

Graduate Programs in Economics Presentation

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Graduate programs in Economics at York University

- ▶ MA Program
 - ▶ One year
 - ▶ No supervision or thesis; only course work
- ▶ PhD program
 - ▶ 5-6 years
 - ▶ One year of courses, exams
 - ▶ Transition into research from 2nd year and on

MA degree requirements (what you need to graduate)

- ▶ A passing grade in prep. math course (ECON 5000); usually in August
- ▶ Completion of 8 graduate half-courses
- ▶ 3 core courses (5010 Micro, 5011 Macro, 5025 Econometrics)
+ 5 elective courses

PhD degree requirements (what you need to graduate)

- ▶ 6 required half-courses in first year:
 - ▶ Micro sequence (5100, 6100).
 - ▶ Macro sequence (5110, 6110).
 - ▶ Econometrics sequence (6220, 6250).
- ▶ Passing 3 comprehensive exams, one per sequence (around May/June of 1st year; retake later in the summer).
- ▶ Directed readings in 2nd year
- ▶ Supervisors allocated in 3rd year (not when you apply)
- ▶ Satisfactory progress to stay in program; funding ends after 6 years

Funding

- ▶ All students who are admitted are **fully funded**
- ▶ Both MA and PhD
- ▶ How much depends on many factors, e.g., Grade Point Average (GPA)
- ▶ Some funding specifically covers tuition: York gives with one hand, takes with another
- ▶ Other funding is from employment: work tasks you perform for York University (Teaching Assistantship, like grading, exam invigilation, office hours, etc.)
- ▶ For the **exact amounts** of funding, with breakdown on components, see the **acceptance letter**
- ▶ Nothing stated in these slides should be taken as a promise of anything!

Funding cont'd: some examples

- ▶ For **domestic MA** students the amount to live on might be \approx \$25,600 with a GPA of A- or A (based on own calculations/assumptions for 2023/24)
 - ▶ Fellowship around \$5,403
 - ▶ Tuition+fees around \$5,200
 - ▶ Employment as TA: \$18,558
 - ▶ Entrance awards (e.g., YGS scholarships): \$6,000-\$8,000 in the past, but varies
- ▶ Similar for **int'l MA** students: fellowship higher, tuition higher; zero net effect
- ▶ Overall higher for **PhD** students; also extra summer TA work
- ▶ Link to web page about funding (scroll down to Standard Funding Package Details):
<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/graduate-funding/funding-at-york/york-graduate-fellowship/>

Admission rates for Fall 2023

Some approximate numbers:

	MA		PhD	
	Domestic	International	Domestic	International
Applicant pool	52	205	12	85
Offers made	26	37	7	4
"Target"	16	16	6	4 (+1)
"Admitted"	10	14	1	4 (+1)
Arriving	9?	10?	1	4 (+1)
Offer/applicant	0.50	0.18	0.58	0.05

Notes:

- ▶ More competitive for international applicants; cost more for the university
- ▶ Many who accept admissions do not to arrive; big problem
- ▶ (+1) indicates one deferred from previous year

How to apply

- ▶ Online portal: <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/graduate/apply-now>
- ▶ Cnd\$130 application fee
- ▶ Admission requirements (MA/PhD): <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/academiccalendar/economics/>
- ▶ No need to indicate potential supervisors
- ▶ No GRE test needed
- ▶ If York undergrad degree, 4010 and 4020 recommended
- ▶ Otherwise follow instructions

What are we looking for?

I refuse to join any club that
would have me as a member.

Groucho Marx

- ▶ We want the best we can get!
- ▶ Looking for the same qualities as other (comparable) programs
- ▶ What makes you more/less likely to get into other programs
makes you more/less likely to get into our program

What are we looking for? Cont'd

- ▶ We want students who become successful when graduating
- ▶ Faculty often think (subconsciously) about (long-run) academic success
 - ▶ For MA students: continuation into competitive PhD program
 - ▶ For PhD students: continuation into tenure-track jobs; publications in competitive journals
- ▶ But non-academic careers often \succ academic ones
- ▶ Whatever skills generate academic success tend to generate non-academic success too

What do we look at?

- ▶ Grade transcripts
- ▶ Courses taken: mathematics/statistics important; but economics degree required
- ▶ Where undergraduate (or MA) degree was awarded
 - ▶ Explore rankings of institutions at, e.g., <https://ideas.repec.org/top/>
- ▶ Letters, letter writers
 - ▶ Those who are themselves successful researchers are the most preferred letter writers (but not always available)
 - ▶ Whoever you ask you can always look up name at link above (click authors)
- ▶ English skills
- ▶ Genuine interest in, and curiosity about, economic problems; thinking like an economist

Admissions timeline 2024: very approximate overview

- ▶ Application deadline: February 15
- ▶ Committee starts looking at applications: February-March
- ▶ Zoom interviews with short-listed candidates: March-April
- ▶ Offers sent out: April (?)
- ▶ Deadline to accept (first) admission offers: some time after April 15 (deadline for many US schools)
- ▶ Offers to fill spots that were declined: April (?)
- ▶ FGS Academic Integrity Module (online training): Summer 2024 (?)
- ▶ Orientation for accepted students: late July or early August
- ▶ Online math prep. course for MA students: August
- ▶ Fall semester starts: September

Other information

- ▶ Market for fresh PhD's:
<https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listings>
- ▶ My own career advice for York Econ PhD students (from 2017): http://www.nippelagerlof.com/teaching/7000/PepTalk_Fall_2017.pdf

Graduate Program Office

- ▶ Program Director (me) — Academic matters — lagerlof@yorku.ca
- ▶ Program Administrator (Sara Bang) — Administrative issues — gradecon@yorku.ca
- ▶ Never email me without cc:ing Sara