

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	Graduate Diploma Economics (Level 6)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	Grad Cert Economics
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Business School
Location of delivery	Central London/online (full and part-time)
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	GDGECNMC_C
HECoS Code	100450
Start date of programme	Prior to 2008/9
Date of programme approval	Prior to 2008/9
Date of last programme amendment approval	March 2019
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	4/11/2022

Admissions requirements

At least a second-class honours degree (2:2) or equivalent, in any discipline.

Evidence of aptitude for mathematical and statistical analysis is advantageous.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

Our Graduate Diploma in Economics (GDE) fills a critical gap in the market for graduate training in economics. There are many able graduates of subjects other than economics who wish to acquire training in economics. The GDE offers such students the opportunity to compete effectively with students with undergraduate qualifications in economics. The programme provides comprehensive training in the core subjects of economics, including microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics. Students also acquire training in the essential mathematics for economics.

A significant proportion of students use the programme as a rapid route to a high degree of economic literacy, to complement other qualifications. They then exit directly to the job market where demand for such skills continues to be strong. Other students use this programme as preparation for an MSc in economics or related disciplines.

The exit award of a Graduate Certificate is designed for the benefit of students who either do not achieve a sufficient standard to continue or choose to complete only a part of the courses offered under the programme.

Course features:

A unique feature of the GDE at Birkbeck is that all teaching is specifically designed for this conversion programme, and thus allows a rapid, targeted progression for students switching to economics. In all other UK universities students on similar conversion programmes attend lectures entirely, or predominantly, from undergraduate programmes.

Courses are taught exclusively in the evenings, and are thus open to students in full-time employment. The programme proceeds at an intense pace but we expect most students can complete all the programme requirements in one year.

Some may choose to complete the programme over two years. For these students, the programme follows a specified sequence of modules to ensure coherence of techniques and material.

Students must pass four 30-credit modules to obtain the Graduate Diploma. Students who do not acquire 120 credits are eligible for the exit award of Graduate Certificate in Economics as long as they have acquired 60 credits.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year (on-campus and online routes)					
6	EMEC029S6	Mathematics for Economists	30	Compulsory	T1
6	EMEC002S6	Applied Statistics and Econometrics	30	Compulsory	T1-2
6	BUEM070S6	Microeconomics	30	Compulsory	T2
6	EMEC011S6	Macroeconomics	30	Compulsory	T3
Part-time – 2 years (on-campus and online routes)					
Year 1					
6	EMEC029S6	Mathematics for Economists	30	Compulsory	T1
6	BUEM070S6	Microeconomics	30	Compulsory	T2
Year 2					
6	EMEC011S6	Macroeconomics	30	Compulsory	T3
6	EMEC002S6	Applied Statistics and Econometrics	30	Compulsory	T1-2

Core: *Module must be taken and passed by student*

Compulsory: *Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*

Option: *Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

The Department's strategy for learning and teaching is driven by the need to provide for predominantly part-time mature students. The brief periods each week when students are physically present in the College are used for very directed and structured teaching, which is reinforced with independent study. The strategy is realised through:

- lectures supported by practical class exercises;
- extensive handouts and prepared lecture notes (distributed as hard copies and in electronic version via dedicated web-pages or Moodle);
- directed student reading and private study;
- careful design of the workload for students and its distribution across the academic year;
- for GDE in particular, we aim to provide nearly all lectures and classes on video, as a core element in the online version of the programme for distance learners. For face-to-face students, it also provides the opportunity to revise concepts that were not fully understood in lectures, or to catch up on lectures missed due to work commitments.

We use problem-solving classes to support lectures. We encourage students to work together in groups where possible and find that such peer support is an important factor in maintaining student motivation and helping learning. This is followed by collective review sessions, often in small groups to increase interaction.

An important element of learning on all programmes is private study. All courses require students to spend time reading and/or working through problems and examples as appropriate in addition to attending lectures and classes. IT underpins a lot of our students' learning. The programme has a quantitative component requiring the manipulation of data. Instruction is provided, as necessary, through open classes on using spreadsheets, econometric or statistical packages.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment:

The main assessment method is a final exam. In three modules there are midterm tests. The assessment in one of the modules is partially based on empirical project where you would use data and statistical tools to analyse a real-world problem. For all modules there are weekly assignments.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate sufficient working knowledge of the core mathematics employed in the microeconomics and macroeconomics modules on the GDE programme. (Mathematics for Economists)
2. Interpret and analyse economic data: using spreadsheets to analyse the data; understand simple rules of probability, estimation and inference; derive least squares estimators and show their properties; interpret regression output and conduct tests on coefficients and residuals; read and understand articles using economic and financial data; conduct and report on a piece of empirical research that uses simple statistical techniques. (Applied Statistics and Econometrics)
3. Utilise the standard methods and analytical tools of microeconomics, with emphasis on the relationship between the decisions of individual agents and the operations of markets; and have a foundation for further study of economics (Microeconomics)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the part of economics that studies the behaviour of the economic system as a whole. This course aims to introduce students to macroeconomic theory and policy, and provide a foundation for further study of macroeconomics. (Macroeconomics)

Careers and further study

Graduates can pursue career paths in banking and finance, the public sector, industry, and research and analysis. Possible professions include:

- economist
- financial risk analyst

- statistician
- management consultant
- actuary
- Civil Service fast-streamer
- local government officer

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on [the careers pages of our website](#).

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services](#). This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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