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 BA/MA 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: 410

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 PhD levels and earn credit for the major.

Graduate study
Undergraduates may also participate in the combined BA/MA 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.

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
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 to raise funds for microfinance institutions across the world, helping to alleviate global poverty.

Study abroad
The Economics Department offers an intensive summer program in Copenhagen, Denmark. This program offers students the opportunity to study core economic theory and application in the classroom, listen to speakers on European policy issues and visit places of economic interest, such as businesses, markets and government institutions. Integration between the two courses and the field trips provides a holistic understanding of economic issues in Scandinavian Europe, as well as a solid grounding in core economic theory.

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. Betsy Brainerd is the president of the Association for Comparative Economic Studies and a research fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany. Kathryn Graddy is a research fellow of the Center for Policy Research, and Linda Bui serves on the Environmental Protection Agency’s Scientific Advisory Board for Economy Wide Modeling. Gary Jefferson is an honorary professor at Wuhan University.

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, MA’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.

“The Brandeis economics department was vital to developing my interest in the field. As a major, I was taught that building intricate models is not the purpose of economics. Instead, I learned how to approach complex questions in the context of intuitive frameworks.”

Economics major Sarah Shahanaghi ’14

Photo by Ken Schles
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