

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
3	<b>Final Award</b>	Bachelor of Arts
4	<b>Programme Title</b>	BA Honours Economics
5	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	L100
6	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	
7	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	Economics
8	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Honours
9	<b>Date written/revised</b>	June 2007

### 10 Programme Aims

The overall aim is to provide a programme which:

- 1 provides education in the principles of economics and their application
- 2 enables students to apply the knowledge and understanding they have acquired to address theoretical and applied problems in economics
- 3 equips students with a range of skills which will be of value in employment, and provide them with the knowledge and opportunity to acquire skills to pursue further study in economics
- 4 provides an environment which encourages and supports the student learning process

And which fully

- 1.meets the requirements of the QAA Benchmark statements for Economics degrees
- 2.conforms to the criteria for an honours degree as laid down in the National Qualifications Framework for HE Institutions.

### 11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for Economics.

#### Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 a knowledge and coherent understanding of the theoretical concepts and analytical tools of economics and associated empirical methods
- A2 awareness of the economic issues that confront modern society and of the global and national settings in which economic activities take place
- A3 awareness of the economic implications of policy
- A4 an opportunity to develop in-depth, specialist knowledge in specific areas within economics through optional models
- A5 an awareness of key research findings within economics

#### Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures provide the principal means to impart knowledge and understanding. Student learning and understanding. Student learning and understanding are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).

<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Unseen examinations are the principal means to test knowledge and understanding. Assessed coursework (essays, projects numerical examples) is also used.
<b>Intellectual Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to: B1 those study skills which underlie effective learning, thinking and problem solving
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Lecturers provide the principal means to impart subject specific skills. Student learning and ability are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Unseen examinations are the principal means to test cognitive skills. Assessed coursework is also used.
<b>Practical Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to: C1 the analytical skills needed to present and defend economic arguments on issues of topical interest C2 the ability to interpret and critically evaluate the results of empirical research in economics C3 the ability to analyse economic problems using formal mathematical and statistical analytical tools C4 an appreciation of the importance of specialist research literature
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Lecturers provide the principal means to impart subject specific skills. Student learning and ability are then enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical classes) private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Unseen examinations are the principal means to test subject specific skills. Assessed coursework is also used, particularly when it can test skills not easily tested in an exam (such as information and data gathering.)
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 basic skills of time management D2 basic skills of written and oral communication D3 the ability to work independently and in teams D4 a variety of information technology skills, including work-processing, use of spreadsheets and databases, email and on-line information services
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
D1 this skill is taught in induction and students learn to manage their own time and to organise their work schedule to be able to meet deadlines. D2 these skills are taught in induction. Formative feedback guides written skills. Oral presentation skills are practised in seminars. D3 Study skills are presented in induction. Private study provides an opportunity to practise independent working. Team working is practised in a number of modules, having first been demonstrated in a video. D4 Workshops are the principal means by which the skills are taught. They are then

practised throughout the degree programme to prepare coursework and to communicate with other students and staff.

#### **Assessment Strategy**

D1 This is tested indirectly through the need to meet rigid deadlines.

D2 Written communication is tested through unseen exams and assessed coursework (essays and projects). Oral presentation is tested in a number of modules.

D3 This is tested in a number of modules, often through a team presentation or report.

D4 Initially tested in an IT module through exam and coursework, but indirectly tested in coursework throughout the programme.

## **12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

### **Basic structure of the programme**

Undergraduate degree programmes in the Business School including Economics have a modular structure linked to a pattern for the academic year. This is based on a two semester system consisting of one 15 week semester and one 16 week semester located within a three-term framework. Week 1 of semester 1 is Induction Week, given over to registration and induction activities; weeks 2-13 are teaching and learning weeks; weeks 14 and 15 form the assessment period. In Semester 2 the first 12 weeks are teaching and learning weeks with the remaining weeks given over to assessment. The BA Honours Economics degree programme is three-years duration. Each year of the degree programme is referred to as a Stage, so that students complete Stages 1, 2 and 3 of their degree. In each Stage of their degree students are required to study modules to a total credit value of 120, in accordance with degree programme regulations; usually taking modules with a credit value of 60 in Semester 1 and 60 in Semester 2, although a 50-70 or 70-50 split across semesters is permitted. A 10 credit module is equivalent to 100 notional hours of study.

### **Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

Stage 1 of the BA Honours Economics Degree Programme introduces students to the fundamental concepts, analytical, mathematical and statistical techniques which are essential to an understanding of modern economics. A series of key modules gives students an awareness and understanding of the main economic problems and issues which affect the British economy. At this stage students are introduced to a variety of information technology skills which will be of use both during and after their degree studies. Basic study and communication skills are also developed at this Stage.

Stage 2 of the BA Honours Economics degree programme develops the knowledge and skills acquired at Stage 1, in order to provide an understanding of economics at an intermediate level, which will enable students to progress to the more advanced undergraduate material at Stage 3. Compulsory methods of analysing the workings of the modern economy. A further compulsory module in empirical methods aims to equip students with the tools needed to carry out basic empirical research in economics and to interpret and critically evaluate the results of such research. Modules dealing with current issues and applied economics provide an opportunity for students to engage in group work and to develop key skills in the ability to present and defend, both orally and in writing, economic arguments on topical issues. Opportunity is provided for students to pursue their interests in a range of economic and other subject areas related to economics.

Stage 3 – the final Stage of the BA Honours Economics degree programme aims to give students a depth and breadth of economics at an advanced undergraduate level. It uses and develops the knowledge and skills acquired at previous stages. Compulsory modules in microeconomics and macroeconomics give students an understanding of the topics and methods of analysis in these areas at an advanced undergraduate level, including a thorough grounding in game theoretic concepts and economics of information. This enables the students to follow some more recent developments in the field. A large number of options enable the students to study those areas of economics which are of greatest interest to them. This includes the opportunity to pursue a topic of original research through a dissertation.

### **Programme regulations ([link to on-line version](#))**

### **13 Criteria for admission**

#### *Entry qualifications*

GCSEs required – minimum of Grade B Mathematics

A-level Subjects and Grades – any subjects B, B, B

#### *Alternative entry qualifications*

Scottish Highers, A, B, B, B, B (preferably including Mathematics)

Combinations of Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers

BTEC National Diploma, overall Merit grade to include at least 4 Distinctions

International Baccalaureate 32 points (Mathematics at least at grade 6 standard level)

Quantitative Methods as essential modules and Business/Economics desirable at Distinction grade

#### *Admissions policy/selection tools*

The School aims to recruit students who will be capable of successfully completing its degree programme in Economics and who, on graduation, should therefore be capable of developing successful careers in a variety of business and related professions, or pursuing postgraduate studies. As evidence of potential to achieve degree programme aims, the School usually seeks to recruit students with a strong academic record in terms of their prior qualifications and their predicted grades in any examinations still to be taken. However, in assessing candidates' applications, the School also looks for other evidence of a commitment to study and an interest in the subject area. Candidates are therefore selected using all the information on the UCAS form, including the Personal Statement. Applicants through the University's PARTNERS programme have an opportunity to provide additional evidence of their suitability for degree level study through successful completion of the Summer School.

The School is committed to recruiting candidates with good academic potential, regardless of age, disability, gender, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, religion or social background.

#### *Non-standard Entry Requirements*

Considered on individual merit, after interview if necessary.

#### *Additional Requirements*

#### *Level of English Language capability*

### **14 Support for Student Learning**

#### *Induction*

During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students (see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/coming\\_to\\_newcastle/orientation.phtml](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/coming_to_newcastle/orientation.phtml))

#### *Study skills support*

Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

#### *Academic support*

The initial point of contact for a student is with a lecturer or module leader, or their tutor (see below) for more generic issues. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Staff-Student Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies.

#### *Pastoral support*

All students are assigned a personal tutor whose responsibility is to monitor the academic performance and overall well-being of their tutees. Details of the personal tutor system can be found at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/tutor.phtml>

In addition the University offers a range of support services, including the Student Advice Centre, the Counselling and Wellbeing team, the Mature Student Support Officer, and a Childcare Support Officer, see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/welfare.phtml>

#### *Support for students with disabilities*

The University's Disability Support Service provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies. For further details see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/disability-support/>

#### *Learning resources*

The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities, see

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/acfacilities.phtml>

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language test in the Language Centre. Where appropriate, in-session language training can be provided. The Language Centre houses a range of resources for learning other languages which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange. See <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/support/facilities/langcen.phtml>

### **15 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

#### *Module reviews*

All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the School Teaching and Learning Committee and at the Board of Studies. Student opinion is sought at the Staff-Student Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *Programme reviews*

The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee.

#### *External Examiner reports*

External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Staff-Student Committee.

#### *Student evaluations*

All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Staff-Student Committee, and the Board of Studies. The National Student Survey is sent out every year to final-year undergraduate students, and consists of a set of questions seeking the students' views on the quality of the

learning and teaching in their HEIs. Further information is at [www.thestudentsurvey.com/](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com/) With reference to the outcomes of the NSS and institutional student satisfaction surveys actions are taken at all appropriate levels by the institution.

*Mechanisms for gaining student feedback*

Feedback is channelled via the Staff-Student Committee and the Board of Studies.

*Faculty and University Review Mechanisms*

The programme is subject to the University's Internal Subject Review process, see [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal\\_subject\\_review/index.php](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/aqss/qsh/internal_subject_review/index.php)

## **16 Regulation of assessment**

*Pass mark*

The pass mark is 40 (Undergraduate programmes)

*Course requirements*

Progression is subject to the University's Undergraduate Progress Regulations (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugcont.pdf>) and Undergraduate Examination Conventions (<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/ugexamconv.pdf>). In summary, students must pass, or be deemed to have passed, 120 credits at each Stage. Limited compensation up to 40 credits and down to a mark of 35 is possible at each Stage and there are resit opportunities, with certain restrictions.

*Weighting of stages*

The marks from Stages 2 and 3 will contribute to the final classification of the degree

The weighting of marks contributing to the degree for Stages 2 and 3 is 1:3

*Common Marking Scheme*

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Undergraduate Examination Conventions, namely

	<b>Honours</b>	<b>Non-honours</b>
<40	Fail	Failing
40-49	Third Class	Basic
50-59	Second Class, Second Division	Good
60-69	Second Class, First Division	Very Good
70+	First Class	Excellent

*Role of the External Examiner*

An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee, after recommendation from the Board of Studies.

The External Examiner is expected to:

- See and approve examination papers
- Moderate examination and coursework marking
- Attend the Board of Examiners
- Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/>)

The School Brochure (contact [enquiries@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@ncl.ac.uk))

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/university.regs/>)

## The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

## Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Module	Type	Intended Learning Outcomes			
		A	B	C	D
ECO1001	Comp/Core	1,2,3,4	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3,4
ECO1004	Comp	1,3,4	1,4	1,3	1,2,4
ECO1007	Comp/Core	1,2	1,2,3,4	2,3,4	1,2,3,4
ECO1010	Comp/Core	1,2	1,2,3,4	1,2	1,2
ECO1014	Comp	2,3	1,2	1,2	1,2,4
ECO1015	Comp	1,3,4	1,4	1,3	1,2,3,4
ECO1016	Comp	2,3	1,4	1,2	1,2
ECO2001	Comp/Core	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2	1,2
ECO2002	Comp/Core	1,2,3	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4
ECO2009	Comp/Core	1,2	2,3,4	2,3,4	1,2,3,4
ECO2096	Comp	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3,4	1,2,3
ECO2097	Comp	3,4	3,4	1,3,4	1,2,3,4
ECO2006	Optional	3,4	1,4	1,2	1,2
ECO2008	Optional	3,4	1,2,4	1,2	1,2
ECO2010	Optional	1,2	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO2011	Optional	3,4	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3028	Comp	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	1,2
ECO3008	Optional	1,2	2,3,4	1,2,4	1,2,4
ECO3012	Optional	1,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3013	Optional	1,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3016	Optional	1,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3018	Optional	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,4
ECO3021	Optional	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3022	Optional	1,3	1,3,4	1,2	1,2
ECO3023	Optional	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3025	Optional	1,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2
ECO3026	Optional	1,3,4	1,2,3,4	1,2,3	1,2
ECO3027	Optional	1,3,4	1,3,4	1,3,4	1,2,4
ECO3029	Optional	1,2,3,4	1,3,4	1,3	1,2,4
ECO3030	Optional	1,2,3,4	1,3,4	1,3,4	1,2,4