

You and your studies in economics

Welcome

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey set up by the Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism. The shape of the world economy has changed a lot over the last twenty years but the economics curriculum remains the same. Curriculum reform is being pushed at universities across the UK. With the help of this survey, we want to find out whether Cambridge economic degrees are still fit for purpose. Unlike the Faculty Teaching survey we are not interested in the quality of the teaching but rather whether your expectations are being met regarding content. Your answers will anonymously be used to establish whether there's a demand for reforms and what shape these should take. Ultimately, if the desire for reform is strong, your answers will help us build a programme for a new curriculum which we hope to work with the faculty to put into place.

Please note that the Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism is solely responsible for this survey and though the Faculty of Economics has agreed to distribute it, it has not endorsed it.

For more information about the Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism and what we're doing to change economics in Cambridge, check out our website: www.cambridgepluralism.org

Student status

1. Are you... *

- A current Tripos, Diploma or MPhil student at the Faculty of Economics
- An alumnus of the Diploma, MPhil and/or Tripos degrees at the Faculty of Economics'

Personal details

2. Which undergraduate economics courses have you undertaken, or are you currently undertaking at Cambridge? *

- Tripos Part I
- Tripos Part II A
- Tripos Part II B
- Not applicable

3. Which postgraduate economics course are you currently undertaking, or have you undertaken at Cambridge? *

- MPhil Economics
- MPhil Economics and Finance
- MPhil Economics with Research
- Postgraduate Economics Diploma
- Not applicable

4. Which College are you at? *

- Christ's
- Churchill
- Clare
- Clare Hall
- Corpus Christi
- Darwin
- Downing
- Emmanuel
- Fitzwilliam
- Girton
- Gonville & Caius
- Homerton
- Hughes Hall
- Jesus
- King's
- Lucy Cavendish
- Magdalene
- Murray Edwards
- Newnham
- Pembroke
- Peterhouse
- Queens'
- Robinson
- St Catharine's
- St Edmund's
- St John's
- Selwyn
- Sidney Sussex
- Trinity
- Trinity Hall
- Wolfson

5. This survey is anonymous and will remain confidential. However, in order to verify that you are a genuine student, please provide your University email address (xxx@cam.ac.uk). *

Personal details

6. Which degrees did you undertake at Cambridge? *

- Economics Tripos
- Postgraduate Diploma in Economics
- MPhil Economics
- MPhil Economics and Finance
- MPhil Economics with Research

Your undergraduate degree

7. Which of these factors contributed to your decision to undertake the Economics Tripos? *

- Desire to improve career prospects in the private sector
- Desire to improve career prospects in the public sector
- Desire to continue onto graduate studies in Economics
- Desire to continue onto graduate studies in another subject
- Desire to better understand current affairs
- Desire to improve your quantitative skills
- Desire to learn about new debates in the field of economics
- Desire to use economics to make the world a better place
- Other (please specify)

8. Has your degree increased or decreased your desire to pursue further studies in Economics? *

- Significantly increased
- Slightly increased
- Slightly decreased
- Significantly decreased
- No change in attitude
- Never intended to pursue further studies in Economics

Your diploma

9. Which of these factors contributed to your decision to undertake the Diploma in Economics? *

- Desire to improve career prospects in the private sector
- Desire to improve career prospects in the public sector
- Desire to continue onto a Masters degree in Economics
- Desire to continue onto a Masters degree in another subject
- Desire to continue onto a PhD in Economics
- Desire to continue onto a PhD in another subject
- Desire to better understand current affairs
- Desire to improve your quantitative skills
- Desire to learn about new debates in the field of economics
- Desire to use economics to make the world a better place
- Other (please specify)

10. Has your degree increased or decreased your desire to pursue further studies in Economics?
If so, why? *

- Significantly increased
- Slightly increased
- Slightly decreased
- Significantly decreased
- No change in attitude
- Never intended to pursue further studies in Economics

Comments

Your Masters degree

11. Which of these factors contributed to your decision to undertake graduate studies in Economics at Cambridge?

- Desire to improve career prospects in the private sector
- Desire to improve career prospects in the public sector
- Desire to continue onto a PhD in Economics
- Desire to continue onto a PhD in another subject
- Desire to better understand current affairs
- Desire to improve your quantitative skills
- Desire to learn about new debates in the field of economics
- Desire to use economics to make the world a better place
- Other (please specify)

12. Has your Masters degree increased or decreased your desire to do a PhD in an Economics department? If so, why? *

- Significantly increased
- Slightly increased
- Slightly decreased
- Significantly decreased
- No change in attitude
- Never intended to do a PhD in an Economics Department

Comments

Your Cambridge degree

13. Which of the following reasons contributed to your decision to do a degree in Economics: *

- Desire to improve career prospects in the private sector
- Desire to improve career prospects in the public sector
- Desire to pursue further studies in Economics
- Desire to pursue further studies in another subject
- Desire to better understand current affairs
- Desire to improve your quantitative skills
- Desire to learn about new debates in the field of economics
- Other

14. Did your degree increase or decrease your desire to pursue further studies in Economics? *

- Significantly increased
- Slightly increased
- Slightly decreased
- Significantly decreased
- No change in attitude
- Never intended to pursue further studies in Economics

15. After graduating from Cambridge with your degree in Economics did you undertake further studies? *

- Yes, I undertook further studies in Economics at another university
- Yes, I undertook further studies in Economics at Cambridge
- Yes, I undertook further studies in another subject (Please specify which subject and at what university below)
- No, I did not undertake further studies

Comments

Further studies

16. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I undertook further studies because I felt my Cambridge economics degree had inadequately prepared me for my desired career." *

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Your Part 2B dissertation

17. Did you feel constrained in your choice of dissertation topic or restricted in your ability to research a topic you were truly interested in? If so, why? *

- Significantly constrained
- Slightly constrained
- Not constrained whatsoever

Comments

18. Did you feel constrained to choose a dissertation methodology that is based around highly quantitative or econometric analysis? Please provide us with more information in the comments box below. *

- Significantly constrained
- Slightly constrained
- Not constrained whatsoever

Comments

Your career prospects

For the next few questions, we'd like you to think about how your Economics degree has impacted your career prospects.

Your Cambridge Economics degree and your career

19. Which of these best describe your current occupation? *

- Management/strategy consulting
- Economics consulting
- Investment banking
- Asset management
- Other Finance
- Research/Academia in Economics
- Research/Academia in other disciplines (please specify below)
- World/Bank/IMF/other related (please specify below)
- Entrepreneurship
- Not for profit/Charity
- Art and Media
- Marketing, Communication and PR
- Other (please specify below)

Comments

20. In terms of equipping you with skills for this career, do you think that your degree was effective? *

- Significantly more than I expected
- Slightly more than I expected
- As much as I expected
- Slightly less than I expected
- Significantly less than I expected

Comments

21. How much have your skills/knowledge in the following areas improved/declined as a result of your studies in Economics at Cambridge? *

| | Significantly improved | Slightly improved | No change | Slightly declined | Significantly declined |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ability to handle and analyse data * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Raw maths skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Verbal communication skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Written communication skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to form structured arguments * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Knowledge of how businesses and banks function * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Knowledge of how economics is used to make decisions in government * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to understand current affairs related to economics * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to think critically and independently * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Your career prospects

22. Which of these professions best describes what you wish to pursue after University? *

Management/Strategy Consulting
Economics Consulting
Investment Banking
Asset Management
Other Finance
Research/Academia in Economics
Research/Academia in other disciplines
Politics/Public Policy
Central Banking
World Bank/IMF/Other related (please specify below)
Entrepreneurship
Not for profit/charity
Arts & Media
Marketing, Communications & PR
Other (please specify below)

23. In terms of equipping you with skills for this career, do you think that your degree so far has been effective? Please provide reasons in the comments box below. *

- Significantly more than I expected
- Slightly more than I expected
- As much as I expected
- Slightly less than I expected
- Significantly less than I expected

Comments

24. How much have your skills/knowledge in the following areas improved/declined as a result of your studies in Economics at Cambridge? *

| | Significantly improved | Slightly improved | No change | Slightly Declined | Significantly Declined |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Ability to handle and analyse data * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Raw maths skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Verbal communication skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Written communication skills * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to form structured arguments * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Knowledge of how businesses and banks function * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Knowledge of how economics is used to make decisions in government * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to understand current affairs related to economics * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Ability to think critically and independently * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Your course

25. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your course? *

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The course has provided me with the adequate skills to pursue research in economics * | <input type="radio"/> |
| Some of the concepts I am taught are outdated * | <input type="radio"/> |
| I would like the option of taking electives in another department * | <input type="radio"/> |

Your former course

26. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about your course? *

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The course provided me with the adequate skills to pursue research in economics (whether or not you did) * | <input type="radio"/> |
| Some of the concepts I was taught were outdated * | <input type="radio"/> |
| The option to take electives in another department would have been useful * | <input type="radio"/> |

27. Would you have liked to learn more about the following? *

| | Yes, I would have liked a dedicated paper on these topics | Yes, as part of already existing papers | No | I don't know what that is |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Understanding economic reality, e.g. that you hear about in the news, using the abstract economic models you're taught. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Alternative schools of economic thought, e.g. Austrian, Keynesian, Feminist, Ecological, and how they can jointly contribute to our understanding of the economy. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Theories of economic and financial crisis. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| History of economic thought, e.g. how the current neoclassical mainstream came to be established and a critical assessment of its adequacy. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Philosophy of economics, e.g. methodology and how assumptions about ethics enter into economic theory. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The relationship between economics and other social sciences, e.g. anthropology, sociology, politics, psychology, geography. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The political and social impacts of economics, e.g. the consequences that different theories and policies have for society such as inequality and power relations. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The mathematical methods and theorems underlying the maths and statistics used in economics. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Experimental approaches to economics, e.g. Randomised Controlled Trials and Behavioural economics. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Applied empirical methods that you could use in research, e.g. running and interpreting regressions in a software package like STATA, using actual data. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

28. If you could grade your satisfaction with your course out of 10 (10 being the best) what would you give it? *

29. Penultimate question: If you had a magic wand and could change your syllabus as you wished, what would you change? What would you take away? What would you add?

Electives in another department

30. You said you would have liked the opportunity to take electives in another faculty. Which discipline(s) would you have chosen? *

- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Sociology
- Geography and Human Sciences
- Psychology
- Anthropology
- Other

Information on your progress

At this point your progress bar is misleading: you're actually almost done!

Your current course

31. Would you like to learn more about the following? *

| | Yes, I would like a dedicated paper on these topics | Yes, as part of already existing papers | No | I don't know what that is |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Understanding economic reality, e.g. that you hear about in the news, using the abstract economic models you're taught. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Alternative schools of economic thought, e.g. Austrian, Keynesian, Feminist, Ecological, and how they can jointly contribute to our understanding of the economy. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Theories of economic and financial crisis. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| History of economic thought, e.g. how the current neoclassical mainstream came to be established and a critical assessment of its adequacy. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Philosophy of economics, e.g. methodology and how assumptions about ethics enter into economic theory. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The relationship between economics and other social sciences e.g. anthropology, sociology, politics, psychology, geography. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The political and social impacts of economics e.g. the consequences that different theories and policies have for society such as inequality and power relations. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| The mathematical methods and theorems underlying the maths and statistics used in economics. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Experimental approaches to economics, e.g. Randomised Controlled Trials and Behavioural economics. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Applied empirical methods that you could use in research, e.g. running and interpreting regressions in a software package like STATA, using actual data. * | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

32. If you could grade your satisfaction with your course so far out of 10 (10 being the best), what would you give it? *

1
2
3
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10

33. Penultimate question: If you had a magic wand and could change your syllabus as you wished, what would you change? What would you take away? What would you add?

Making the right choice

Yes

No *

35. Would you like to hear back from us with the results of the survey, and what we're doing to implement our findings? *

- Yes
- No

Making the right choice

36. Imagine we took you back in time to when you chose your Diploma. Given your experiences to date, would you still have chosen to study Economics? If not, what would you choose instead?

Please provide reasons in the comments section below. *

- Yes
- No

Comments

37. Would you like to hear back from us with the results of the survey, and what we're doing to implement our findings? *

- Yes
- No

Making the right choice

38. Imagine we took you back in time to when you chose your Masters degree. Given your experiences to date, would you still have chosen to study Economics? If not, what would you choose instead?

Please provide reasons in the comments section below. *

Yes

No

Comments

39. Would you like to hear back from us with the results of the survey, and what we're doing to implement our findings? *

Yes

No

Making the right choice

40. Imagine we took you back in time to when you chose your Cambridge degree. Given your experiences to date, would you still have chosen to study Economics? If not, what would you choose instead?

Please provide reasons in the comments section below. *

Yes

No

Comments

41. Would you like to hear back from us with the results of the survey, and what we're doing to implement our findings? *

Yes

No

42. If yes, please enter your email address below

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important in helping us to design improvements to the way economics is taught at Cambridge.

For more information about the Cambridge Society for Economic Pluralism and what we're doing to change economics in Cambridge, check out our website: www.cambridgepluralism.org

