Why Economics at Brandeis?

Economics enrolls more majors than any other program at Brandeis. We teach our students how to think about human behavior and economic choice, as well as ways of understanding what shapes the economic performance of nations, including their public, business and financial institutions.

Curriculum Overview

Economics majors take a minimum of ten courses—six core courses and four electives:

- Introduction to Economics (ECON 2a) introduces students to key concepts and principles in economics.
- The Global Economy (ECON 8b) helps students understand the forces that motivate trade, capital flows, and exchange-rate adjustments within the international economy.
- Microeconomic Theory (ECON 80a)
- Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 82b)
- Statistics for Economic Analysis (ECON 83a)
- Econometrics (ECON 184b or 185a)
- Of the four required electives, at least two must be “upper-level” courses.

Electives for the economics major are diverse and fall into two categories. Lower-level electives typically require only the first introductory course in economics. These electives include courses in labor, finance, development, education, the environment, and trade policy, as well as area specializations such as the economies of Asia and Latin America. Upper-level electives emphasize the application of more advanced concepts and methods to specific fields, including international finance, money and banking, game theory, industrial organization, corporate finance, trade, public finance, technology in the global economy, and comparative institutional economics.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The following three features together distinguish the study of economics at Brandeis from other schools:

International economy. The Brandeis economics faculty is unique. Most faculty members participate in research programs that span a wide range of international topics and geographic regions. These interests, reflected in the curriculum and classroom experience, engage our students in the study of economic problems and issues that span the globe. Faculty research at Brandeis affords our students insights into the world economy not only in the classroom, but also through independent research projects and senior theses in which many of our students participate.
The economics program is closely associated with the Brandeis International Business School. Students studying economics at Brandeis will find that the department’s relationship with the International Business School (IBS) broadens their opportunities in many ways. Undergraduates enroll in many courses offered by IBS. Eligible undergraduates also apply and participate in the combined BA/MA program in which they begin taking graduate courses in their fourth year and receive a master’s in international economics and finance (MA ief) after a fifth year of study. The fifth year generally includes a semester at one of the more than twenty business schools abroad with which IBS affiliates. IBS also administers the business minor, which is popular for majors in economics and in other fields.

Economics at Brandeis is integrated with areas of the curriculum across the University. Apart from the economics major, Brandeis affords its undergraduates an opportunity to study economics in a wide range of other programs. One option is the economics minor, which requires a combination of five courses drawn from the courses described above. Also, the International and Global Studies program offers a global economy specialization, which draws on the international orientation of our faculty and curriculum. Additionally, the economics department offers a wide range of courses that serve the interdisciplinary interests of students in majors and programs across the University, such as education, environmental studies, health policy, legal studies, East Asian studies, and Latin American studies.

Career and Education Opportunities

An economics major prepares graduates for a wide range of career and educational opportunities that build on a broad, yet rigorous, academic experience. Many of our students go directly on to do graduate study in business, law, or international relations, while others enter the workforce in such fields as financial services and consulting. Each year several of our graduates enroll in the nation’s most prestigious graduate programs to do advanced study in economics.

Faculty

Following is a list of department faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Rachel McCulloch**, chair
  International economic theory and policy
- **Chad P. Bown**
  International economics
- **Linda Bui**
  Environmental economics
- **Laarni Bulan**
  Corporate finance
- **Anne Carter**
  Technological change
- **Stephen Cecchetti**
  Advanced macroeconomic theory, monetary economics
- **H. Michael Coiner**
  Economics of higher education, macroeconomics
- **F. Trenery Dolbear**
  Macroeconomics and public sector
- **Can Erbil**
  Economic development
- **Benjamin Gomes-Casseres**
  International business
- **George J. Hall**
  Macroeconomics
- **Jens Hilscher**
  Asset pricing, corporate finance
- **Adam Jaffe, dean, arts and sciences**
  Technological change, economics of regulation
- **Gary H. Jefferson**
  Economics of innovation
- **Blake LeBaron**
  Macroeconomics, international finance
- **Hong Li**
  Time series econometrics
- **Catherine L. Mann**
  International financing, outsourcing
- **Nidhiya Menon**
  Empirical microeconomics
- **Carol Osler**
  International finance, financial markets
- **Peter Petri**
  International trade
- **Paroma Sanyal**
  Industrial organization, regulation, microeconomics
- **Rashmi Shankar**
  Macroeconomics
- **Patricia Tovar**
  International trade, political economy
- **Xin Wang**
  Pricing auctions in marketing