

Programme change proposals - Economics MSc programmes

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are proposed, **including in the final section a further modification that was not in the previous version of this document.**

Programme(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Development Economics and Emerging Markets (DEEM) • MSc Project Analysis, Finance and Investment (PAFI) • MSc Economics and Public Policy • MSc Finance • MSc Health Economics • MSc Finance and Econometrics • MSc Economics and Finance • MSc Econometrics and Economics • MSc Economics
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Summary of Overall Plans

Because of current UK Government guidelines on social distancing, the University has decided that there will be no 'face-to-face' lectures in Autumn Term, and is assuming for planning purposes that this will remain the case for the whole academic year. Lecture material will instead be delivered online, through the University's vle ('virtual learning environment'), normally in the form of (specially) pre-recorded videos made available on the module's vle site.

Face-to-face contact will be maintained as far as possible for seminars, practicals, workshops etc. However social distancing here implies that face-to-face groups will generally have to be smaller than usual, and therefore more numerous than usual in each module. This in itself increases the demand, from all Departments, on teaching space. So some 'rationing' of face-to-face meetings is necessary.

In our MSc programmes, our core modules in Microeconomics and Econometrics are relatively intensive in seminars, practicals and workshops, and are taken by almost all of our students. Furthermore these are the modules that provide students with key 'core' skills and analytical techniques applicable across other modules on their programme.

So we are planning to keep as face-to-face, throughout Autumn and Spring Terms, all seminars, practicals and workshops in these modules, which are:

- ECO00002M *Advanced Microeconomics*
- ECO00046M *Applied Microeconomics 1*
- ECO00067M *Applied Microeconomics 2*
- ECO00013M *Econometrics 1*
- ECO00047M *Econometrics 1&2*

- ECO00037M *Statistics and Econometrics*
- ECO00044M *Econometric Methods for Research*
- ECO00005M *Applied Microeconometrics*

All other modules will be delivered entirely online, typically using the vU's online-conferencing tools for any live ('synchronous') sessions.

Because of travel restrictions, self-isolation etc, some students may be unable to join us here at York, and will be participating only online. For those elements of a module that are face-to-face, our intention is to provide as near as possible equivalent online contact for these students. Those elements of a module that are online only will be accessible equally to all students.

Also because of social distancing, the University is planning for there to be no closed examinations in 2020-21. Some of your modules will still be assessed by exam, but 'open' (i.e. with access to course materials) and online. Some other assessments may be changed from exam to project or essay-type assessment. We are working to finalise the details of this.

Programme Structures

We have no plans to change programme structures as such. However we are planning some changes for individual modules, that will have some impact for some programmes.

1 We are planning to withdraw four modules, all of which are 10-credits and normally with relatively low enrolment:

- ECO00010M *Development & Finance*
- ECO00016M *Experimental & Behavioural Economics*
- ECO00019M *Financial Market Microstructure*
- ECO00035M *Public Finance*

ECO00035M *Public Finance* is normally specified as a compulsory module for MSc *Economics and Public Policy*. Even without this module, that programme still retains a strong and distinctive core, including *Public Policy Analysis* (20 credits) and *Public Sector Economics* (10 credits).

ECO00019M *Financial Market Microstructure* is normally specified as an optional alternative to *Continuous Time Finance* for MSc *Finance* students, with normally only a minority choosing that option. In 2020-21 all students on this programme will take *Continuous Time Finance*.

2 We are planning to reschedule two modules:

- ECO00040M *Theory of Finance*
- ECO00056M *Fixed Income Securities*

ECO00040M *Theory of Finance* is a 20-credit module that is compulsory for MSc *Finance* and for MSc *Economics and Finance*. It normally runs through both Autumn and Spring terms. In 2020-21 we plan to complete it in Autumn Term, with the assessment at the start of Spring Term.

ECO00056M *Fixed Income Securities* is a 10-credit module that is compulsory for MSc *Project Analysis, Finance and Investment*. It normally runs in Autumn Term. In 2020-21 we plan instead to run it in Spring Term.

3 One final change concerns the module:

- ECO00044M *Econometric Methods for Research*

This is a 20-credit module that runs through both Autumn and Spring terms. For students in MSc *Economics and Finance* it is an optional alternative to *Econometrics 1&2*. Normally very few of these students take that option. In 2020-21 all students on the MSc *Economics and Finance* programme will take *Econometrics 1&2*.

FURTHER MODIFICATION (notified 3 AUGUST 2020)

A further module has been added to those rescheduled (see point 2 above). This is ECO00012M *Public Sector Economics* which in 2020-21 will run in Spring Term instead of Autumn Term. This is a 10-credit module that is compulsory for MSc *Economics and Public Policy*, and an option for some other programmes. Given that students can balance their own workload, between the two terms, through their choice of other options, the rescheduling need have minimal impact on the chosen workload balance.