



**Maynooth  
University**

National University  
of Ireland Maynooth

Department of Economics

**MSc Economics**

**2024/25**

*Programme Director:* Dr Alex Farnell ([alexander.farnell@mu.ie](mailto:alexander.farnell@mu.ie))

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The **MSc Economics** is a 12-month programme based on two semesters of taught modules and a research thesis to be submitted in August 2025. The programme consists of a number of foundation and specialized modules to ensure that students acquire adequate knowledge to understand field courses taught at the level of those found in North American or UK programmes and are able to produce research of a publishable quality.

### **The Programme Structure:**

The programme will follow a two-semester model for delivery of the taught modules. The summer term ends with the submission of the research thesis. The programme structure is outlined below.

### **Important Dates:**

#### **First Semester:**

Orientation week: Monday, September 16, 2024  
Lectures start: Monday, September 23, 2024  
Study Week: October 28 – November 1 (after week 5)  
Lectures end: Friday, December 20

Final assessments: EC605D: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10am-12noon  
Other modules: Monday, January 6 – Friday, January 18, 2025

#### **Second Semester:**

Lectures start: Tuesday, February 4, 2025  
Study Week: March 17 – 21, 2025  
Easter Break: April 21-25, 2025  
Thesis Presentations: during final Week of Semester 2  
Lectures end: Friday, May 9

Final assessments: *tbc*

Repeats (if needed): *To be decided in combination with student, module convenor and course director if required*

#### **Summer Term:**

Thesis Submission Deadline: 12.00 mid-day on **Thursday, August 14, 2025**

## **Modules:**

To obtain the MSc Economics degree, a student must accumulate 90 ECTS. This consists of 60 ECTS of taught modules and a 30 ECTS research thesis. The modules and their associated ECTS are listed below:

### ***First Semester Taught Modules:***

EC601A:	Microeconomics 1	10 ECTS
EC603B:	Macroeconomics 1	10 ECTS
EC605D:	Fundamentals of Econometrics	2.5 ECTS
EC606A:	Econometrics 1	7.5 ECTS

### ***Second Semester Taught Modules:***

EC602A:	Microeconomics 2	7.5 ECTS
EC6xx:	Growth and Development	7.5 ECTS
EC618A	International Trade	7.5 ECTS
EC619A:	Labour Economics	7.5 ECTS

### ***Research Module***

EC690:	Economics Thesis	30 ECTS
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A research seminar that forms part of the requirements of module EC690 will take place in the second semester.

The research thesis must be completed over the course of the year and submitted by **12.00 mid-day on Thursday, August 14, 2025.**

### ***Note about Semester 2 modules***

Due to staff availability, EC6xx Growth and Development will be double taught in Weeks 1-6 of Semester 2 (i.e. 4 hours per week). EC619A Labour Economics will then be double taught in Weeks 7-12. The remaining modules will run throughout the 12-week semester.

**Module Outlines in brief** (*for full details refer to the relevant module outline*)

**EC601A Microeconomics 1** (*Dr Dermot Leahy*)

This course covers consumer theory, producer theory, and perfect competition. The course will also include an overview of the mathematical tools needed to do graduate level economics.

**EC603B Macroeconomics 1 (Dr Simon Broome)**

This course offers an introduction to Advanced Macroeconomic Theory. It covers essential techniques for dynamic macroeconomic analysis, such as difference equation and dynamic optimization. Topics include consumption, growth and fluctuations under perfect and imperfect competition.

**EC605D Fundamentals of Econometrics (Dr Olive Sweetman)**

This course introduces basic statistical theory that is required to study graduate level econometrics. Students will also be introduced to software used in empirical research.

**EC606A Econometrics 1 (Dr Alex Farnell)**

This course covers the latest econometric techniques required for undertaking economic research and presents students with sufficient theoretical backgrounds to apply econometric techniques to a variety of needs. Topics include the least squares estimator, maximum likelihood estimators, hypothesis testing, and an introduction to causal inference techniques. Students will also apply these techniques in Stata.

**EC602A Microeconomics 2 (Dr Tuvana Pastine)**

In the first part of the module, students will learn about monopoly, while in the second part of the module students will build foundations in game theory and learn about decision making under uncertainty.

**EC6xx Growth and Development (Professor David Cuberes)**

This course will review some stylized facts about economic growth and study the most relevant and up to date theoretical models that can explain the performance of economies in the long run. This includes exogenous and endogenous growth models. Students will also study traditional and new empirical strategies to test growth models. *Note that this is a new module for this academic year replacing EC614 Development Economics due to personnel changes in the department.*

**EC618A International Trade (Dr Dermot Leahy)**

This module covers international trade under perfect and imperfect competition, trade policies, foreign direct investment and outsourcing.

**EC619A Labour Economics (Dr Aedín Doris)**

This module covers advanced topic in labour supply, labour demand, job search modules, wage determination and unemployment. Treatment of topics will be both theoretical and empirical.

**EC690 Economics Thesis (Dr Alex Farnell, plus a supervisor)**

The module consists of 5 credits of research seminars, where students will learn how to carry out research like a professional economist. The remaining 25 credits are credited to the thesis itself. This should entail an original research piece and should be of a similar style to article published in journals. The thesis is typically around 8,000 words.

### Timetable:

The following timetables are **provisional**. Please note that the timetable may be subject to changes, but hopefully these will be minimal, and any changes will be communicated well in advance.

Venue: All lectures will take place in the Edgeworth Room in the Economics Department unless otherwise advised

### Semester 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00					
10:00			EC601A	EC605D (wk1-4) EC606A (wk 5-12)	EC601A
11:00	EC603B		EC601A	EC605D (wk1-4) EC606A (wk 5-12)	EC601A
12:00	EC603B		<i>Careers Sessions</i>		
13:00				EC603B	
14:00				EC603B	
15:00	EC605D (wk1-4) EC606A (wk 5-12)				Dept. Seminars
16:00	EC605D (wk1-4) EC606A (wk 5-12)				Dept. Seminars
17:00					

### Semester 2 (tbc)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09:00					
10:00					
11:00					
12:00					
13:00					
14:00					

15:00					Dept. Seminars
16:00					Dept. Seminars
17:00					

*\*Note: you are not required to attend departmental seminars, but it is highly recommended that you attend at least one per term. This will be especially relevant for the EC690 research skills module. The timetable will be communicated to you in advance.*

## Other Events in Semester 1

As part of the MSc degree, students are expected to engage with a career preparation programme. These sessions will include various internal and external speakers from a variety of industries and backgrounds. Attendance at these events is mandatory. Dates and times for speakers will be communicated to students in advance.

Maynooth University Careers and Employability

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers>

GradIreland Graduate Careers Fair

<https://gradireland.com/events/webinar/gradireland-graduate-careers-fair-2024>

2<sup>nd</sup> October 11am-5pm at the RDS

STEM Fair Maynooth (details tbc)

## Assessment Timetable:

This assessment timetable is **provisional** so may change. Any changes, along with exact times and venues, will be announced at least two weeks prior to the examination. For modules of at least 7.5 ECTS, final assessments will be held at the end of each semester, will have a 09:30 start time unless advised otherwise and are held in the Roque Lab (ground floor Rhetoric House).

### First Semester:

EC605D: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10am-12noon

EC601A: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

EC603B: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

EC606A: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

### Second Semester:

EC602A: *tbc*

ECxxx: w/c Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, *tbc*

EC618A: *tbc*

EC619A: *tbc*

## Repeats:

All taught modules will offer the opportunity to repeat the final assessment component, but each student may only repeat **a maximum of 15 ECTS or TWO modules**. Only

the final assessment component of a module can be repeated as any continuous assessment marks will be carried over. These will be held on a date agreed upon by the student, module convenor and the course director. Specific dates will be assigned when it is known what modules, if any, require repeats.

As any repeat is only designed for those who have failed modules, the **module** grade following a repeat will be capped at 40.

### **Computation of Grades and Progression to Degree:**

The final mark for the MSc Economics programme is computed as the *weighted* average of all modules taken, with the relevant weight for each module being the proportion of the overall ECTS that is attached to that module. Degree classifications are as follows:

#### **Honours Standards**

First Class Honours 70-100%

Second Class Honours Grade I 60-69%

Second Class Honours Grade II 50-59%

Third Class Honours 45-49%

Pass 40-44%

These degree classifications are awarded as long as the student fulfils all of the criteria required to pass the programme. From the University Marks and Standards, in order to pass a Master's programme, a student must:

- Pass all Required modules;
- Obtain at least 40% on aggregate in the programme;
- Not fail taught modules to a credit value of more than 15 ECTS;
- Not obtain a grade below 35% in **any** individual module.

A student that fails to fulfil any of the above requirements will not be assigned a course mark, but will be assigned a technical fail grade or incomplete, as appropriate. A course mark will not be allocated to a student that has insufficient credits - either by not being registered or by not attending a relevant examination.

**It is the responsibility of each student to familiarise themselves with University Marks and Standards.**

General University information and regulations for postgraduates, including Marks and Standards, are available at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/exams>

### **Progression to Ph.D. programme:**

To continue to the PhD program a student must attain at least 60% in each of the following taught modules:

EC601A: Microeconomic Theory I;  
EC603B: Macroeconomic Theory I;  
EC605D: Fundamentals of Econometrics;  
EC606A: Econometrics I;  
EC602A: Microeconomic Theory II

## **Economics Department Academic Misconduct Policy**

When we set assignments, the aim is not just to generate marks for the module, but to contribute towards students' learning and understanding of a topic or methodology. For this reason, it is very important that, in all submitted work, **the content should be the work of the student**. Where this is not the case, the student is guilty of academic misconduct.

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism and the procurement of essays or other material written by others. **In the Department of Economics, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools or other computer-generated material is generally forbidden, unless expressly permitted in a particular assignment.** Where AI is permitted and used, students must declare that they have used an AI tool, and specify which one they have used (e.g. ChatGPT).

Plagiarism involves an attempt to use an element of another person's work, without appropriate acknowledgement, in order to gain academic credit. It involves the use of unacknowledged sources in theses, assignments, or other assessments; it includes unsanctioned collusion and/or the unacknowledged verbatim reproduction of material. If a student takes the work of another person and modifies it superficially (or uses software to modify it), this is academic misconduct.

Students should be aware that in any case where a lecturer is marking submitted work and is unsure of the student's level of understanding, the student may be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the assignment.

Where a marker suspects academic misconduct, they notify the Head of Department, who then assesses the evidence of misconduct. If the Head agrees that there are grounds for believing that academic misconduct has occurred, the Head will request an interview with the student. If, having taken into account all the evidence, the Head forms the opinion that misconduct has occurred, she sets in train the university procedures for reporting misconduct to the Registrar and the university's Academic Discipline Board.

### **Absence from University:**

Under normal circumstances, students are expected to attend **all** lectures and workshops.

If you are unable to attend lectures for any reason, then you should communicate this to the relevant lecturer(s) and/or Programme Director as soon as possible, outlining the reason and expected duration of absence.

### **Acceptable reasons for absence from examinations and continuous assessment**

1. **Illness:** Requires a doctor's certificate dated before the date of the examination or



continuous assessment assignment and which states explicitly that the student will be physically/mentally unable to attend lectures or examinations for a specific period. A doctor's certificate dated the day of an assignment submission or examination will be accepted only if the illness is so acute that informing the Department in advance is not possible. A doctor's certificate after the day of an assignment submission or examination will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances which preclude getting a certificate until after the date. **All valid certificates must be submitted by email to the module lecturer or Department within three business days of the missed assignment or examination and will only be accepted if the student has telephoned or emailed the module lecturer or Department on or before the date thereof explaining his/her absence.**

2. **Bereavement:** The death of a close family member or a close personal friend. Student is required to inform the module lecturer or Department by email or phone **before** the continuous assessment or examination date in the case of a funeral and provide valid documentation, e.g. link to death notice on [www.rip.ie](http://www.rip.ie). Documentation can also be submitted by post.

3. **Sports:** Requires a certified statement from the Maynooth University Sports Officer that the student represents the College, County or Country on a sports team. The certified statement is due **at the beginning** of the semester with all known sporting event times and dates supplied. If additional events are added, this must be certified by the Sports Officer and submitted as soon as they are scheduled. Training or meetings are not acceptable excuses.

4. **Pregnancy:** The student should inform her module lecturer and the programme coordinator. Accommodations will be made to facilitate the completion of continuous assessment assignments or agreed alternatives.

5. **Exceptional circumstances:** Decision made by Head of Department.

## **Communication with the Department**

If communicating in writing with any member of the department, either on the Moodle forum or via email, students are expected to write in clear, concise, correct and formal English. Individual lecturers may indicate their preference for communication between the Moodle forum (where all class members can see the reply) and email, and you are asked to respect this.

**Please use your Maynooth University email address when corresponding with any members of the Department.**

### **Twitter:**

You can follow the Department on Twitter at @MU\_Econ

### **LinkedIn:**

The Department maintains a LinkedIn profile (which allows us to develop a network of past students and colleagues. (<https://www.linkedin.com/school/mueconomics/>)). We encourage former students to contact us and become part of our network.