

Choice of Economics Options for Students Considering Graduate Courses in Economics

If you are considering the possibility of applying to do a graduate course in Economics, you should think about which options will help to prepare you for higher level work, and thereby enhance your applications and improve your chances of being admitted.

First, you should choose at least two economics options if possible, to increase the range of your knowledge of the subject; you will be competing with other applicants who studied economics as a single subject at undergraduate level.

Secondly, there is more focus on the technical and mathematical aspects of the subject at graduate level. By choosing at least one of *Microeconomic Theory*, *Econometrics* and *Game Theory*, you can gain more experience of using your technical skills; this should help you to decide whether graduate work will suit you, and make it easier for you to adjust to work at a higher level, as well as demonstrating your ability to admissions officers.

A further consideration is that most applications will have to be submitted before the start of Hilary Term of your final year, and you will need at least two referees who can testify to your potential as an economics graduate student. It may be that there are college tutors who already know you well enough to assess your potential; but if not, your reports on your Michaelmas Term options – and in particular *Microeconomic Theory* or *Econometrics* – could be used by your referees to provide evidence of your ability. You may want to discuss with your college tutors whether this should affect your choice of options.

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