OPPORTUNITIES USING…. ECONOMICS

Key facts

Economics graduates work in a wide range of graduate professions, not only as economists or in finance, but in a range of other sectors and jobs roles. The analytical and other skills you develop on the degree programme are in demand, and you can use these to good effect in many different job roles and industries – either in economics related roles or other roles.

An annual survey details the employers and jobs graduates are in 6 months after graduation. In 2012, 80% who graduated from BSc courses at Birmingham were in graduate level jobs or further study. Of those who were working, approximately half worked in business and finance related jobs with employers such as accountancy and professional services firms, banks (high street and city), insurance firms, manufacturing companies, energy and retail. Others worked in roles such as sales, logistics, recruitment, technical support, and administration. Few BSc graduates work as economists or in research, as most organizations, such as think tanks, prefer postgraduate qualifications.

Popular career choices

Outlined below are some of the professions and sectors that are popular with Economics graduates, including key web links to help you research the roles and find vacancy sources.

To research other career options in addition to those listed below, use the resources on Careers Network and Prospects www.prospects.ac.uk (Options with my subject and Types of Jobs) and Target jobs career sectors.

Careers Network hosts the university’s own vacancy database, where employers advertise jobs especially to attract Birmingham students - see the jobs and opportunities section. Employers come onto campus regularly – find out when on the Events pages.


Opportunities in large organisations may include specialist economist roles in addition to mainstream graduate entry roles. The recruitment cycle starts early: sometimes 15 months before the envisaged time you will start.

Get more support from the College of Social Sciences careers team:
www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers/coss

- Book appointments for 1:1 careers advice
- Book a CV check at the CV and applications clinic
- Attend careers events and workshops
- Get individual advice on internships /work experience
- Access the electronic version of this handout QRcode:

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Inside Careers Student/graduate careers site including City & Finance with jobs, advice, employer links and news
Target Jobs Graduate jobs, internships, advice and employer links
eFinancial Careers Finance sector careers and jobs including Student Centre with advice and news
Graduate Prospects Student/graduate careers site including sector information and jobs for Banking & Finance
Directions Financial Skills Partnership careers site
Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Internships for ethnic minority undergrads including investment banking and professional services
gettinginvestmentbanking.com Events for students with a disability or long term health condition
Askivy: careers advice and company profiles in investment banking

Professional institutes Including information for prospective trainees
Institute of Chartered Accountants – England/Wales
Chartered Assoc. of Certified Accountants
Chartered Assoc. of Management Accountants
Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy
Association of Corporate Treasurers
Chartered Institute of Taxation
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries
Chartered Insurance Institute
Pensions Management Institute

Government, Public sector: Central government, local government and regulatory bodies.

Financial Regulatory
Bank of England careers and jobs site
Financial Conduct Authority jobs and careers – regulates the UK financial services sector.

Central Government
The Government Economic Service is an umbrella term covering Economists working across many departments in the Civil Service. Recruitment is via the Analytical Faststream for specialist Economist roles.

Local/Regional Government
National graduate development programme for local government. NB opportunities for graduates in local government exist outside of this national scheme, with councils recruiting directly into different areas.
LGJobs Official government jobs site for councils
DirectGov Contacts section contains a list of all councils

Other public sector sites
Opportunities Jobs board and public sector news
Jobs Go Public Jobs board

Other industry regulatory bodies
Regulatory bodies A list of UK regulatory bodies e.g. OFGEM (Office of Gas & Electricity Markets)

Management and Economic Consulting
Management Consultancy Association careers-jobs – careers information and list of firms (not all have graduate roles)
Inside Careers Management Consultancy section includes careers information, advice and employer list
Target Jobs consultancy Careers information, advice and employer list
Society of Business Economists – careers information + some consultancies

International Organisations
(Most positions require a postgraduate degree)
International Monetary Fund

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Economic research
E.g. think tanks, trades unions. Directories/listings are shown below which can be used to identify organisations including specific job vacancies, or used for speculative applications.

Policy Jobs includes a directory of think tanks + jobs listings
EU Think Tanks directory of European Union think tanks
Guardian News article News articles + list of think tanks
Trades Union Congress – lists UK trades unions
Thinktanks Information (Oxford University)

Graduate profiles

Mark Fairbrother
Since graduating from Birmingham University, Mark joined PricewaterhouseCoopers on their graduate training programme, within the assurance practice in Birmingham. Whilst there he completed his Chartered Accountancy professional qualification in 2004. During his time with PwC, Mark looked after a number of large scale regional clients, focussing on clients within the financial services industry, and was also being part of the UK and Indian training tutor programme. In June 2008 Mark joined Aston Villa Football Club as Head of Finance, where he has responsibility for running the finance department, as well as oversight of management and financial reporting, as well internal control and cashflow planning. Mark returned to Birmingham in 2011 to undertake a MBA at the Business School and in June 2012 has joined QA Business School, who operate the London and Birmingham branches of the University of Ulster as Finance Director.

Rachel Evans
I graduated from the University of Birmingham with BA Mathematics & Music in 2007 and MSc Mathematical Finance 2008. I started at the FSA in 2008 on the Actuarial Graduate Development Programme, which involved rotating around the various actuarial teams within the FSA whilst studying for the Fellowship of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. This includes experience in life insurance, general insurance, pensions, policy and industry.

Further Resources
Other websites for economists including jobs listings:
There may not always be jobs listed for new graduates, but you can use the job listings to identify organisations that are of interest to you and then consider making speculative applications.
The Economist - news, features and jobs
The Supply Curve Jobs board
Royal Economic Society – professional association
Society of Business Economists – including careers information
Econ Jobs Economics Jobs board
Inomics – international site for economists including jobs
National Institute of Economic and Social Research
Association for Financial Markets in Europe

For quick links, access the electronic version of this handout on www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers/coss

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