



**Department of Economics**

**MH416**

**BA International Economics**

**2024-25**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the BA International Economics degree at Maynooth, and congratulations on getting through the Leaving Cert and CAO process. The BA International Economics is a brand-new course which will

provide you with a deep understanding of the global economy and prepare you both intellectually and technically for employment in the public and private sector, both in Ireland and abroad.

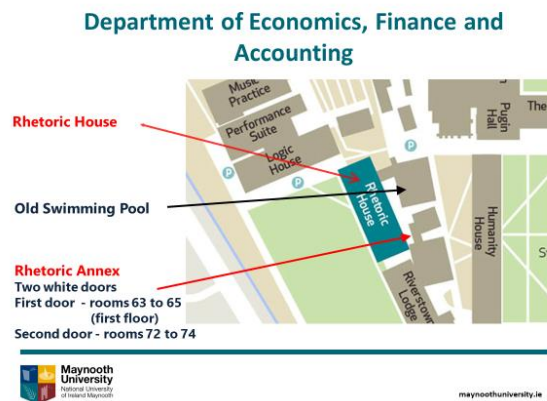
This handbook outlines the course of study for first year and each of the subsequent years in the BA International Economics programme. It also provides useful information on key dates, timetabling, lectures, attendance, assessments, and progression, as well as general information on the Department and the University, and various supports and services available to you as a BA International Economics student. If you have any questions that are not answered within the handbook, don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the contacts listed on page 3.

### Information about the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics is located on the middle and top floor of Rhetoric House on the South Campus. Economics lecturers' offices are in this building, but most of your lectures will take place on the North Campus. Rhetoric House is on the map below.

The department's website is [Economics | Maynooth University](#). Information on the website will answer many questions that you may have as a new student.

The department can be contacted by phone at +353-(0)1-7083728. General emails to the department should be addressed to the Department Administrator Sandra Doherty [Sandra.Doherty@mu.ie](mailto:Sandra.Doherty@mu.ie).



For departmental updates, news and events, please follow the department on our social media channels:

- Twitter: [@MU Econ / Twitter](#)
- Instagram: [@maynooth\\_economics](#)
- LinkedIn: [Department of Economics, MU | LinkedIn](#)

## Course Coordinator

The Course Coordinator is Dermot Leahy. He can be contacted by email at [dermot.leahy@mu.ie](mailto:dermot.leahy@mu.ie). His office is Room 58 in Rhetoric House. You should contact Dermot Leahy if you have queries about the programme, particularly if you are having difficulties that are affecting all your modules. He is also available to discuss module choices. You should also contact him if you are going to be absent from college for an extended period (i.e. more than a week).

## Lecturers

You should contact your lecturers if you have questions about individual modules. Each lecturer has weekly office hours, during which you can attend without an appointment to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Each lecturer will inform you of these hours. Alternatively, you may contact your lecturers by email.

Lecturers' contact details can be found at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/economics/our-people>. Lecturers tend to have different preferences on how you communicate with them, and they will let you know the best way to contact them.

## Tutorials

You will have tutorials for some modules especially in the first year of the programme. These provide an opportunity to ask tutors any questions you may have about the content covered in that module. The Head Tutor Shaun McDonnell is also available to take questions and provide extra assistance on any economics modules. He can be contacted by email ([shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie](mailto:shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie)) or in person in Room 57 in Rhetoric House during his office hours, which will be announced in the coming weeks. You can contact Shaun with any queries that you have regarding tutorials or any economics modules.

## Communication

It is important to use your official Maynooth email address in all correspondence, as this is less likely to get caught in spam filters. Always identify yourself by your programme code (MH416) and student number. This allows the staff member in question to respond to your query more efficiently.

You are expected to write in clear, concise, correct, and formal English. You should think of these correspondences as practice for future correspondences with prospective employers. This requires a certain degree of formality – remember that you are writing the email in a professional capacity and that it's not a social message to a friend or family member. You should also carefully consider the subject of the email – choose a short subject which makes the reason for the email immediately apparent.

Finally, please note that when a member of staff emails you individually, this requires a prompt response. Your response should show that you have read and understood the email in its entirety. You can make this clear by individually addressing each point raised in the initial email.

## Who to Contact

Scenario	Who to contact	Contact details
There is a problem affecting all your modules	Course Coordinator (Dermot Leahy)	<a href="mailto:Dermot.leahy@mu.ie">Dermot.leahy@mu.ie</a>
You will be absent for an extended period	Course Coordinator (Dermot Leahy)	<a href="mailto:Dermot.leahy@mu.ie">Dermot.leahy@mu.ie</a>
You have a problem or query relating to an individual EC-code module	Module lecturer or tutor	<a href="#">Our People   Economics MU</a>
You have a question or need help with any economics module	Head Tutor Shaun McDonnell	<a href="mailto:shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie">shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie</a>
You have a question relating to tutorials	Head Tutor McDonnell	<a href="mailto:shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie">shaun.mcdonnell@mu.ie</a>
You have a general question regarding the department	Department Administrator (Sandra Doherty)	<a href="mailto:Sandra.doherty@mu.ie">Sandra.doherty@mu.ie</a>
You would like support or guidance on a non-academic issue	Student Services	<a href="#">Student Services   Maynooth University</a>

You would need to contact the relevant department for modules you take outside of the Economics Department. For instance, GY-code modules are delivered by the Geography Department, HY-code modules are delivered by the History Department etc.

## Class Reps

Academic Reps are an essential part of university and student life in Maynooth. They work as a point of contact between the Student Union’s four full-time Officers and the entire student population.

Becoming a Class Rep is easy. Any student who wishes to represent their classmates may run for election to be the Academic Representative for their course. Interested students should register on [msu.ie](https://msu.ie). After registering, students will be able to apply online. If numerous students apply for the same position, there will be an online vote. The application forms will be available from the website at the beginning of the semester. Elections will be held in mid-October. Training for the elected representatives will take place following the elections.

Why should you get involved as an Academic Rep?

- It’s your chance to make a difference – for your year and the years to come after you
- It’s a chance to meet new people and have fun
- It looks great on a CV
- You’ll gain skills that you can use in your studies and your career
- You can improve the relationship between staff and students, and really get to know your lecturers

## Calendar & Timetables

The academic year is divided into two semesters. A semester lasts for 13 weeks (12 weeks of lectures and 1 mid-semester study week). Most modules are completed within a semester. Modules are examined at the end of each semester, meaning that semester 1 examinations are held in January and semester 2 examinations are held in May.

The term calendar is on the university website:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/registrar/key-term-dates>.

### Timetables

Your timetable for the coming year can be accessed at [Timetable \(maynoothuniversity.ie\)](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/registrar/key-term-dates)

Students should note that timetables are subject to change, so you should check the website regularly to confirm times and locations.

## Programme of Instruction

### Course Structure and Modules

The BA International Economics is a four-year course. Students will spend their first, second and fourth years studying in Maynooth, and their third year studying or working abroad. In each of the years in Maynooth, students take modules worth a total of 60 credits.

Students take a combination of compulsory and optional modules. Please note that not all listed optional modules will necessarily be available to students due to potential timetabling conflicts. In the case of a timetabling conflict between compulsory and optional modules, students must take the compulsory module and will not be permitted to take the optional module.







### First Year

In First Year, students take 15 credits of Economics and 15 credits of Mathematics. Students also register for one subject from Chinese, French, German, Spanish or Computer Science and, credits permitting, one other 15 credit subject from groups 1, 2 or 5 including Critical Skills, with no more than one subject from each group. Beginners in French, German or Spanish must select the 30-credit beginner subject.

Students are strongly encouraged to take the 15-credit accounting module in Year 1, though this may not be possible for all language streams, or those taking Computer Science for 30 credits. There will be a second opportunity to take Introduction to Accounting in Year 2.

As can be seen below all the economics modules are compulsory and so is MT112A and ST122. There is a choice between MT105A and MT105F, but you must choose carefully. **NB: When choosing modules students are advised that in most cases, they should take the much less advanced MT105F rather than the advanced MT105A.** However, students who wish to keep open the option of a minor in Mathematical Studies must take MT105A, not MT105F.

### ECONOMICS AND MATHS MODULES FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

	Module	Code	Credits	Semester	Compulsory
	<a href="#">MICROECONOMICS 1</a>	EC101	7.5	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<a href="#">INTRODUCTION TO CALCULUS (A)</a>	MT105A	7.5	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<a href="#">INTRODUCTION TO CALCULUS (F)</a>	MT105F	7.5	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<a href="#">INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS AND TO QUANTITATIVE METHODS</a>	EC103	7.5	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<a href="#">LINEAR ALGEBRA 1 (A)</a>	MT112A	2.5	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<a href="#">INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS (A)</a>	ST122	5	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Note these are just the Economics and Maths modules. There are 15 credits Economics EC101 + EC103 and 15 credits of maths from the remaining modules listed above.

For the first-year programme information in BAIE, please see:

[https://apps.maynoothuniversity.ie/courses/?TARGET=QS&MODE=VIEW&QUALIFICATION\\_CODE=BAIE&OFFERING\\_CODE=U\\_HONS\\_DEGREES&SUBJECT\\_CODE=&TARGET\\_SOURCE=CS&KEYWORD=Economics](https://apps.maynoothuniversity.ie/courses/?TARGET=QS&MODE=VIEW&QUALIFICATION_CODE=BAIE&OFFERING_CODE=U_HONS_DEGREES&SUBJECT_CODE=&TARGET_SOURCE=CS&KEYWORD=Economics)

Second Year

In second year, students can choose between a Single Major in Economics or a Major/Minor with Economics as the major and either Computer Science, their first-year language or Mathematical Studies as a minor subject. Students who opt for the Major/Minor will spend approximately 33% of their time on the minor subject.

Please note that the list of optional modules in the second and fourth years is tentative as lecturers may be on sabbatical leave or move to administrative positions. If an optional module becomes unavailable, it will be replaced with another option.

Second Year Major/Minor – 40 Credits from the modules listed below:

Code	Module title	Semester	Compulsory or optional	Credit weight
FN205	Corporate Finance	1	Compulsory	5
FN206	Corporate Finance (Financial Management)	2	Compulsory	5
EC206	Econometrics	2	Compulsory	5
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	1	Compulsory	5
EC205	Intermediate Quantitative Analysis for Economics and Business	1	Compulsory	5
EC342	Economics of Crime	2	Optional	5
FN212	Financial Modelling	2	Optional	5
EC229	Health Economics and Policy	1	Optional	5
EC216	History of Economic Thought	1	Optional	5
EC230	Information Economics	2	Optional	5
EC202A	Intermediate Macroeconomics	2	Optional	5
EC211	Money & Banking	2	Optional	5

Second Year Single Major – 60 Credits from the modules listed below:

Code	Module title	Semester	Compulsory or optional	Credit weight
FN205	Corporate Finance	1	Compulsory	5
FN206	Corporate Finance (Financial Management)	2	Compulsory	5
EC206	Econometrics (Statistical Methods for Economics and Business)	2	Compulsory	5
FN212	Financial Modelling	2	Compulsory	5
EC202A	Intermediate Macroeconomics	2	Compulsory	5
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	1	Compulsory	5
EC205	Intermediate Quantitative Analysis for Economics and Business	1	Compulsory	5
MT201A	Calculus 3 (A)	1	Optional	5
EC342	Economics Of Crime	2	Optional	5
AC210	Financial Accounting for Non-Accountants	1	Optional	5
EC229	Health Economics and Policy	1	Optional	5



EC216	History of Economic Thought	1	Optional	5
EC230	Information Economics	2	Optional	5
MT212A	Linear Algebra 2 (A)	2	Optional	5
AC211	Management Accounting for Non-Accountants	2	Optional	5
EC211	Money & Banking	2	Optional	5
MT301C	Ordinary Differential Equations	2	Optional	5

### Third Year

You will either work or study abroad in 3rd year (or work in an internationally orientated company in Ireland – subject to availability). You may study abroad in the 1st semester, and work in the 2nd.

Work placement gives students the chance to gain live experience in the workplace as part of their degree. This allows students to develop practical skills which will be beneficial after graduation and throughout their careers. Work placement is organised by the Placement Office. Further information can be found on their website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/placement-office/students>, and direct queries can be addressed to [placement@mu.ie](mailto:placement@mu.ie).

Students who wish to study abroad can do so through one of two programmes. The Erasmus+ Programme is an EU-funded programme which allows students to study in another EU or EEA state. We have over 100 exchange partners throughout Europe and funding is available for students who wish to study abroad on the Erasmus+ Programme. Students who wish to study outside of Europe can do so through the Study Abroad Programme. Both programmes are organised through the International Office and further information can be found on their website at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international>.

Fourth Year

In Fourth Year, students will return to Maynooth to continue with the Single Major or Major/Minor option (depending on which option was chosen in Second Year). The list of optional modules in the second and fourth years is tentative.

Fourth Year Major/Minor – 40 Credits from the modules listed below:

Code	Module title	Semester	Compulsory or optional	Credits
EC306	Econometrics	1	Compulsory	5
EC333	International Macroeconomics	2	Compulsory	5
FN305	Investments (Portfolio Selection & Analysis)	1	Compulsory	5
EC318	International Trade	2	Compulsory	5
EC301	Advanced Microeconomics	1	Optional	5
EC334	Behavioural Economics	2	Optional	5
FN307	Derivatives 1: Forwards, Futures & Swaps	1	Optional	5
FN308	Derivatives 2: An Analysis of Options and Credit Derivatives	2	Optional	5
EC327	Economics of Sport	1	Optional	5
EC311	Economics of the Environment & Natural Resources	2	Optional	5
EC319	Economics of Work & Life Decisions	2	Optional	5
FN399	Finance Thesis	Year-Long	Optional	5
FN310	Fixed Income Markets (International Financial Markets & Institutions)	1	Optional	5

Fourth Year Single Major – 60 Credits from the modules listed below:

Code	Module title	Semester	Compulsory or optional	Credits
FN307	Derivatives 1: Forwards, Futures & Swaps	1	Compulsory	5
FN308	Derivatives 2: An Analysis of Options and Credit Derivatives	2	Compulsory	5
EC306	Econometrics	1	Compulsory	5
EC333	International Macroeconomics	2	Compulsory	5
FN305	Investments (Portfolio Selection & Analysis)	1	Compulsory	5
EC318	International Trade	2	Compulsory	5
EC302	Advanced Macroeconomics	2	Optional	5
EC301	Advanced Microeconomics	1	Optional	5
EC334	Behavioural Economics	2	Optional	5
EC327	Economics of Sport	1	Optional	5
EC311	Economics of the Environment & Natural Resources	2	Optional	5
EC319	Economics of Work & Life Decisions	2	Optional	5
FN399	Finance Thesis	Year-Long	Optional	5
FN310	Fixed Income Markets (International Financial Markets & Institutions)	1	Optional	5

## Lectures

Lectures are generally 50 minutes long. They begin at five minutes past the hour and end at five minutes to the hour. Students should arrive on the hour to allow the lecture to begin and end on time. Students are welcome to ask questions at lectures.

## Tutorials

Students are required to attend tutorials. For tutorials, students are split into smaller groups. This provides an opportunity for students to discuss the course content in greater detail and focus on any issues which they have encountered. Details on tutorial times and locations will be communicated by lecturers.

Full preparation for and participation in tutorials is an essential part of the course. In some cases, questions for tutorials will be distributed in advance. In these cases, it's essential that students prepare written answers to these questions and bring these answers to the tutorials. Module-specific tutorial information will be provided by your lecturers and tutors. If you have any questions regarding tutorials, you can contact the Head tutor (Shaun McDonnell).

## Absence

Although some lecturers make lecture notes or summaries of lectures available on Moodle, these are not a replacement for attendance, and it is not possible to engage with the material sufficiently without attending lectures. Attendance is required in all lectures and tutorials.

If you are absent from college for a couple of days you do not need to inform us, unless this means that you miss continuous assessments (see further information on continuous assessment and attendance in the "Assessment" section of this Handbook). If you are going to be absent from college for an extended period (more than about a week) you should inform the course co-ordinator (Dermot Leahy [Dermot.leahy@mu.ie](mailto:Dermot.leahy@mu.ie)) as soon as possible, providing sick certificates where appropriate. Medical certificates need to be sent or delivered to Sandra Doherty ([Sandra.doherty@mu.ie](mailto:Sandra.doherty@mu.ie)).

## Assessment

Assessment methods vary from module to module, but for most modules assessment involves a mix of final examinations and continuous assessment. Continuous assessment can take the form of mid-term exams, multiple choice question (MCQ) tests, in class quizzes, podcast assignments, written assignments and presentations. The lecturer for each module will detail the assessment types and dates.

### Department Policy on Continuous Assessment and Attendance

(i) Should a student miss one or more in-class continuous assessment exercise or exam, CAE, as a result of an **excused absence**, a make-up will be offered for each missed CAE on the last week of classes. If a student misses the make-up, he/she will be assessed a zero for that CAE. The make-up can be an oral exam, an essay exam, a multiple-choice question exam, a problem-based exam, or a combination of any or all of these formats. It does not have to be the same format as the scheduled in-class continuous assessment exam, the only restriction is that it is on the same subject matter. **For an absence to be excused it must meet the Department's excused absence policy** (see below).

(ii) Students who fail to turn in a continuous assessment assignment on time and in the proper format will receive a zero on that assignment. No late assignments will be accepted. However, if a student does not turn in an assignment on time for a **lecturer determined genuine reason** supported by proper documentation that is mailed or faxed to the lecturer **on or before** the assignment due date, the lecturer may, but is not required to, choose to assign an alternative assignment to be submitted by the last day of classes.

(iii) All continuous assessment assignment **due dates** will be in the module information on Moodle from the first day of class. Assignments will generally be posted approximately two weeks prior to the due date.

(iv) Attendance marks for tutorials allow for 1 or 2 absences over the course of the term. No credit will be awarded for missed tutorials in excess of those allowed regardless of the reason for the absence.

The following are the Departmental guidelines on acceptable reasons for missing assessments:

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 their module lecturer and the Programme Director. Accommodations will be made to facilitate the completion of continuous assessment assignments or agreed alternatives.
5. **Exceptional circumstances:** Please discuss with the Head of Department.

Note: Holidays during term time is not a valid reason for missing midterm exams or other assessments.

### Final Examinations

Modules are examined at the end of the semester. First-semester examinations are held in January and second-semester examinations are held in May. Because first-semester examinations will take place about four months after registration, it's essential that students get down to serious study as soon as possible after registration.

Past exam papers are available on the Maynooth University Library website ([Library | Maynooth University](#)). Note that solutions are not available. These past papers should be seen as a guide to the standard expected, rather than as a predictor of the final content of exams. Module content changes from year to year.

### Progression to Second Year

Please check the University's Marks and Standards: [Academic Policies and Procedures | Maynooth University](#)

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. All students are advised to consult the University's policy document on plagiarism, available under Rules and Regulations for Students: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/universitypolicies/rules-regulations-students](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/universitypolicies/rules-regulations-students).

The university's definition of plagiarism is as follows: *"Plagiarism involves an attempt to use an element of another person's work, without appropriate acknowledgement in order to gain academic credit. It may include the unacknowledged verbatim reproduction of material, unsanctioned collusion, but is not limited to these matters; it may also include the unacknowledged adoption of an argumentative structure, or the unacknowledged use of a source or of research materials, including computer code or elements of mathematical formulae in an inappropriate manner."*

Working together on assignments is encouraged. However, assignments must always be completed individually. Students may, for example, discuss with each other how to approach an assignment, and the appropriate method to use for a given question. However, they must then complete the assignments separately.

## Library Information

The library (located on the South Campus beside the Kilcock Road) is a popular place to meet, study and research in. There are open-access areas on the ground floor, where food, drink and chat is allowed, with access to over 50 laptops and print facilities, and quieter areas on levels 1 and 2. There's a Starbucks on the ground floor, and students can book group study rooms on the library website.

Use LibrarySearch on the library homepage to discover everything MU Library holds on whatever subject and topic you're looking for. It gives you the location and details of thousands of e-books and e-journals you can read online on your devices (both on and off campus), as well as information on books, journal articles, and databases on your subject.

You can also use the library to print (using your student card), borrow a laptop to use while you're there, or use one of the library's computers. You can borrow books by using your student card.

The "New2MU" page on the library website contains a lot of useful information for new students: [Guides for Using the Library | Maynooth University](#)

The LIST Online library tutorials cover useful topics such as carrying out library searches, avoiding plagiarism and looking up past exam papers: : [Guides for Using the Library | Maynooth University](#)

If you have any queries about finding material, whether it's online or on the shelf, library staff are happy to help you; just ask at the library desk or live "Library Chat" box on the library homepage.

## Programme Advisory Office

The Programme Advisory Office, within the Office of the Dean of Teaching and Learning, is available to advise you on any choices you might have to make related to your programme including subject choice. The PAO acts as a guide to students as you navigate your own way through your programme options. The PAO consists of the Programme Advisor, Caitriona McGrattan, who is supported by a team of PG students during peak times.

The PAO will brief First Year students during the Welcome Week. Further information on the PAO, the support that they provide and how to contact them is available on the PAO website: [Programme Advisory Service | Maynooth University](#)

## Other Support Services

Outside of the Department, there are a number of other supports at University level, where experienced staff are available across a range of services to provide advice, support and guidance. **The Counselling Service, Pastoral Care, Student Health Centre, and Budgeting Advice** support and empower all students in achieving their personal and academic potential and help them on their journey through university.

You can visit [Student Services | Maynooth University](#) to find out about the various supports available to you.