Department of Economics

Postgraduate Research
The Department of Economics has an international reputation for practical and real world economics.

We are a leading research University and economics department and our academic staff are among the top economic experts in their field.

The research we do influences and informs real economic policy that makes a difference in the world. Our staff are active researchers, advising government departments in the UK and internationally and publishing their work in some of the world's leading academic journals.

Students choose to study their PhD in Sheffield from countries all around the globe to receive the best academic support in a friendly and vibrant research environment. They know their research degree is a step towards becoming an outstanding researcher.

We are home to the Institute for Economic Analysis of Decision-making (InstEAD) that drives research into understanding the behaviour and decision-making of individuals and households. It brings together research in behavioural economics, economic psychology, health economics and labour economics.

We are also part of the Centre for Vocational Education Research (CVER) funded by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The centre is a world-class research hub focused on understanding the contribution of vocational education to individuals and the wider economy.

The research themes of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Sheffield are:

- Sustainable Growth
- Wellbeing and the Life Course
- Inclusive Society
- Digital Society
- Innovative Methods

The Department of Economics is proud to contribute to the Faculty's world-class research, that makes a difference to our society.

For more information on the Faculty of Social Sciences research themes visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/social-sciences

Our research clusters and examples of potential areas of supervision

Labour and Education Economics
- Workers and Labour Markets
- Policy Evaluation
- Labour Market Outcomes
- Returns to Education

Health Economics and the Economics of Wellbeing
- Determinants of Subjective Wellbeing
- Child Development, Health and Wellbeing
- Efficiency and Equity in Health and Health Care Provision
- Health System Financing and Performance
- Measurement and Valuation of Health

The Economics of the Firm and Industrial Economics
- Executive Pay and Corporate Governance
- Firm Performance and Global Markets
- Financial Markets and Banking
- Business Networks
- Innovation, Productivity and Trade

Macroeconomics, Finance and Development
- Comparative National Economic Institutions
- Exchange Rates and Trade Flows
- Inflation and Price Dynamics
- Inequality, Poverty and Foreign Aid

These are examples of the types of research we do, but it is not a definitive list. For more information on research in the Department of Economics visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/economics/research
Research Degrees

A full-time PhD takes three years, or studying part-time takes six years. Registration is generally in September each year. Recent doctoral thesis titles include:

- Distribution of Earnings and Wage Inequality in UK Industries
- The Impact of Skills Shortages and Skills Gaps on Firms and Individuals
- The Determinants of Subjective Wellbeing
- Effects of UK Regional Firm Competition on Wage Determination
- Fiscal Policy and the Natural Rate of Interest
- Debt-backed Household Consumption and Macroeconomic Fluctuations in Small-open and Developed Economies
- The Effects of Foreign Aid on Political Incentives

PhD students will be provided with specialist training relevant to their thesis, such as analytical techniques or using economics software programmes.

The White Rose Doctoral Training Centre (WRDTC) in Social Sciences

The Department of Economics is a member of the ESRC White Rose Doctoral Training Centre in Social Sciences. The centre is a multidisciplinary training centre for postgraduate researchers in social science, providing training and collaboration opportunities, with academics and other students from across the Universities of Sheffield, Leeds and York.

Find out more about the White Rose Doctoral Training Centre in Social Sciences www.sheffield.ac.uk/social-sciences-dtc

State-of-the-art facilities

Our building is in the heart of the campus in the city centre and has undergone a £3.5 million refurbishment. During your studies you will have access to the latest equipment in a world-class environment that will positively enhance your learning.

As a full-time PhD student you will be provided with your own work space in a shared office. You will have your own desktop PC with access to and support for specialist economics software to enable you to complete your research.

Careers

PhD graduates have gone on to research and teaching roles at top research Universities in the UK and internationally, such as; the University of Manchester, the University of Newcastle and the University of Bristol, among others. Also many students go into research positions in organisations such as: Sky IQ, the National Centre for Social Research and HSBC.
“I wrote my thesis on commuting behaviour because I wanted to apply the economic and econometric techniques I’d learnt to real world, everyday problems. The research environment at the Department of Economics is conducive to producing high quality PhD research. I now work at the University of Manchester investigating what influences an individual’s health and wellbeing. I would not be able to do the job if I hadn’t completed my PhD in Economics from the University of Sheffield.”

Luke Munford – Driving My Life Away? Essays examining the impact of commuting on income and well-being

“One of the areas the Department of Economics excels in is Labour and Education economics, specifically focusing on empirical analysis. That’s why I preferred it over the other universities in the UK. Being an international student, when I’ve completed my PhD I will return to my home town, where I will pursue a career in academia. I’m confident that the PhD from the University of Sheffield will give me a competitive edge over the scholars back home.”

Mehak Ejaz – Gender differences in the Labour Market Status, Wages and Occupations

For more information on current students and their doctoral thesis go to: www.sheffield.ac.uk/economics/phd/students

Entry requirements

Applicants need a good Masters degree in an appropriate subject and a first class or an upper second (2:1) honours degree. A strong economics background is essential.

Applicants whose first language is not English and do not hold a degree from an English-speaking university will need to take an English language test, normally IELTS. We ask for an average IELTS score of 6.5, with at least 6 in each component.

Research proposal

A research proposal is required to be submitted with your application form. It should be between 1000 and 2000 words and contain the following elements:

- Proposed thesis title
- Description of the research issue
- Explanation as to why this issue merits research
- Description of relevant research carried out by others
- Indication of what your research would contribute to understanding
- Details of how the research would be conducted
Scholarships, funding and fees

There are scholarships and funding available for students wanting to study for a PhD at the University of Sheffield. For more information visit

www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/scholarships

For information on fees visit

www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/finance

How to Apply

All postgraduate research applications need to be made online. Please visit

www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/apply/applying

Contact us

Department of Economics
The University of Sheffield
9 Mappin Street
Sheffield
S14DT, UK

Telephone + 44 (0) 114 222 3315
econ@sheffield.ac.uk

www.sheffield.ac.uk/economics/phd/brochure

SheffieldEconomics
@sheffieconomics