**Independent Study Abroad**

- Can apply independently to universities like Harvard or Columbia
- Must pay full tuition to the host institution
- Also does not count toward BSc requirements
- Strong academic performance required for LSE support

- Also extends your programme by one year

**Key point:** All study abroad options are for enrichment and experience only - you cannot earn credit toward your LSE degree while abroad.

**Q: Are there opportunities to study abroad as part of the BSc Economics programme?**

**A:** Yes, there are study abroad opportunities available, typically in the second year of the programme. LSE GO is the official School's exchange programme, and if accepted, you only pay tuition at LSE but not at the institution you visit. In addition, we encourage and support students in pursuing visiting programmes in world-renowned universities like Harvard and Columbia, although in this case, you will pay full tuition to the institution you visit.

**Q: In which countries or universities can you study?**

**A:** LSE has partnerships with universities in various countries, including North America, Asia, and Europe. Specific partner universities and destinations may vary from year to year, and the School is always working to increase the number of partner institutions.

**Q: How does the study abroad year fit into the degree structure?**

**A:** The study abroad year usually takes place in the second year, and the credits earned at the partner university do not contribute towards the LSE degree. In other words, your degree will be one year longer if you pursue the exchange opportunities offered by LSE GO.

**Q: What are the benefits of studying abroad?**

**A:** Studying abroad offers numerous benefits, including experiencing a different academic and cultural environment, developing independence and adaptability, broadening perspectives, and enhancing future career prospects. Perfecting a foreign language is also one of the reasons why students pursue these opportunities.

**Q: Is study abroad compulsory?**

**A:** No, study abroad is typically an optional opportunity for students in the BSc Economics programme. The programme acceptance is competitive, and only a few are accepted every year.

**Course Options**

**Q: What outside options can I take in my first year?**

**A:** First-year students have considerable flexibility in choosing outside options:

**Variety:**

- Close to 100 possible options across other departments at LSE
- Popular choices include Data Science, Statistics, Finance and Accounting
- Also available: Economic History, International Relations, Sociology, Geography and Languages

**Which courses can be chosen?**

- This depends on whether you take half or full-year course in mathematics (MA108 vs MA100)
- You can take either half unit courses or full unit courses

**Advice**

- Explore options before arriving on campus, by checking the course guides we publish online
- Don't just follow what others are taking
- First year is ideal for experimentation (grades have different, lower weighting than in second and third year)
- Consult with your academic mentor, undergraduate tutor, or the team during Welcome Week

**Preparing for the Programme**

**Q: What are some ways offer holders can prepare for their start at LSE?**

**A:** To prepare for starting at LSE, offer holders can:

- Participate in the Economics Essay Competition run by the LSE Student Union's

Economics Society (Econ Soc), which offers a prize for holders.

- Explore economics issues by joining LSE Department of Economics Public lectures and events.
- Listen to podcasts. You can listen to [The Beverage Report](#) as a starting point, our departmental student-led podcast.
- Read blogs, such as Marginal Revolution (<https://mru.org/>).
- For more serious reading, explore VoxEU.org (<https://voxeu.org/>).

## **Curriculum**

**Q: What are some key features of the updated BSc Economics curriculum launched in 2021/22?**

**A:** The updated curriculum aims to create economists of the future and includes:

- Dedicated core courses specifically for BSc Economics students.
- Exciting coursework and skill development opportunities.
- A programme identity and a strong sense of community.

**Q: Can you describe the core courses for BSc Economics Year 1 under Configuration A?**

**A:** For BSc Economics Year 1, Configuration A includes the following core courses:

- **Autumn Term:** Economic Reasoning (EC1P1), Methods in Calculus and Linear Algebra (MA108), and Elementary Statistical Theory I (ST109). There is also an outside option.
- **Winter Term:** Macroeconomics I (EC1B1), Microeconomics I (EC1A1), and Econometrics I (EC1C1). There is also an outside option.
- LSE100 is taken in both the Autumn and Winter Terms.

**Q: What is different in the core courses for BSc Economics Year 1 under Configuration B?**

**A:** For BSc Economics Year 1, Configuration B has a different structure:

- **Autumn Term:** Economic Reasoning (EC1P1), Mathematical Methods (MA100), an Outside Option, and Elementary Statistical Theory I (ST109).
- **Winter Term:** Macroeconomics I (EC1B1), Microeconomics I (EC1A1), Econometrics I (EC1C1), and Mathematical Methods (MA100).
- LSE100 is also taken in both the Autumn and Winter Terms.

## **Student Life at LSE**

**Q:** What is the learning environment like?

**A:** The learning environment is very interactive, even in larger lecture halls. There's an expectation for students to participate and engage with the material. You'll be expected to contribute to discussions, ask questions, and to take an active role in your learning.

**Q:** How much interaction is there with professors?

**A:** While LSE is a research-intensive university, there are still opportunities to interact with professors. These interactions can happen during office hours, after lectures, and in smaller seminar groups where discussions are more focused.

**Q:** What kind of support is available for students?

**A:** LSE offers a range of support services, including academic advising to help with course choices and progression, and personal support for well-being and any challenges students might face.

**Q:** Are there opportunities to socialise and build a community?

**A:** Yes, there are numerous ways to socialise and build a community. This includes interacting with peers in lectures and seminars, participating in extracurricular activities organised by student societies, and engaging in social events on campus.

**Q:** What is the workload like?

**A:** Our BSc Economics programme is academically rigorous and demanding. Students should expect a significant workload that requires dedication and effective time management.

### **Career Prospects after the LSE Department of Economics**

**Q:** What are some typical career paths for graduates?

**A:** Graduates from the LSE Department of Economics have excellent career prospects in a wide array of fields. These include finance (investment banking, asset management), consulting, government and policy institutions (e.g., central banks, treasury), international organisations, and further academic research.

**Q:** Does the programme help with career development?



**A:** Yes, the programme is designed to equip students with strong analytical and quantitative skills that employers highly value. Furthermore, LSE has a dedicated Careers service that provides support with internships, job applications, and career planning.

**Q:** Are there opportunities for internships?

**A:** While not formally built into the curriculum, LSE encourages and supports students in pursuing internships. LSE Careers helps students find and apply for internships across various sectors.

**Q:** How does studying economics at LSE prepare you for the future?

**A:** The programme provides a solid foundation in economic theory and its applications, equipping students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. This rigorous training makes graduates adaptable and well-prepared for a variety of challenging and rewarding careers.