Economics allows us to find patterns within every aspect of our world – whether it's populations of animals, hospitalisation rates, supply chains, transport, air quality – you name it. By identifying these patterns, students can innovate ways to disrupt the status quo and maximise, or shift, outcomes and efficiencies on whatever topic they’re passionate about... and working on your passion is never boring!

MYTH:
Economics is boring

Because of its versatility, economics makes a great pairing with all sorts of programs to complement your studies and develop you into a social scientist and thereby more well-rounded.

UQ students can double their skills and knowledge by combining their economics program with a dual degree in business management, commerce, law, engineering, arts, science and more.

MYTH:
Economists only care about profit

FALSE. A huge number of today’s economists care about principles of equality, dignity and respect. Of course, in the finance sector an economist’s work can sometimes mean maximising profit, but in many circumstances, it’s about finding solutions for poorly designed programs, policies and issues of access.

MYTH:
You need to be good at maths to study economics

Think scholarships aren’t for you? Think again. UQ offers a range of scholarships for all kinds of reasons. Before you apply to study at UQ, be sure to see what undergraduate economics scholarships are on offer: scholarships.uq.edu.au

Explore more potential pathways and discover our alumni thriving in industry today.

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Effie Zahos
Bachelor of Economics graduate

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Tiana Stuart
Orange and Gumbaynggirr woman
Scholarship Recipient and Bachelor of Economics graduate

"The lack of Indigenous perspective in economics is deeply problematic and a barrier we must overcome if we wish to create real and lasting change.”

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Did you know? Our Great Barrier Reef supports as many as 64,000 jobs, contributing $6.4 billion to the Australian economy.*

Environment and wellbeing

From energy use in households to new installations such as turbine power plants - both the private and public sectors hire environmental economists to quantify costs, determine business logistics, inform policies, and improve sustainable viability for the future.

Did you know? Our Great Barrier Reef supports as many as 64,000 jobs, contributing $6.4 billion to the Australian economy.*

Economics, what is it good for?

Literally anything.

The study of economics is about trying to understand the relationship between different things, including human behaviours, so that we can understand the world around us and make informed decisions (or reverse bad ones)!

Equity and social enterprise

Economics can provide an insight into real-world scenarios and trigger a fundamental shift in thinking – allowing people to discover solutions that reduce imbalances and support minority communities.

“Economics is more than just graphs and mathematical equations – it’s a social science. It involves studying what motivates people, the decisions people make in certain circumstances, and the costs of those decisions.”

Michaela Gyasi-Agyei
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Economics graduate

Health

Whether it’s increasing life expectancy, working to reduce the impact of diseases, or simply identifying the health needs of future populations – a career in health economics can see improvements to our healthcare system to the benefit of all Australians.

Did you know? Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of death in Australia, costing the economy about $10 billion annually.**

Finance

The finance sector is a more traditional path for economics graduates, and can set you up for a very rewarding career.

Effie Zahos (Bachelor of Economics graduate) was editor of Money magazine, having helped establish it in 1999 before becoming editor-at-large of Canstar. She is the money expert on Channel 9’s Today Show and sits on two boards, Ecstra and Investment. Effie has also published her own books that provide financial tips to Australians.

Politics and public policy

Many economics graduates aspire to become the next economist in parliament, using their knowledge for anything from improving foreign relations to helping younger generations afford their first home.

“The field of economics is one that directly speaks to those who make decisions for the population. If we can provide a voice strong enough to those who will listen, then we can be a voice for change.”

Jackson Daylight
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Economics graduate

Everything else!

Economics is helpful in just about any industry. Whether you’re interested in energy, engineering, aid, law or tourism – the sky is the limit with economics.