

CAREERS FOR ECONOMISTS

The careers open to economists are challenging and dynamic, more so in the present environment of globalisation:

Economists in Banking and the Financial Markets

Fund Managers, Stock Brokers, Investment Bankers, Economic Trend and Policy Analysts, Forecasters, Dealers in the Treasury Departments of Financial Institutions, Specialists in Financial Services, International Financial Dealings.

Economists in the Public Sector

- **Department of Finance:** The National and Provincial Budgets, Fiscal Policy Formulations and Analysis, Public Debt Management, Economic Advisors.
- **Quasi Government Institutions:** Research and Project management in Institutions such as the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and Regional Development Agencies.
- **Department of Trade and Industry:** Trade and Industrial Policy Formulation, Economists dealing with cooperation agreements and trade negotiations at the WTO and between different countries, Input-output studies, Managing and Coordinating Economic Development projects and Private-Public Partnerships.
- **Economic Development Department and National Planning Commission:** Economic policy formulation, National Infrastructure Plan, New Growth Path, employment creation policies, coordination of Government's economic development policies, National Development Planning.
- **South African Reserve Bank:** Monetary and Financial Policy Formulation, Macroeconomic Modelling, Financial Regulation and Banking Supervision.

Environmental and Resource Economists

Economic Impact Studies, Cost-benefit Analysis, Formulation of Policy for the Sustainable use of Resources and the Protection of the Environment, contributing to Environmental Impact Analysis.

Specialists in International Economic Affairs

Economic Integration, International Investment, Activities of International Development Institutions such as the World Bank, WTO issues.

Economic Consultants in the Private Sector

Economic Advisors, Feasibility studies, Economic Policy Analysts and Forecasting.

Development and Labour Economists

Specialists dealing with Socio-economic issues, Growth and Development Research, Managing Development Agencies and Local Economic Development (LED) Institutions, Civil Society, Trade Unions and NGOs.

WHY HONOURS?

A fourth year of study (usually the honours degree) is normally required to obtain the necessary exposure to the appropriate range of specialist courses in Economics and the research experience in order to take up a career as an Economist. The Honours degree is also the gateway to further postgraduate studies such as Masters and PhD.

ECONOMICS HONOURS AT RHODES

ECONOMICS HONOURS consists of a research project, two compulsory courses plus FOUR elective courses.

Compulsory Courses

ECO 401 Research project
ECO 403 Macroeconomics
ECO 418 Microeconomics

Elective Courses

FOUR courses are selected from the following list:

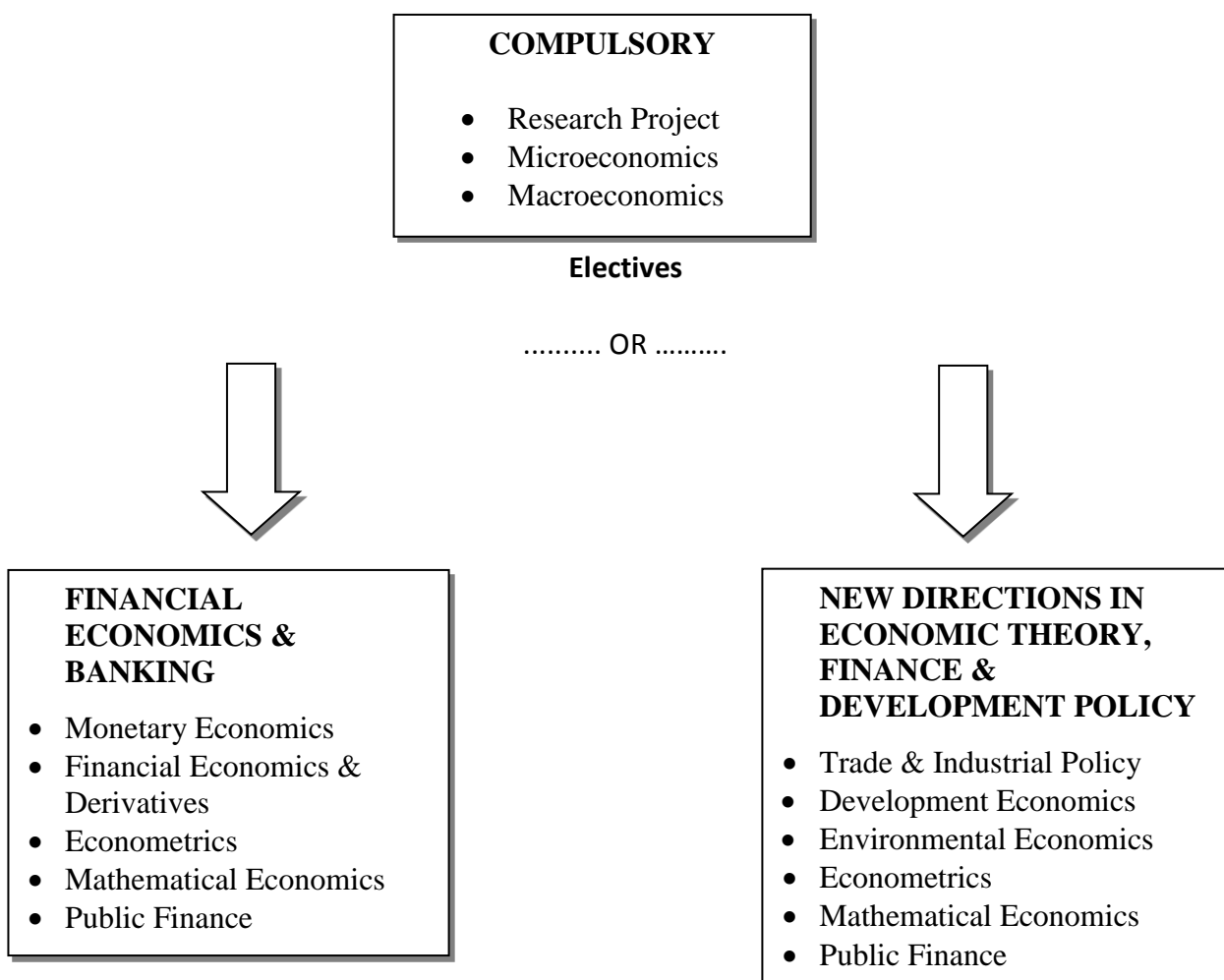
ECO 402 Mathematical Economics
ECO 404 Econometrics
ECO 405 Monetary Economics
ECO 407 Financial Economics & Derivatives
ECO 409 Development Economics
ECO 410 Environmental & Resource Economics
ECO 412 Trade and Industrial Policy
ECO 415 Public Finance

NB Not all the above elective courses are always offered in any one year; there may be changes due to staffing.

THREE courses will normally be taken per semester. Examinations are written in June and November.

HOW TO COMBINE COURSES

The elective courses broadly categorised are either “financial markets” or “development theory and policy” orientated. The development oriented stream has a focus reflecting “New directions in economic theory, finance and development policy” in response to calls to build capacity in the economics profession in heterodox approaches to development theory, finance and policy. A curriculum can therefore be put together to give effect to a clear career direction in one of these areas.



The above is just a guideline; students can take **any** combination of elective courses, provided their overall load is well-balanced between the two semesters. Not all of the above elective papers are necessarily offered every year as some members of staff may be on academic leave in a particular year.

Note: Students intending to pursue further studies in Economics at the Masters or PhD level should take Econometrics Honours. Admittance to Masters programmes that include coursework in Economics generally requires Honours Econometrics. Prerequisites for the Masters in Financial Markets degree are Econometrics **AND** Mathematical Economics at honours level.

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

A career as an economist normally involves doing research. The honours research project is therefore a critical component of the programme and comprises **25 per cent** of the final Honours mark. It equips students with the skills to undertake research in Economics, either as a stepping stone for Masters and PhD studies, or to prepare them for the kind of research they would be required to do in the workplace.

A research project of limited scope on an approved topic in Economics is selected in the first week of Semester 1 and handed in during October, involving either a theoretical analysis or an application of economics. Empirical work is strongly recommended. A presentation of the findings is made at the postgraduate Economics Conference in October.

Candidates are required to present the research project in journal article format. The project will include a literature survey of approximately 4 500 to 6 500 words and a journal research paper of approximately 4 500 to 6 500 words.

The selection of a research topic in a particular area of Economics gives candidates the opportunity to build up extensive knowledge in a career-focused direction.

BRIEF OVERVIEWS OF COURSE CONTENTS

ECO 401 – Research Project

A research project on an approved topic in economics will be selected in the first week of Semester 1 and handed in during October. The project involves either a theoretical analysis or an application of economics. Empirical work is strongly recommended. A presentation of the findings is made at the Department of Economics Postgraduate Conference in October. The final product is in the form of an academic article of approximately 4 500 to 6 500 words.

ECO 402 – Mathematical Economics

The course focuses on mathematical optimisation techniques that are essential to solving certain problems of an economic nature. The primary outcome of the course is to equip students with these skills, allowing for an enhanced analytical appraisal and understanding of both quantitative and qualitative economic problems. Static optimisation forms the starting point of the course, followed by dynamic analysis. As such, the course makes clear the importance of the evolution and analysis of variables over time in Economics. The course requires the completion of Mathematical Economics at the third year level. Or equivalently, an understanding of and experience with techniques from Chapters Three to Eleven of the prescribed textbook (see Booklist).

ECO 403 – Macroeconomics

Overview: the 'long history' of the global financial crisis; long run issues (growth theory); ISLM Keynesianism and its relevance today; the monetarist/new-classical counter-revolution, inflation targeting and the new monetary consensus; Keynes in the 1920s and the 'developmental state' model; social democracy versus financialised liberalism; 'the Marx in Keynes'; macroeconomics and the environment; South Africa's macroeconomic and developmental trajectory since 1994.

ECO 404 – Econometrics

Dynamic econometric modelling: distributed lag and autoregressive models, Granger causality; Time series econometrics: stationarity, unit root tests, cointegration, forecasting with ARIMA and VAR models, GARCH modelling; Simultaneous equation systems: simultaneous equation bias, the identification problem, indirect and two-stage least squares; Qualitative response models: LPM, logit and probit models; Panel data modelling: fixed versus random effects approaches.

ECO 405 – Monetary Economics

The monetary sector; models of the role of money, credit and interest rates in the overall economy (neoclassical, Keynesian, post-Keynesian and portfolio models); the Phillips Curve (including the theory and policy relevance of the output gap); the demand for money; the transmission mechanism; the money supply process; theory and statistical application of the definition of money in South Africa; monetary policy; monetary control in South Africa; inflation targeting; rules vs discretion in monetary policy, e.g. the use of the Taylor Rule; financial stability and banking supervision.

ECO 407 – Financial Economics & Derivatives

The role and functions of financial markets in the economy; investments; the modelling of risk vs return and modern portfolio theory; interest rate theory (including the level and term structure of interest rates); capital market theory and the valuation of assets (the capital asset pricing model and arbitrage pricing); pricing of bonds and equities; the cost of capital, investment theory; money, bond and equity markets; derivative financial instruments: types of futures contracts; pricing of futures and the futures market; recent developments in the South African futures market; options: the pricing of options including the Black-Scholes model.

ECO 409 – Development Economics

The meaning and measurement of development; theories of economic development: mainstream and alternative perspectives on development; structural adjustment programmes; the post-Washington consensus; globalisation; role of the state in development; the role of institutions in development; sustainable development; development in the 21st Century; the developmental state; South African economic policy in relation to development.

ECO 410 – Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

The Honours course in environmental and natural resource economics will address the foundations of the subject and apply them to issues covered in the literature and policy. The foundations include the origins of the sustainability problem, valuing the environment, ecological economics, evaluation of biological control of alien invasive plants, water footprint assessment, agriculture and the environment, institutional economics and the environment.

ECO 412 – Trade and Industrial Policy

Historical background on the role of the state in development; Trade theory under imperfect competition and the case for a strategic trade and industrial policy; Industrial policy and the role of the manufacturing and services sectors in development; The articulation between macroeconomic and industrial policies; Economic concentration, competition policy and industrial development; Public procurement; Intellectual property rights; Technology, foreign direct investment and industrial policy; The WTO, the Doha Round and the shrinking of development policy space; Regional integration, industrial policy and South-South economic cooperation.

ECO 415 – Public Finance

The economic role of Government; Economics of taxation; Economic theory of tax policy and its implications for the growth and development of the economy; Social and fiscal policy issues with special reference to healthcare and social grants; Public debt and public debt management.

ECO 418 – Microeconomics

Market entry barriers and implications for market/industry structure, performance, and concentration; Contestability of markets; Market share; Concentration ratios; Herfindahl Index; Structure Conduct Performance Paradigm; Porter's Five Factors Model; Consumer theory; Exchange; Social choice and welfare; Game theory; Auctions and mechanism design; Behavioural Economics; Economics of Information.

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ECONOMICS HONOURS 2020 - SEMESTER 1 TIMETABLE

	TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	07.45-08.30					
2	08.40-09.25	ECO409 Weeks 6-13 Development (16/3)				ECO404 Econometrics pracs (Eden Grove lab)
3	09.35-10.20	ECO409 Weeks 6-13 Development (16/3)				ECO404 Econometrics pracs (Eden Grove lab)
4	10.30-11.15	ECO409 Weeks 6-13 Development (16/3)			ECO 101 Tutors Meeting	
5	11.25-12.10	ECO 315 Tutors Meeting				
6	12.20-01.05	ECO 312 / ECO 317 Tutors Meeting	ECO 202 Tutors Meeting			
7	02.15-03.00	ECO401 Research Project	ECO405 Weeks 1-8 Monetary	ECO403 Weeks 1-8 Macroeconomics	ECO404 Weeks 1-13 Econometrics	ECO415 Weeks 6-13 Public Finance (20/3)
8	03.10-03.55		ECO405 Weeks 1-8 Monetary	ECO403 Weeks 1-8 Macroeconomics	ECO404 Weeks 1-13 Econometrics	ECO415 Weeks 6-13 Public Finance (20/3)
9	04.05-04.50		ECO405 Weeks 1-8 Monetary	ECO403 Weeks 1-8 Macroeconomics	ECO404 Weeks 1-13 Econometrics	ECO415 Weeks 6-13 Public Finance (20/3)

ECO 409 may move to
Tues pm in Week 9

ECO 415 may move to
Wed pm in Week 9

Dates in brackets are the first meeting dates for the module in 2020

Venue: Eden Grove Seminar Room1

Tutors' meeting venues tba

RHODES UNIVERSITY

ECONOMICS HONOURS 2020 - SEMESTER 2 TIMETABLE (tbc)

	TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	07.45-08.30					
2	08.40-09.25	ECO410 Weeks 1-8 Enviro Ecos		ECO412 Weeks 6-13 Trade & Ind Policy (19/8)		ECO402 Weeks 6-13 Mathematical tutorial
3	09.35-10.20	ECO410 Weeks 1-8 Enviro Ecos		ECO412 Weeks 6-13 Trade & Ind Policy (19/8)		ECO402 Weeks 6-13 Mathematical tutorial
4	10.30-11.15	ECO410 Weeks 1-8 Enviro Ecos		ECO412 Weeks 6-13 Trade & Ind Policy (19/8)	ECO 102 Tutors' Meeting	
5	11.25-12.10	ECO 314 Tutors' Meeting				
6	12.20-01.05	ECO 313 / ECO 316 Tutors' Meeting	ECO 201 Tutors' Meeting			
7	02.15-03.00	ECO401 Research Project	ECO407 Weeks 1-8 Financial&Derivatives	ECO418 Weeks 1-8 Microeconomics	ECO402 Weeks 6-13 Mathematical (20/8)	
8	03.10-03.55		ECO407 Weeks 1-8 Financial&Derivatives	ECO418 Weeks 1-8 Microeconomics	ECO402 Weeks 6-13 Mathematical (20/8)	
9	04.05-04.50		ECO407 Weeks 1-8 Financial&Derivatives	ECO418 Weeks 1-8 Microeconomics	ECO402 Weeks 6-13 Mathematical (20/8)	

ECO412 may move to
Wed pm in Week 9

Dates in brackets are the first meeting dates for the module in 2020
 Venue: Eden Grove Seminar Room1
 Tutors' meeting venues tba

Economics Honours 2020 - General website

Economics Honours 2020 (Eco Hons 2020)

Enrolment key: **ecohons**

Economics Honours 2020 – ECO401 Research Project website

ECO401 Honours Research Project 2020 (ECO401 2020)

Enrolment key : ECO401 2020

Please enroll on these websites as soon as you have registered

COURSE		SEMESTER 1		SEMESTER 2	
		Weeks 1 - 8	Weeks 6 - 13	Weeks 1 - 8	Weeks 6 - 13
ECO 401	Research Project	X	X	X	X
ECO 418	Micro			TEM, New Staff	
ECO 403	Macro	DCAF			
ECO 404	Econometrics	NSC	NSC		
ECO 415	Public Finance		JM		
ECO 405	Monetary	HN			
ECO 412	Trade Policy				NSC
ECO 407	Fin & Deriv			HN	
ECO 410	Enviro			GCGF	
ECO 409	Development		TF		
ECO 402	Maths Ecos				DT

PRESCRIBED BOOKLIST – 2020

RESEARCH PROJECT ECO 401 [S1 & S2]

Mohr, P. (2016) Economic Indicators (5th edition). Van Schaik Publishers ISBN: 9780627034619

MONETARY ECONOMICS ECO 405 [S1]

HOWELLS, P. & BAIN, K. (latest edition) The Economics of Money, Banking and Finance. Addison, Wesley Longman, England.

FINANCIAL & DERIVATIVES ECONOMICS ECO 407 [S2]

HOWELLS, P. & BAIN, K. (latest edition) The Economics of Money, Banking and Finance. Addison, Wesley Longman, England.

ECONOMETRICS ECO 404 [S1]

GUJARATI, D. & PORTER, D. 2009. Basic Econometrics. (5e). McGraw-Hill Irwin, New York. ISBN: 9780071276252 (or latest edition)

MICROECONOMICS ECO 418 [S1]

VARIAN H. R. 2010. Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach, 8th Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS ECO 402 [S1]

DOWNING, E. 2011. Schaum's outline series: Introduction to Mathematical Economics (3e). McGraw-Hill, ISBN 9780071762519 (or latest edition).