

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Health Economics
Award	MSc
School	School of Policy & Global Affairs
Department or equivalent	Department of Economics
Programme code	PSHEEC
Type of study	Full Time Part Time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The demand for specialists in health economics continues to increase as the demand for more advanced and expensive health care puts pressure on policy decision makers and health care industry managers. The MSc in Health Economics is designed to meet this demand by introducing you to the way in which microeconomics principles and concepts can be applied to the analysis of decisions by consumers, firms and governments regarding health and health care; to provide you with an understanding of the economic context within which economic evaluation takes place; to familiarise you with key economic issues confronting health systems; and, to provide you with tools and methods to analyse the economic causes and implications of health care issues.

The MSc in Health Economics will start by building foundations in the principles of health economics with core economic topics in microeconomics and regulatory economics, econometrics, and economic evaluation applied to the analysis of health care issues. It will then allow for elective study, through a choice of taught options as well as through reading and research for a supervised dissertation.

Postgraduate Certificate

The student obtaining a Postgraduate Certificate will have a basic knowledge of the main subjects in the area of health economics and economic evaluation in health care having successfully passed modules worth at least 60 credits of the program. The student should be able to have an understanding of the main challenges in this field.

Postgraduate Diploma

The student obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma will have understood the core subjects in the area of health economics and economic evaluation in health care having successfully passed modules worth at least 120 credits of the program. These credits include 45 credits from taking ECM163 Economic Evaluation, ECM154 Advanced Economic Evaluation in Health Care and ECM165 Health Economics common to both routes of the MSc in Health Economics. The student will have a basic knowledge of the quantitative and modeling skills required to work as a health economist.

MSc

The student obtaining a MSc will have understood the core subjects in the area of health economics and economic evaluation in health care having successfully passed modules worth at least 120 credits of the program plus will demonstrate the ability to either critically appraise

and summarize the existing literature in a topic in this field (for those in the Literature Survey route), or to develop and write an original piece of research in this subject (for those in the Dissertation path).

The 120 credits earned through taught modules common for both paths of the MSc include 45 credits from taking three 15 credit modules: Economic Evaluation (ECM163), Advanced Economic Evaluation in Health Care (ECM154) and Health Economics (ECM165) common to both routes of the MSc in Health Economics.

If the student is enrolled in the **Literature Survey path**, then he/she will obtain the MSc Degree by:

- taking 2 extra core modules (worth 30 credits each): Business Economics (ECM311) and Quantitative Methods (ECM304)
- taking 3 electives worth 45 credits, and
- writing a **literature review** (30 credits) that demonstrates his/her ability to acquire all relevant literature related to a specific research area, critically assess it, and relate it to the concepts learned during the course.

If the student is enrolled in the **Dissertation Path**, then he/she will obtain the MSc Degree by:

- taking 2 extra core modules (worth 30 credits each): Microeconomic Theory (ECM302) and Econometrics (ECM308)
- taking 1 elective worth 15 credits, and
- writing a **research project** (60 credits) that provides evidence of his/her ability to not only identify a knowledge gap in the area and summarize the related literature, but also contribute to the extant literature by doing some empirical or theoretical work requiring the application of the analytical and/or quantitative tools learned through the course.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of microeconomics applied to health and health care.
- Apply principles and methods of economic evaluation.
- Demonstrate understanding and application of advanced quantitative methods used in health economics and economic evaluation

Skills:

- Appraise critically quantitative health economics research.
- Work both independently and in teams
- Produce research in health economics, using appropriate methodology.
- Present and communicate effectively ideas and concepts to a specialised audience.
- Design, analyse and interpret economic evaluation research.
- Use ICT for communication and problem solving, in particular statistical tools.

- Critically assess the principal theoretical models developed by economists to explain in the health-care sector.
- Employ a range of theoretical models and quantitative methods to undertake health economics data analysis.
- Identify, collect and analyse appropriate data from a range of sources.
- Conduct research and produce high standard research.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate enthusiasm for learning
- Undertake team work: operate in groups for analysis and implementation of discussion topics and research questions
- Put into context the theoretical foundations provided into the real world economic context
- Understand and operate under City, University of London regulations and the Department of Economics.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Lectures/seminars in small groups, which are highly interactive and include group work, exercises, weekly study questions and set readings. Also guest lectures by invited expert speakers from NHS, industry and policy bodies, as well as academics. As well as academic source material, you are directed to refer to the web and professional publications. The workshop module is used for modelling and problem-solving.

You will be assigned a supervisor to assist them with undertaking a piece of independent research on an approved topic. The piece of independent research will be either a dissertation worth 40 credits or a literature review worth 20 credits.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed in a variety of ways to ensure that they have met the formal learning objectives:

(1) Individual coursework - in most modules, you will be required to undertake an individual written piece of coursework in the form of an essay, report, set exercises or a piece of analysis based upon a case study.

(2) Group coursework - in some modules, the coursework will require you to work in teams of between 3 to 5 persons.

(3) Presentations: in some modules, you will make formal presentations to the class, either individually or in groups. The presentation will be assessed by the module lecturer and formal feedback will be given to the student.

(4) Computer-based exercises: for some modules, you will need to use software packages to solve problems or perform econometric estimations.

(5) Tests and examinations: some modules will require you to take a test or an examination which could be instead of or in addition to other forms of coursework.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
 - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the What will I Study section of the programme specification), and
 - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
 - A minimum overall mark of no more than 10% below the module pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
 - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

Where you are eligible for compensation at the first attempt, this will be applied in the first instance rather than offering a resit opportunity.

If you receive a compensated pass in a module you will be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks will be retained in the record of marks and your original module mark shall be used for the purpose of your Award calculation.

2. Resit: where you are not eligible for compensation at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Dissertation	7	60	33.4	With Distinction	70
Taught	7	120	66.6	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60

				Without classification	50	
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WHAT WILL I STUDY?*

Taught component

As indicated in the table below, you are required to take three core modules (ECM163 Economic Evaluation, ECM154 Advanced Economic Evaluation in Health Care and ECM165 Health Economics).

In the Dissertation route, you take two additional core modules (ECM302 Microeconomic Theory and ECM308 Econometrics) and one elective module from the table below.

In the Literature Survey route, you take two additional core modules: EITHER ECM311 Business Economics OR ECM302 Microeconomic Theory and EITHER ECM304 Quantitative Methods (Health) OR ECM308 Econometrics and three elective modules from the table below.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Economic Evaluation	ECM163	15	C	N	7
Advanced Economic Evaluation in Health Care	ECM154	15	C	N	7
Health Economics	ECM165	15	C	N	7
Economic Evaluation Workshops	ECM150	15	E	Y	7
Welfare Economics	ECM155	15	E	Y	7
Epidemiology	ECM164	15	E	Y	7
Applied Econometrics	ECM309	15	E	Y	7
Development Economics	ECM157	15	E	Y	7
Economics of Regulation and Competition	ECM159	15	E	Y	7
The Economics of Micro-Finance	ECM153	15	E	Y	7
Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice	PEM102	15	E	Y	7
Experimental Behavioural Science and Game Theory	PEM105	15	E	Y	7
Dissertation route					
Microeconomic Theory	ECM302	30	C	N	7
Econometrics	ECM308	30	C	N	7
Literature Survey route					

EITHER Business Economics OR Microeconomic Theory	ECM311/ECM302	30	C	N	7
EITHER Quantitative Methods Health OR Econometrics	ECM304/ECM308	30	C	N	7

Literature survey/Dissertation component

In order to achieve a distinction overall for the MSc, a minimum mark of 70% overall has to be achieved.

To progress to dissertation you are normally required to have passed all modules.

Module Title	Route	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Economics Literature Survey	LR	ECM307	30	C	N	7
Economics Research Project	D	ECM306	60	C	N	7

**Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.*

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

Typical placements after this MSc are in economic consulting companies, pharmaceutical companies in the UK and abroad, and public sector institutions such as the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, Department of Health. Some students decide to pursue a PhD afterwards as well.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates> .

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

During the second term we invite companies to come to City and talk to our students about potential dissertation projects that can be done within Summer internships. We do not guarantee placements but we put firms and students in touch; the selection process is entirely up to the company. About three quarters of our students get placements to write the dissertation. Upon the end of the placement some students are offered a job with the company.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Dissertation Route:

You should have a:

*2:1 (or 2.2 with evidence of compensating strengths) from a UK university or its foreign equivalent in Economics or related subjects with intermediate level exposure to economic theory, econometrics, and mathematical methods;

OR a 2.1 (or foreign equivalent) undergraduate degree in a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science) with exposure to probability theory, optimisation and advanced calculus. If you have a good 2.2 in one of the above disciplines, you might be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Literature Survey Route:

You should have a:

*a 2:2 (or foreign equivalent) in Economics, Finance or a quantitative discipline (such as mathematics, engineering, computer science or a natural science).

OR a 2.1 or high 2.2 (or foreign equivalent) in Business Studies, Accounting, Management without exposure to core economic theory or econometrics but with at least introductory economics and statistics and mathematical methods;

OR a very good 2.1 degree in arts, social science, or humanities related subjects, such as Law, History, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science or Journalism with clear motivation to study for the degree to which application is made.

Prior to the beginning of the academic year there will be a number of optional pre-session courses offered. These courses are intended to be a refresher on key subjects to level up the economic knowledge of students. Pre-session courses on Macro, Micro, Excel, Probability and Maths will be taught.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a postgraduate course of study:

- * A first degree from a UK university or from the CNAAB.
- * A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia or the USA.
- * GCE O-level/GCSE English language or English literature, grade C minimum.
- * Cambridge ESOL CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English) at grade C or above.
- * An overall score of 6.5 in the English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum of 6.0 for each subtest.
- * Satisfactory standard in the verbal section of the Princeton Test (GMAT).
- * US SAT with 500 in verbal performance.
- * Warwick English Language Test (WELT) with pass grades of BBC minimum.
- * Other evidence of proficiency in the English language which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS

Equivalent qualifications from an overseas university will be considered.

IT SKILLS

All students are expected to be computer literate.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Programme is committed to equal opportunities. The admissions decision will rest on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

RPL/RPEL: Students may apply for RPL/RPEL for a minimum of one module and a maximum of 25% of the overall credits for the programme (taught modules only). Exemptions are not awarded for programmes/qualifications that were awarded five years ago or longer, prior to the enrolment date for the intended programme of study at City. Programmes/qualifications which were awarded over five years ago may be considered towards RPL/RPEL requests if the candidate can provide supporting evidence which gives an account of ways in which learning achieved through the programme/qualification has been applied actively and updated within the past five years.

Former students of City who have been withdrawn from a programme due to academic failure are not normally permitted to RPL/RPEL any awarded credits back onto the same programme within the School.

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