

Programme Specification

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| 1 | Awarding body | University of London | | | | | | |
| 2 | Teaching Institution | Birkbeck College | | | | | | |
| 3 | Programme Title(s) | Graduate Diploma Economics | | | | | | |
| 4 | Programme Code(s) | GDGECNMC_C (GDGECNMF_C – 1 year accelerated distance learning route) | | | | | | |
| 5 | UCAS code | N/A | | | | | | |
| 6 | Home Department | Economics, Mathematics and Statistics | | | | | | |
| 7 | Exit Award(s) | Graduate Certificate Economics | | | | | | |
| 8 | Duration of Study (number of years) | 1 year - full-time /accelerated distance learning 2 years - part-time/standard distance learning | | | | | | |
| 9 | Mode of Study | <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">FT</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">PT</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">DL</td> <td style="padding: 2px; text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </table> | FT | ✓ | PT | ✓ | DL | ✓ |
| FT | ✓ | PT | ✓ | DL | ✓ | | | |
| 10 | Level of Award (FHEQ) | 6 | | | | | | |
| 11 | Other teaching depts or institution | N/A | | | | | | |
| 12 | Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details | N/A | | | | | | |
| 13 | QAA Benchmark Group | N/A | | | | | | |

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| 14 | Programme Rationale & Aims |
| | <p>The Graduate Diploma in Economics (GDE) fills a crucial 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |

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| 15 | Entry Criteria |
| | <p>Standard entry criterion is second-class honours degree or better, or equivalent qualifications, in any subject. Students with a third class degree may sometimes be admitted if there is clear evidence of under-performance, relative to potential, in the first degree. Evidence of aptitude for mathematical and statistical analysis is advantageous. Students who hope to complete the programme in one year typically have upper second or better classification in the undergraduate degree.</p> |

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| 16 | <p>Learning Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (Mathematics for Economists) To equip students with sufficient working knowledge of the core mathematics employed in the microeconomics and macroeconomics modules on the GDE programme. 2. (Applied Statistics and Econometrics) To introduce students to the interpretation and analysis of 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. 3. (Microeconomics) To equip students with 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 provide a foundation for further study of economics, 4. (Macroeconomics) To introduce students to 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. |
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| 17 | <p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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'</p> |
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| | 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. |
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| 18 | Programme Description |
| | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |

| 19 | Programme Structure | | | |
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| <i>Full-time and 1-year accelerated distance-learning programme</i> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1</i> | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 6 | EMEC029S6 | Mathematics for Economists | 30 | Compulsory |
| 6 | EMEC002S6 | Applied Statistics and Econometrics | 30 | Compulsory |
| 6 | BUEM070S6 | Microeconomics | 30 | Compulsory |
| 6 | EMEC011S6 | Macroeconomics | 30 | Compulsory |
| <i>Part-time and 2-year distance learning programme</i> | | | | |
| <i>Year 1</i> | | | | |
| Level | Module Code | Module Title | Credits | Status* |
| 6 | EMEC029S6 | Mathematics for Economists | 30 | Compulsory |
| 6 | BUEM070S6 | Microeconomics | 30 | Compulsory |
| <i>Year 2</i> | | | | |
| 6 | EMEC011S6 | Macroeconomics | 30 | Compulsory |
| 6 | EMEC002S6 | Applied Statistics and Econometrics | 30 | Compulsory |

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; *COMPULSORY* – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; *OPTIONAL* – Student can choose to take this module.

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| 20 | Additional Programme Information |
| | In addition to standard conditions required by the College Common Awards Scheme, the following apply. |

Year of entry: 2022/23

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| | All students are required to achieve 120 credits to obtain a classification of distinction or merit, subject to the standard classification rules under CAS. Students passing only 90 credits may be awarded the qualification but only with a pass. 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. |
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| 24 | Programme Director | Pedro Gomes |
| 25 | Start Date (term/year) | Prior to 2008/09 |
| 26 | Date approved by TQEC | Prior to 2008/9 |
| 27 | Date approved by Academic Board | Prior to 2008/9 |
| 28 | Date(s) updated/amended | March 2019 |