

# But seriously, what is economics!



**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 busting

"No. Absolutely not. I'm not very good at math and I don't like math, but here I am, at the end of my program and I've managed to go through the second-half of my economics subjects barely touching it - very strategically."

**Lachlan**  
Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Honours) graduate



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

**MYTH:** Economics is boring



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!

## Why UQ



### Top education

The UQ School of Economics is consistently ranked as one of the best in the country for our economics and econometrics programs.\*\*



### Work-integrated learning

UQ Economics students have the opportunity to apply theoretical and conceptual knowledge to the workplace via a professional opportunity for course credit.\*



### Dedicated support

With a dedicated team of career and employability specialists within the wider Faculty, economics students can access free employability support throughout their program including work experience, networking and events, and practical skills workshops.



## Dual programs

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.



"Higher education is a way to give back to family and community. Educated mob means a mob that can make change in the current society structure."

**Nicole Cloutier**  
Iningai, Gubbi Gubbi and Italian woman.  
Bachelor of Economics / Bachelor of Science student

## Developing Indigenous economists

Each year, the UQ School of Economics offers scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for every level of study (bachelor's, masters, PhD) which can be combined with other UQ opportunities to boost income support.

"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."

**Professor Daniel Zizzo**  
Head of School,  
School of Economics



Discover Indigenous scholarships now  
[economics.uq.edu.au/study/indigenous](https://economics.uq.edu.au/study/indigenous)

Think scholarships aren't for you?  
Think again.



## Consider a scholarship

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](https://scholarships.uq.edu.au)

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



"The thing about learning economics was not about the piece of paper I received at the end of my degree. It was about learning something you can use in every aspect of your life, whether you become an economist or not - I wish it was compulsory for everyone!"

**Effie Zahos**  
Bachelor of Economics graduate



## Contact us, get your questions answered

Our friendly student advisers are always happy to answer your questions. Simply email or call us from wherever you are.

**E:** [ask@uq.edu.au](mailto:ask@uq.edu.au)  
**P:** +61 7 3346 9872  
**Info:** [study.uq.edu.au/contact](https://study.uq.edu.au/contact)

Parents and guardians are also welcome to get in touch.

**Want to apply?**  
Head to the website for all the details  
[study.uq.edu.au/admissions](https://study.uq.edu.au/admissions)





"I've been doing lots of work advocating for the decarbonisation of the energy sector, and advocating for a reorientation of the economy towards increasing leisure time."

**Professor John Quiggin**

**Did you know?** If implemented correctly, ideas such as a 4-day work-week can be offset by an increase in output per hour!\*\*

## 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.

Behavioural economics might eventually be the answer for how to stop animal poaching.

Discover how: [bit.ly/econpoaching](https://bit.ly/econpoaching)



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

## 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.

UQ alum Michelle Tran completed a placement in Canberra, advising government officials towards a sustainable funding model for telehealth in Australia.



"I was able to chat with representatives from the Department of Health directly."

**Michelle Tran**  
Bachelor of Economics (Honours)  
and PhD in Economics graduate

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



**Professor Brenda Gannon**  
Director of Research, School of Economics  
Affiliate Professor, Centre for the Business and Economics of Health  
is the lead economist on projects in areas such as dementia, emergency care and paediatric care. She works to ensure that interventions and health care services are efficient and equitable.

## 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 these decisions."

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

**Dr Rigissa Megalokonomou** Senior Lecturer  
strives to eliminate gender bias in schools by identifying and measuring what shapes bias and discrimination in the first place – not only in education, but also in other environments as well.



After graduation, Mikhara started her own social enterprise that funds suicide prevention. She also founded Ethnic LGBT+ to help over 5000 culturally and linguistically diverse LGBTQIA+ individuals navigate national resources.

"I loved my economics degree at UQ, particularly the courses that pushed us to think about the social and political impacts of different economic models."

**Mikhara Ramsing**  
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Economics graduate



## 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)!

Economics can be applied to wherever your passions take you...

## 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 Investsmart. 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**  
Nughi man from Minjerribah.  
Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Economics student



**Did you know?** UQ offers a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Honours) program? Don't be fooled – it's not just for politicians, but future leaders in any field.

## 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.