ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Economics enrolls more majors than any other program at Brandeis. We teach our students how to think about human behavior and economic choice, and educate them in the ways institutions shape the economic performance of nations. Economics majors take a minimum of 10 courses: six core courses and four electives. Required courses include introductory and intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics; statistics; and econometrics. Electives include courses in international finance, game theory and the economy of China. Brandeis also offers a five-year B.A./M.A. program.

What makes the program distinctive?

Faculty members participate in research programs that include a wide range of international topics and geographic regions. These interests, reflected in the curriculum and classroom experience, engage our students in studying economic problems and issues that span the globe. Faculty research at Brandeis affords our students insights into the world economy both in the classroom and through the research projects and senior theses in which many of our students participate.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 389
Number of faculty: 23
Can you minor in this program? Yes
Emphasis within the major: Faculty research topics include international trade and development, finance, the macroeconomy, industrial organization and regional economic issues.
Popular second majors: business, international and global studies, mathematics, psychology
Website: brandeis.edu/departments/economics
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Course offerings
Specific economics electives include courses in labor, development, education, the environment, race and gender, and trade policy, as well as area specializations such as the economies of China and the Middle East. Other topics include finance and corporate finance, money and banking, industrial organization, public finance, innovation and game theory.

Opportunities to take graduate courses
Through its close association with the Brandeis International Business School (IBS), the study of economics at Brandeis broadens student opportunities. Economics majors may enroll in a variety of IBS courses at both the master’s and Ph.D. levels and earn credit for the major.

Graduate study
Undergraduates may also participate in the combined B.A./M.A. program, for which they receive a master’s degree in international economics and finance (MAief) after a fifth year of study. The fifth year often includes a semester at one of more than 20 business schools abroad with which IBS is affiliated.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

World-renowned graduate programs
Brandeis International Business School has quickly developed a worldwide reputation for preparing its graduates to become principled leaders of global companies and public institutions. Since its founding, the school has grown to more than 500 students from more than 70 countries, attracted esteemed faculty, expanded its curriculum and launched an undergraduate business program.

Faculty associations
Our faculty members are linked with a range of research and policy institutions around the world. Adam Jaffe has served as a consultant to the finance ministry of Chile and a consultant to the World Bank, and he is an adviser on intellectual property issues to the U.S. government. George Hall is currently on sabbatical at New York University, working on a book with Tom Sargent, who shared the 2011 Nobel Prize in Economics. Catherine Mann continues as a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute in Washington, D.C., while Gary Jefferson is an honorary professor at Wuhan University.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Student-run clubs
Students can apply their economics skills by participating in organizations such as the Brandeis Economics and Finance Review, the Investment Club, the Fair Trade Brigade and Omicron Delta Epsilon, an academic honors society in economics.

Summer internships
We help our students secure summer internships. Economics major Darren S. ’11 served as an intern in Washington, D.C., at the Grameen Foundation, which was founded to extend the impact of microfinance on the world’s poorest people. Darren worked in international development and global poverty to raise funds for microfinance institutions across the world, helping to alleviate global poverty.

Study abroad
Economics majors and minors are encouraged to further their studies in an international arena. Two popular program sites include Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, where students study Chinese language, international business and economic development in one of Asia’s financial centers, and the London School of Economics, one of the world’s leading social science research institutions.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Prominent alumni
Brandeis’ economics graduates include Mitch Caplan ’79, adviser at Aquiline and the former president and chief executive officer of E-Trade; Michael Kaiser ’75, president of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; and Nikolai Vassiliev, M.A.’97, deputy prime minister of Bulgaria.

Career and graduate opportunities
Many of our graduates enter the fields of consulting, finance and public service. Alumni regularly find work at organizations such as Goodwin Proctor, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase and the Federal Reserve Board. A number of our graduates pursue advanced degrees. Some choose to study economics at the graduate level, and many others enroll in professional schools of business, law and public policy.

“Having no exposure to the study of economics prior to college, I decided to major in economics because of its practical application to understanding world events and because the field trains the mind to think analytically.”

Economics major Darren S. ’11

Photo by Ken Schles

Office of Communications ©2013
Brandeis University E008