

# Graduate Programs in Economics Presentation

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# Graduate programs in Economics at York University

- ▶ MA Program
  - ▶ One year
  - ▶ Full time
  - ▶ No supervision or thesis; only course work
- ▶ PhD program
  - ▶ No intake for Fall 2025, but hopefully for Fall 2026
  - ▶ Applications likely to open October 2025
  - ▶ Required for admission: a good MA degree!
- ▶ Rest of this presentation about the MA program

# MA degree requirements (what you need to graduate)

- ▶ A passing grade in prep. math course (ECON 5000); usually in August
- ▶ Completion of 8 graduate half-courses
- ▶ 3 core courses (5010 Micro, 5011 Macro, 5025 Econometrics)  
+ 5 elective courses

# Funding and fees

- ▶ All admitted **domestic** students can expect full funding
- ▶ At most **12** admitted **international** students can be funded
  - ▶ Competitive! See more below about what we look for when ranking applicants
- ▶ For **unfunded** international applicants we aim to admit **all who are eligible** (see below)
  - ▶ Fees: <https://students.yorku.ca/sfs/fees/courses/2024-2025/fall-winter/graduate-studies/masters>
  - ▶ Please signal willingness to come as unfunded in the personal statement and/or under “other information”
  - ▶ “I am willing to be admitted without funding,” or something like that, is enough
  - ▶ Easier to catch, allows us to issue offer letters faster, more time to apply for study permit, etc.

## Funding amounts

- ▶ Amount of funding for those who are funded depends on many factors, e.g., Grade Point Average (GPA)
- ▶ Some funding specifically covers tuition: York gives with one hand, takes with another
- ▶ Most of the funding comes from **employment as Teaching Assistants**: work tasks you perform for York University (grading, exam invigilation, office hours, etc.)
- ▶ For the **exact amounts** of funding, with breakdown on components, see the **acceptance letter**
- ▶ Link to web page about funding (scroll down to Standard Funding Package Details):  
<https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/students/current-students/graduate-funding/funding-at-york/york-graduate-fellowship/>
- ▶ Nothing stated in these slides should be taken as a promise of anything!

# MA admissions requirements

- ▶ Link: <https://www.yorku.ca/gradstudies/academiccalendar-2023-2024/economics>
- ▶ Click Admission Requirements and MA
- ▶ Note that applicants from India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan should already hold an MA degree, or 4-year BA, to be eligible:
  - ▶ <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/graduate/country/india>
  - ▶ <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/graduate/country/pakistan>
  - ▶ <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/graduate/country/bangladesh>
  - ▶ Can sometimes be overcome using “unique admit” tool (GPD writes a rationale)

# Application procedure

- ▶ Online portal: <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/graduate/apply-now>
- ▶ Cnd\$140 application fee (up from \$130)
  - ▶ No fee waivers this year as far as I know (decided by others than me)
- ▶ No need to indicate potential supervisors
- ▶ Remember to flag if you are willing to come as unfunded (in personal statement, other information, or such)
- ▶ No GRE test needed
- ▶ Otherwise follow instructions

# Admission rates

Some approximate numbers for Fall 2024 admissions:

|                        | MA          |               | PhD         |               |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
|                        | Domestic    | International | Domestic    | International |
| Applicant pool         | 45          | 128           | 8           | 55            |
| Offers made (*)        | 29          | 42            | 7           | 13            |
| "Target"               | 14          | 14            | 5           | 3             |
| "Admitted"             | 14          | 14            | 2           | 3             |
| Arriving               | 8           | 10            | 1           | 1             |
| <b>Offer/applicant</b> | <b>0.64</b> | <b>0.33</b>   | <b>0.88</b> | <b>0.24</b>   |

(\*) Including those who would have received offers but were not interested

Notes:

- ▶ More competitive for international applicants; cost more for the university
  - ▶ But higher international admission rates than previous years, in part due to the 2024 "visa targets" temporarily set to zero one week before deadline
  - ▶ Made applicant pool smaller in 2024
- ▶ Some who accept admissions do not to arrive; very annoying (more below)



# What are we looking for?

I refuse to join any club that  
would have me as a member.

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*Groucho Marx*

- ▶ We want the best we can get!
- ▶ Students who will succeed academically/professionally
- ▶ Also keen that those we admit also show up; can help to signal if something makes you likely to come if admitted (ties to Toronto, or such)
- ▶ Preference for international applicants from countries with fast/non-problematic visa processes

## What do we look at?

- ▶ Grade transcripts
- ▶ Courses taken: both mathematics/statistics and economics required; advanced level undergraduate courses (4th year) good
- ▶ Where undergraduate (or MA) degree was awarded
  - ▶ Preference for institutions we know well (mostly in OECD countries, but not only/always)
  - ▶ Explore rankings of institutions at, e.g., <https://ideas.repec.org/top/>
- ▶ Letters, letter writers
  - ▶ Those who are themselves successful researchers are the most preferred letter writers (but not always available)
  - ▶ Whoever you ask you can always look up name at link above (click authors)
- ▶ English skills
- ▶ Genuine interest in, and curiosity about, economic problems; thinking like an economist

## Approximate admissions timeline 2025

- ▶ Application deadline: January 15 (one month earlier than last year!!)
- ▶ Usually some flexibility for domestic applicants who missed deadline, but please don't
- ▶ Committee starts looking at applications: Late January, through February
- ▶ Offers sent out: March-April (?)
- ▶ Well aware that deadline for many U.S. schools around April 15
- ▶ Orientation for admitted students: late July or early August
- ▶ Online math prep. course: August
- ▶ Fall semester starts: September

## Other information

- ▶ Market for fresh PhD's:  
<https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/listings>
- ▶ My own career advice for York Econ PhD students (from 2017): [http://www.nippelagerlof.com/teaching/7000/PepTalk\\_Fall\\_2017.pdf](http://www.nippelagerlof.com/teaching/7000/PepTalk_Fall_2017.pdf)

# Graduate program office

- ▶ Graduate Program Director (me) — Academic matters – [lagerlof@yorku.ca](mailto:lagerlof@yorku.ca)
- ▶ Graduate Program Administrator (Sara Bang) — Administrative matters – [gradecon@yorku.ca](mailto:gradecon@yorku.ca)
- ▶ Do not email me without cc:ing Sara
- ▶ Do not email me after July 2025 (not GPD anymore)