



2023-24

Economics at University of Galway

1st Year Economics Short Module Descriptions

About Economics

In recent years, economics has been central to public debate domestically and globally. As economies—including Ireland’s—have boomed and then crashed dramatically, citizens and policy makers have intensively discussed the causes and consequences of global economic crises. They have looked to economics and to economists (often critically) to provide explanations—and solutions. So there has rarely been a better time to study economics at university level, in order to appreciate the terms of an ongoing and lively set of debates, of huge importance for all of us.

In introductory economics courses, you first encounter the key analytical tools and the languages which economists use to understand markets and economies, and the role of governments in them. This alone can be an immensely useful basis for better appreciating developments in the economy, nationally and internationally. Introductory courses in economics are thus required features of many degree courses across disciplines. They are also foundations upon which more advanced work in specific areas of economics can later be built, opening up varied and challenging landscapes for enquiring minds.

Semester 1

EC135: Principles of Microeconomics

Semester 1 | Credits: 5

The objective of this module is to introduce the basic concepts and principles of microeconomic theory. This is followed by applications of the theory, using real world examples and case studies.

EC1108: Skills for Economics I

Semester 1 | Credits: 5

This module provides students with a practical grounding in skills appropriate to the study and practice of economics and public policy. Students will be introduced to skills and research methods used by economists, policy analysts and academic researchers. Students will acquire practical skills that will be useful for other economic modules.

Semester 2

EC136: Principles of Macroeconomics

Semester 2 | Credits: 5

The objective of this module is to introduce students to the principles of macroeconomics. Topics include Measuring National Income, economic growth, fiscal policy, money and interest rates, unemployment, inflation, and business cycles.

EC1109: Skills for Economics II

Semester 2 | Credits: 5

This module introduces students to the use of the core analytical 'tools of the trade' for economists, including graphical analysis, and foundational quantitative methods appropriate to introductory economics. Topics covered include the logic of analytical diagrams in economics, the use of functions, the calculation of descriptive statistics, growth rates, and index numbers, and the writing/presenting of economic analyses.

See also timetables, and undergraduate economics handbook at:

www.nuigalway.ie/business-public-policy-law/cairnes/subjectareas/economics