



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**

Level 3 and 4 Honours Handbook 2011-2013

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

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I - Introduction

The Department of Economics

The Department has a long-established reputation for excellence in teaching and research. In the most recent Quality Assured Audit (QAA,) the department received the highest ranking possible, i.e., the reviewers expressed 'confidence' in the academic standards achieved in economics at Aberdeen, and rated all three areas of assessment (teaching and learning; student progression, and learning resources) as 'commendable'. This level of excellence was repeated in the 2005 Internal Teaching Review of the wider Business School. Again, subject reviewers expressed 'confidence' in the provision of economics at Aberdeen.

The quality of provision is reflected in the destinations of our graduates. Recent graduates have enrolled in prestigious Masters Programmes in Economics at University College London, the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, the LSE and the University of Warwick. Informal contacts between staff and our graduates also reveal that recent graduates have entered employment with a range of public and private sector institutions and companies including the European Central Bank, the Central Bank of Luxembourg, KPMG, Deloitte and Touche and Deutsche Bank.

The Department is at the forefront of teaching innovation and has pioneered the use of information technology in teaching throughout the undergraduate programme. The Department has an established international reputation in research in labour economics, the economics of energy and natural resources and experimental economics. In the Research Assessment Exercise results of 2008, a UK wide process which evaluates the quality of research, 100% of Economics research was judged to be of international quality.

The Purpose of the Guidebook

This Guidebook is designed to provide, in convenient form, an outline of the courses in Economics that are available for those students in the third and fourth year of study. It also includes the regulations and conventions that apply to specific courses and to the honours degree programmes. **Every student who enrolls for one of these courses, or for single or joint honours in Economics, is provided with a copy of the Guidebook. Every student is expected to read and make herself/himself familiar with the information and the regulations contained in it.**

Copies of this handbook plus all School policy documents are available on MyAberdeen.

II - Degrees offered by the Department of Economics

Programme Aims and Objectives

The Department offers a degree in Economics that corresponds to the QAA subject benchmark for Economics. The Department's principal aims include the provision of:

- High-quality programmes leading to honours degrees in economics comparable to the best programmes found elsewhere;
- A strong, coherent theoretical and empirical core that provides a strong grounding in the essentials of the discipline;
- An understanding of the analytical methods, including model-based theory, and the application of economic principles to applied topics and policy issues;
- A substantial range of choice to enable students to focus on the application of these theoretical and empirical methods, in different areas of the discipline that are of greatest personal interest and suit individual learning preferences;
- A range of courses offering an advanced level of training that will enable successful students to be well prepared for postgraduate study;
- Independent student-centred research and study through a dissertation.

The Programme of Courses

The Department offers a range of courses that reflect the diversity of specialist areas within Economics. The programme includes some courses that are primarily theoretical, some which develop quantitative skills, and some which focus on policy issues and other contemporary economic problems. The programme constantly evolves as existing courses are refurbished or discontinued, and new courses introduced. Please see page 7 for a complete list of the courses that are currently included in the programme. Each of the courses is worth 30 credit points. Most level 3 courses are offered in alternate academic years, except for EC3001 (Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Economics), EC3505 (Econometrics) and AC3047 (Corporate Finance), which are available every year.

Honours students graduating curricula will be required to have at least 75% of credit points in the fourth year of study in level 4 courses. Level four courses are only available to students in programme year four.

Honours Entry

To gain entry into the Honours programmes in Economics you must have passed EC1005, EC1505, EC2003, EC2502 and have obtained at least 240 credits points. The University requires all students to have 240 credits before they are admitted to any Honours programme. **This is a University wide rule and cannot be**

waived. For further advice on Honours entry see the Junior Honours adviser, currently Dr H. Battu. School policy on Honours entry is given here:

Honours Entry Policy

Single Honours in Economics

The Department offers one single honours degree in Economics. The programme reflects the established Scottish tradition of study of economic issues within a wide social, political and historical context. It also provides a technically advanced programme suitable for those wishing to proceed to one of the more mathematically oriented programmes of postgraduate study.

Each honours student must enrol for at least 240 credit points in levels 3 and 4 courses, of which at least 90 points must be at level 4. Four courses (at 30 credit points each) must be taken in the Junior Honours year (level 3) and four in the Senior Honours year (level 4). At least 75% (90 credit points) of a senior honours student's credit points must be in level 4 courses, i.e. senior single honours students in economics must enrol for a minimum of two courses from Microeconomics (EC4003), Experimental Economics (EC4023), History of Economic Thought (EC4502), Macroeconomics (EC4503), plus a compulsory dissertation (EC4001/EC4501). No student can register for two dissertations.

EC3001 Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Economics, which is normally taken in the Junior Honours year, is a prerequisite for several courses including Microeconomics (EC4003), Macroeconomics (EC4503) and Econometrics (EC3502). We strongly encourage students to take EC3001 in their third year.

One 30 credit point course, or its equivalent, may be selected from the programme of any other department, subject to the fulfilment of the appropriate prerequisites, as one of the eight courses for the single honours degree programme.

Joint Honours in Economics

A joint honours student must normally take four courses in Economics, comprising 120 credit points, plus courses providing the equivalent number of credit points in the other subject. Normally one 30-credit point course in Economics should be taken in each of the four semesters. Some modification to this requirement, to allow for student choice, may be possible subject to the agreement of the two programme coordinators. Joint honours students are required to write a dissertation. This may be offered in either of the two constituent disciplines, but not both. It is possible, with permission from the relevant programme co-ordinators, for a student to register for 90 credit points in one discipline and 150 credit points in the other.

Students who enrol for additional courses do so at their own risk. University Regulations permit a student to enrol for a maximum of 90 credit points in any one half-session. However, this is strongly discouraged for honours students. Honours students in Economics are not permitted to enrol in additional honours courses in Economics

Joint Honours Degree Programmes

At present, Economics may be taken as part of a joint degree in combination with the following subjects: Accountancy, Anthropology, Art-History, Celtic, English, Entrepreneurship, Finance, French, Geography, German, Hispanic Studies, History, International Relations, Management Studies, Mathematics, Philosophy, Politics, Property, Psychology, Social Research, and Sociology.

Designated Degree in Economics

This degree is available to any student who meets the University requirements for an MA degree and who has passed all the compulsory level 1 and 2 courses required for an Economics degree. To graduate you must have 360 credits, including at least 90 credits of Economics courses at level 3.

III – Course Timetable and Course Outlines

*Summary Timetable**

20011/12	2012/13
1st Half Session	1st Half Session
EC3001 – Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Economics	EC3001 – Mathematical and Statistical Methods in Economics
EC3006 – Development Economics	EC3018 – Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment
	EC3022 – International Economics
AC3047 – Corporate Finance	AC3047 – Corporate Finance
EC4003 – Microeconomics	EC4003 – Microeconomics
EC4023 – Experimental Economics	EC4023 – Experimental Economics
EC4001 – Dissertation	EC4001 – Dissertation
2nd Half Session	2nd Half Session
EC3502 – Econometrics	EC3502 – Econometrics
EC3505 – Industrial Economics	EC3511 – Regional and Urban Economics
EC3507 – Labour Market Economics	EC3518 – Health Economics
PO3502 – Housing Economics	
EC4502 – History of Economic Thought	EC4502 – History of Economic Thought
EC4503 – Macroeconomics	EC4503 – Macroeconomics
EC4501 – Dissertation	EC4501 – Dissertation

***This is a provisional timetable. Additional courses may be added or existing courses withdrawn subject to available resources.**

Course Outlines

Level 3 Courses

EC3001 (MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL METHODS IN ECONOMICS)

Lecturer(s):	Dr J. Bracht and Dr J. D. F. Skåtun
Course Co-ordinator:	Dr J. D. F. Skåtun
Credit Points:	30
Prerequisites:	EC2002 and EC2502

This course provides an introduction to the basic mathematical and statistical techniques needed by economists. The mathematical component includes differential and integral calculus, maximisation subject to constraints and matrix algebra. The second part of the course comprises an introduction to Econometrics, the principal means of statistical analysis in applied economics. This part of the course also includes the use of computer programmes for econometric estimation.

2 two-hour seminars per week plus computing workshops.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (60%) and continuous assessment (40%).

Recommended Texts:

Halcoussis, H., (2004), *Understanding Econometrics*, South Western College Publishing.

EC3006 (DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS)

Lecturers:	Dr H. Battu and Mr D. Newlands
Course Co-ordinator:	Dr H. Battu
Credit Points:	30
Prerequisite:	EC2002

This course focuses on the countries of the developing world and tries to ascertain how low-income economies can be set on a track of sustained economic development in order to reduce poverty and achieve levels of wealth akin to developed economies. The determinants of growth and technological change in less developed countries are considered at length. The interrelated topics of population growth, human capital, rural to urban migration, and unemployment are discussed. The policies and development strategies that the governments of less developed countries might pursue are considered, and the role of trade and foreign capital to development examined. There are case studies of India, China and the East Asian 'tigers', especially Taiwan and South Korea.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text:

Todaro, M and Smith, S., (2011), Development Economics, Addison Wesley.

EC3018 (ECONOMICS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT)

Lecturers: Prof. J. Swierzbinski

Course Co-ordinator: TBA

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisite: EC2002

This course uses economic theory to examine the exploitation and management of natural and environmental resources. The topics examined include; the economics of sustainability, the optimal use of non-renewable resources (such as oil and gas) and renewable resources (such as fisheries), and the regulation of the uses of environmental resources.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Texts:

Tietenberg, Tom and Lynne Lewis (2008), Environmental Natural Resource Economics, 8th edition, Pearson Education

Tietenberg, Tom (2006), Environmental Natural Resource Economics, 7th edition, Pearson Education.

Kolstad, Charles D., (2000), Environmental Economics, Oxford University Press.

EC3022 (INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS)

Lecturers Dr W. D. McCausland and Dr. J. Bracht

Course Co-ordinator: Dr W. D. McCausland

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisite: EC2502

This course concentrates on a range of economic models within the sphere of international economics. These models cover a number of themes including the gains from trade, the pattern of trade, protectionism, the balance of payments, exchange rate determination, currency substitution, international policy coordination and the international capital markets.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour seminar per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text:

Van Marrewijk, C. (2007), *International Economics*, Oxford University Press.

EC3502 (ECONOMETRICS)

Lecturers: Dr A. Zangelidis and Dr Ramses Abul Naga
Course Co-ordinator: Dr A. Zangelidis
Credit Points: 30
Prerequisite: EC3001

Econometrics is concerned with testing the compatibility of economic theories with events in the real world. Its development has influenced recent changes that have taken place in Economics to such an extent that some knowledge of Econometrics is essential if much of the modern literature is to be understood. Economic theories are seen as hypotheses about the nature of the world, and are expressed as an equation or a system of equations. These equations are then estimated using one or more of the methods of Econometrics. The acceptability or otherwise of the theory can then be decided upon, or the theory itself may be modified and retested. Econometrics is essentially the application of scientific empirical methods to Economics.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (60%) and continuous assessment (40%).

Recommended Text:

Wooldridge, J., (2008), *Introductory Econometrics*, 4th edition, South-Western College Publishing.

EC3505 (INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS)

Lecturers: Dr Andrea Pataconi and Prof. J. Swierzbinski
Course Co-ordinator: Prof. J. Swierzbinski
Credit Points: 30
Prerequisite: EC2002

Industrial economics has developed rapidly, both theoretically and empirically over the last twenty-five years. The course analyses how firm behaviour with respect to pricing, advertising, growth and innovation is influenced by market environment, utilising a number of competing approaches including the structure-conduct-performance paradigms, contestable markets, game theoretic and organisational approaches.

3 one-hour lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%)

Recommended Text:

Carlton, D. and Perloff, J., (2005), *Modern Industrial Organization*, 4th edition, Addison Wesley.

EC3507 (LABOUR MARKET ECONOMICS)

Lecturers: Dr H. Dickey and Dr A. Zangelidis
Course Co-ordinator: Dr H. Dickey
Credit Points: 30
Prerequisite: EC2002

This course aims to develop an understanding of the level and structure of wages and employment in advanced industrial nations. Distinguishing the nature and determinants of the supply of and the demand for labour, the course analyses the behaviour of labour markets. Current policy issues are explored. Attention is given to the analysis of wage structure, wage inequality, labour market flexibility and unemployment.

3 hours of lectures and one seminar per week.

1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text:

Borjas, G., (2009), *Labor Economics*, 5th edition, McGraw-Hill.

EC3511 (REGIONAL AND URBAN ECONOMICS)

Lecturers: Dr H. Battu and Dr. H. Dickey
Course Co-ordinator: Dr H. Battu
Credit Points: 30
Prerequisite: EC2002

The various regions and cities of Britain have had different economic experiences. This course seeks to explain why this is so and examines the policies that have been formulated to deal with regional and urban problems. Theories that explain differences in the rates of economic growth and levels of unemployment are examined, together with inter-regional migration and the North-South divide. Other current issues that are examined include the role of regional development agencies, devolution to the regions, and the regional policy of the European Union. The course also focuses on the processes of urban change, the redistribution of population away from cities to large towns and rural areas, and the nature and causes of inner city decline. The most recent

policy instruments are examined, including enterprise zones, urban development corporations and initiatives to deal with the problems of peripheral housing estates.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text: To be announced

EC3518 (HEALTH ECONOMICS)

Lecturers: Mr D. Newlands and to be announced

Course Co-ordinator: Mr D. Newlands

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisites: EC2002

This course will discuss some of the principal themes in health economics. The relationship between health and health care will be considered, and the distinctive characteristics of health care as an economic good will be explained. The course will examine the demand for health care, the supply of health care and the economics of the hospital. The role and application of economic evaluation in health care will be discussed. The course mainly relates to the UK but there will be international comparisons.

1 one-hour lecture, 1 two-hour lecture, 1 one-hour seminar per week

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text: To be announced

AC3047 (CORPORATE FINANCE)

Lecturers: Dr Olga Klinkowska and Dr J. Williams

Course Co-ordinator: Dr J. Williams

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisite: AC2022 or EC2002

This course investigates how the value of a company can be affected by corporate actions. These possible actions include: investment decisions, financing decisions, changes in the scope of the corporation's business, dividend policy, debt policy, mergers, and changes in management rules. Standard problem solving techniques are used so that students will develop a good working knowledge of the theory and valuation methods that are used worldwide in major corporations and financial institutions.

2 lectures plus 1 one-hour workshop per week

Assessment: 1 two-hour examination (70%) and continuous assessment (two pieces) (30%).

Recommended Text:

Brealey, R., Myers, S. and F. Allen., (2005), *Corporate Finance*, 8th edition, McGraw Hill.

PO3502 (Housing Economics)

Lecturers: Dr Q. Xiao and Dr Deb Roberts

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Q. Xiao

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisite: **PO2501** or EC2002

The microeconomics of housing markets. Housing market segmentation, disequilibrium in housing, defining neighbourhoods. Analysis of house price models. Housing and the macroeconomy, the behaviour of the finance industry and its impact on housing markets. The interaction between housing and labour markets. Housing taxation and right to buy. Institutional and policy influences in housing markets. The impact of the planning system and housing supply.

3 one-hour lectures and 1 one-hour seminar per week.

Assessment: 1 two-hour written examination (60%) and two pieces of in-course assessment (40%).

Recommended Text: TBA

Level 4 Courses

EC4001/EC4501 (DISSERTATION)

Course Co-ordinators:	Mr D. Newlands
Contact Hours:	Discretionary
Timing:	To be submitted on the Wednesday of the final exam week.
Prerequisite:	Registration for Honours in Economics, Programme Year 4 only and 360 credit points. Students registering for EC4001 cannot register for EC4501.

Only one dissertation may be submitted by either single or joint honours students. The dissertation may be written in either the first or second semester of the final honours year. Students must register for one of these two options at the beginning of the academic year. There are no explicit rules regarding the subject matter of the dissertation, but the topic must be approved by the Course Co-ordinator. Dissertations must be typed and must not exceed 10,000 words. Further details of the regulations are available on request from the Course Co-ordinator. Examples of dissertations presented in recent years include: An Economic Analysis of the Deterrent Effect of Punishment and the Death Penalty; The Reform of Personal Taxation in the UK; An Econometric Study of the Appraisal of North Sea Oil Investment; Managerial Theories of the Firm and Competition Policy; The IMF and Economic Development in the Third World - A Critical Evaluation; The Effect of Fiscal Policy on Corporate Investment; The Efficiency of the UK Stock Market; European Fiscal Integration and the Scotch Whisky Industry; The Economics of a Carbon Tax Agreement; The Determinants of the Level of a Minimum Wage; The Economics of Road Pricing.

EC4003 (MICROECONOMICS)

Lecturers:	Prof. E. Phimister
Course Co-ordinator:	Prof. E. Phimister
Credit Points:	30
Prerequisite:	Available only in programme year 4, and EC3001

This course examines a number of important topics in microeconomics in greater depth than the microeconomics course at level two. In the first part of the course both the consumer's and producer's problem is examined using a number of analytical tools developed in EC3001. The second part of the course considers market structure and general equilibrium theory in more detail. The third section focuses on the economics of uncertainty and asymmetric information.

3 one-hour lectures, 1 master class every 2 weeks.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (60%) and continuous assessment [one essay, one assignment and 5 quizzes] (40%).

Recommended Texts:

Cowell, F. , (2006) Microeconomics, OUP.

EC4023 (EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS: MARKETS, INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC POLICY)

Lecturers: Prof. M. Costa-Gomes
Course Co-ordinator: Prof. M. Costa-Gomes
Credit Points: 30
Pre-requisite(s): Available only in programme year 4 and both EC2002 and EC2502

This course provides an overview of the field of experimental economics. The course will cover the following. Concepts and methods in experimental economics. A historical perspective of the field of experimental economics. Tools to analyse experimental data. Overview and description of market experiments, placing special emphasis on the impact of different mechanisms (e.g., double auctions versus call auctions, bilateral versus multilateral bargaining, etc.) on the efficiency and equity of outcomes. Comparisons of spot and futures experimental markets. The effects of externalities on behaviour and outcomes and the assessment of different corrective policies and institutional arrangements in addressing them. Issues in public policy such as the provision of public goods. Environmental issues.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial/seminar/lab per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Texts: TBA

EC4502 (HISTORY OF ECONOMIC THOUGHT)

Lecturers: Dr A. Zangelidis and Prof. I. Theodossiou
Course Co-ordinator: Prof. I. Theodossiou
Credit Points: 30
Prerequisites: Available only in programme year 4, EC2002 and EC2502

This course examines the history of economic ideas and the evolution of the main schools of economic thought from the eighteenth century to the present day. The aims of the course are to trace the origins of modern economic thought, and to explore the development of the main traditions and the differences between them. It examines the main controversies stimulated by the differences between the main schools of thought with regard to their contemporary relevance. The

main objective is to enable the student both to appreciate the diversity of schools of thought in Economics and to identify his/her position within this spectrum of opinion.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (80%) and continuous assessment (20%).

Recommended Text:

Grant, R. and Brue, S., (2006), *The Evolution of Economic Thought*, 7th edition, Thomson, South-Western.

EC4503 (MACROECONOMICS)

Lecturers: Dr W. D. McCausland and Dr Joao Jalles

Course Co-ordinator: Dr W. D. McCausland

Credit Points: 30

Prerequisite: Available only in programme year 4, and EC3001

This course treats the economy as an interactive system that can produce unemployment, changes in investment portfolios and revised expectations. The relationship between the private and public sectors is also examined with reference to stability and uniqueness. Fundamental constraints on policy, conditions for effectiveness, the means of policy implementation and assessment are then considered. Subsequent topics include the techniques of fiscal and monetary control, optimal policy rules in stochastic and dynamic environments, rational expectations and the credibility of policy, and exchange rate determination/intervention. Forecasting models are examined together with international interdependence and policy co-ordination.

3 hours of lectures, 1 one-hour tutorial per week.

Assessment: 1 three-hour examination (60%) and continuous assessment (40%).

Recommended Text:

Romer, D., (1997) *Advanced Macroeconomics*. McGraw-Hill.

IV - Course Regulations

Final Date for Entry and Exit

No student may enter any third or fourth level course after the end of the second week of study. Entry is defined as the student having formally agreed and signed a curriculum or change of curriculum form in conjunction with his/her Adviser of Studies. No honours student may withdraw from a course after the end of the second week of study. Every student is responsible for ensuring that he/she is correctly registered for the programme and the courses he/she wishes to study.

Attendance

Students should attend all tutorials and seminars and must participate fully in the work of the class as defined by those responsible for teaching the course. Attendance and performance in seminars and tutorials is closely monitored. School policy on attendance is detailed here:

[School Attendance Policy](#)

You should log in using your University user name and password

Registering Online for Small Group Classes

Most courses in the Business School use a web-based *Course Booking System* for organising small-group classes such as tutorials and workshops. You can access this system through On-line sign-up for tutorials, seminars and computer workshops on the web address below. You will need your university user name and password to use this system.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/business/ugrad.shtml>

It is important that you use the Course Booking System to sign up for small group classes at the beginning of each half-session: that is, when courses start at the beginning of October or at the end of January. You may find that you are automatically registered for some courses. If not, then use the Other Courses link to register yourself for the courses you are studying. In each course you will find one or more small-group classes – tutorials, workshops and the like. Choose one time and place for each of these (you cannot choose more than one) and register for it. Classes can fill up quickly; so you should sign up early to be sure of a full choice of classes.

Some courses such as the first-year Economics, will ask if you wish to choose a class in Group 1 or Group 2. These are for classes that you attend every second week. The classes in Group 1 start in the first week of tutorials; those in Group 2 start in the second. The Course Booking System will tell you which weeks you should attend classes. This information is a little cryptic because (for brevity) it is given in University week numbers rather than dates. You can use

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/termdates.shtml>

The campus map,

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/vcampus/kings/>

should help you find where your class takes place. It is your responsibility to know when your classes take place and to attend them. If for any reason you miss a class, you should try to attend another class to catch up.

Once you have registered for your classes, you can use the Course Booking System to check your progress in a course. In particular, you can check the time and location of your class and your grades in each element of assessment. These are given in your *portfolio*, which lists the cas grade (mark) for each element as it becomes available together with a weight (e.g. 0.2 for 20%).

Monitoring Student Progress

The University operates a system for monitoring students' progress to identify students who may be at risk of failing to complete satisfactorily a particular course. If the Course Co-ordinator has concerns about your attendance and/or performance, the Registry will be informed. The Registry will then write to you (by e-mail in term-time) to ask you to contact the Senate Office in the first instance. Depending on your reason for being deemed 'at risk', the Senate Office will either deal directly with your case or will refer you to your Adviser of Studies or a relevant Student Support Service. Students are required to attend such meetings with their Adviser of Studies in accordance with General Regulation 8.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/calendar/generalregulations.php>

The criteria used for student monitoring are given here

[School Monitoring Policy](#)

Absence from Classes on Medical Grounds

Candidates who wish to establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by their health are required to secure medical certificates relating to the relevant periods of ill health (see General Regulation 17.3).

The University's policy on requiring certification for absence on medical grounds or other good cause can be accessed at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x5.pdf>

You are strongly advised to make yourself fully aware of your responsibilities if you are absent due to illness or other good cause. In particular, you are asked to note that self-certification of absence for periods of absence up to and including eleven weekdays is permissible. However, where absence has prevented attendance at an examination or where it may have affected your performance in an element of assessment or where you have been unable to attend a specified teaching session, you are strongly advised to provide medical certification (see section 3 of the Policy on Certification of Absence for Medical Reasons or Other Good Cause).

School policy on medical certificates is detailed here:

[School Medical Certificate Policy](#)

You should log in using your University user name and password.

Class Certificates

Students who attend and complete the work required for a course are considered to have been awarded a 'Class Certificate'. Being in possession of a valid Class Certificate for a course entitles a student to sit degree examinations for that course. From 2010/11 class certificates will be valid for two years and permit a total of three attempts at the required assessment within that two year period i.e. the first attempt plus up to two resits.

School policy on resits is detailed here:

[School Resit Policy](#)

You should log in using your University user name and password.

Students who have been reported as 'at risk' through the system for monitoring students' progress due to their failure to satisfy the minimum criteria (as outlined above) may be refused a class certificate. If you are refused a class certificate, you will receive a letter from the Registry (e-mail in term-time) notifying you of this decision. Students who are refused a class certificate are

withdrawn from the course and cannot take the prescribed degree assessment in the current session, nor are eligible to be re-assessed next session, unless and until they qualify for the award of a class certificate by taking the course again in the next session.

If you wish to appeal against the decision to refuse a class certificate should do so in writing to the Head of School within fourteen days of the date of the letter/e-mail notifying you of the decision. If your appeal is unsuccessful, you have the right to lodge an appeal with the relevant Director of Undergraduate Programmes within fourteen days of the date you are informed of the Head of School's decision.

For courses that form part of an honours programme, you should be aware that if you are refused a class certificate, you will be awarded the equivalent of a No Paper (NP) for the course, i.e. a cas grade of zero when applied to the grade spectrum used for determining degree classification. This will mean that, normally, you would be unable to gain a higher class of degree than lower second class honours.

Assessment

Each of the level three and four courses is assessed by both an examination and an element of written work as continuous assessment. The ratio between the two components varies; for some courses the continuous assessment comprises 20% of the total, while for some courses it comprises 40%. Some courses may include assessment of oral presentations and/or group work as part of the total assessment. In accordance with the requirements of the University's Academic Standards Committee such assessment will never exceed 10% of the total. Full details for the mode of assessment adopted in each course can be found in the particular course guide.

Coursework Submission

Courses in the Business School normally use the following method for submission of assessed coursework. For practical reasons, some courses use other methods for submitting coursework. But you should use the method below unless the course outline for a course specifically tells you to do otherwise. The course outline and instructions for preparing coursework are published on MyAberdeen

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/myaberdeen/>

under the course name. You should check them for precise submission instructions. It is your responsibility to ensure that the coursework has been received by the School.

You should submit **two copies** of each piece of coursework required for a course. The first should be a word-processed paper copy of your work and the second should be a copy of your work in Microsoft Word format submitted through MyAberdeen/Turnitin

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/myaberdeem>

If you do not submit both versions you will normally be awarded a cas grade of zero for the element of coursework

You should submit the paper copy to the appropriate box opposite Edward Wright Building room s51 (on the second floor of the Building, near the Business School Office). These boxes are labelled by discipline (for example ECONOMICS for EC**** courses) and by level (for example **3RD YEAR ESSAYS** for level 3 – even if the coursework is not an essay!). You should fill in a cover sheet for the paper copy of your assignment. This records your name and details in a consistent way. This cover sheet is provided on MyAberdeen along with the instructions on completing your coursework. The cover sheet has to be signed.

You should submit the Microsoft Word version of your coursework through MyAberdeen/Turnitin You should not attach a cover sheet on the electronic version because Turnitin will recognise your details automatically when you log in. When you submit your coursework to MyAberdeen/Turnitin, you will have a receipt sent to your university email address. The University provides software (Microsoft Word) for preparing coursework in Microsoft Word format and you will have learned in SK1003 Information Skills how to use it. You may use your own software. Most modern word processors will save in the format required for MyAberdeen/Turnitin, but you should check that you can save in or convert to this format before you prepare your coursework

Late Coursework Submission

Where student work is assessed and counts towards the final course grade, such work must be submitted by due dates, which will be published in the course outlines. Extensions of time for late submission are at the discretion of the Head of School and *must* be applied for *before the due date* through the course coordinator. All requests must be supported by written documentation of the personal and/or medical circumstances for the late submission. In the absence of the grant of an extension of time, the Examiners' meeting will reduce the cas grade awarded for the work. The standard penalty for late submission is one CAS mark per working day. After five working days a grade of zero will be awarded. Assignments submitted more than one calendar week late will be regarded as a non-submission, and your class certificate is liable to be removed (denoted by C7 on your student record).

You may find the School policy on late coursework submission here

[School Lateness Policy](#)

Coursework Feedback

The University recognises that the provision of timely and appropriate feedback on assessment plays a key part in students learning and teaching. The guiding principles for the provision of feedback within the University are detailed in the Institutional Framework for the Provision of Feedback on Assessment available at:

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x8.pdf>

You may find the School policy on feedback here

[School Feedback Policy](#)

Referencing and Citation

In Economics coursework we ask you to cite any books, journal articles or other sources you use in your coursework. Where this is poorly done, your coursework may be deducted marks.

The University produces a guide to referencing and citation:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/guides/gen/uggen007.pdf>

We expect you to cite and reference in *Harvard* style. This means that when you mention a text in your coursework, you should put in a citation like (Krugman, 2010) with the names of the author and the year of publication. It is important that we can identify exactly which book or journal article, you are referring to and so you must also put a *reference* to the source in a *list of references* at the end of your coursework. You can see some examples of references in any Economics journal or textbook. You should try to produce a list of references in a similar style. The most important thing is that someone reading your coursework should be able to find the source text quickly and easily, for example, by looking at the library catalogue.

You can cite urls. You should do so sparingly because urls are not usually permanent documents and are usually less reliable than books and journal articles. Cite urls in the same way you would cite any other document, with a short citation containing the author or organisation and the date the document was created or accessed. For example, the citation (University of Aberdeen, 2010) refers to the url

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/>

You should use the first form rather than the second and put the full details in the list of references (see any Economics journal or textbook). This guide mostly uses the second form because it is a guide and not a piece of work to be assessed.

Although we ask you to use *the* Harvard style, you will find there is quite a bit of variation within this style, especially in the way the references are set out. Typically references are ordered alphabetically by the first name of the author. The date usually come after the names of the authors and the titles of journals and books are usually given in *italics*. The punctuation of references varies widely. If a course guide doesn't give you specific advice, consistently.

Citing and referencing correctly and in the required form is a skill we expect you to develop. It also helps you show where you have read more widely than the textbook or lecture notes for the course you are studying. It is important to use citation and referencing every time you reproduce someone the work of someone else. If you do not you may be plagiarising it (see page 38). However, we do not expect you to produce a list of references in examinations. With a little practice, citation and referencing should become easy. Here are some of the more common problems students encounter.

- Citing and referencing in the wrong format. The most common mistake is to use footnotes or not to put the references in a single list at the end of your work.
- Choosing poor quality source materials (i.e. Wikipedia). Usually we prefer academic journal articles and books to newspapers because the evidence and argument is usually better. You can reference web sites, but remember that they can disappear or change very quickly and it is difficult to check that the information they provide is accurate
- Including references to sources you do not actually cite. Avoid these unless you are asked for them. Referencing the url through which you accessed an academic journal rather than giving the journal title. The title is more reliable and a url is only necessary for journals that are only published online.

Examinations

a. Common assessment scale (CAS)

This is the grading scale used throughout the University. You can find the School description of the cas scale here

[School CAS](#)

b. Grading

All examination scripts are graded by internal examiners, normally the lecturers who teach the course. The names of all candidates are concealed throughout the process of examination and grading. The two sets of examination grades are compared and if the grades awarded are not the same or very similar, the graders discuss the reasons for the differences in grades and agree a joint grade. If after discussion there is still a substantial difference of opinion about a particular script, the script is sent to the External Examiner for final adjudication. In view of the robustness of these procedures, there is no right of appeal against examination grades on the grounds of academic standards, although students may appeal through the University system of appeals on the grounds of procedural irregularity (see Academic Appeals, page 25).

While the School is responsible for setting and grading examination papers, and for invigilating the examination itself, it does not have any responsibility for the timetabling of examinations. This is the responsibility of the University Registry, which issues both a provisional and, subsequently, a final examination timetable. It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that they know when and where a particular examination is to take place.

c Examination Feedback

The University recognises that the provision of timely and appropriate feedback on assessment plays a key part in students learning and teaching. The guiding principles for the provision of feedback within the University are detailed in the Institutional Framework for the Provision of Feedback on Assessment available at:

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x8.pdf>

You may find the School policy on feedback here

[School Feedback Policy](#)

d. Medical or other evidence

Students who wish to establish that their academic performance has been adversely affected by their health are required to secure medical certificates relating to the relevant periods of ill health (see General Regulation 17.3).

You can find the University's policy on requiring certification for absence on medical grounds or other good cause at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x5.pdf>

You can find the School policy on medical certification here

[School Medical Policy](#)

by logging in with your University user name and password.

Academic Appeals

You may find the School policy on academic appeals here

[School Appeals Policy](#)

by logging in with your University user name and password.

The University's Guidance Note on Academic Appeals can be obtained from the Senate Office in the Registry or can be accessed at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/appeals>

The Vice-President (Advice & Support) in the Students' Association is available to help students considering submitting an appeal (h +44(0)1224 272965).

V - Honours Programme Regulations

Entry into Honours

Any student who wishes to enter any honours degree programme must fulfil the University regulation that (s) he obtains 240 pre-honours credit points (from first and second year courses) prior to being admitted. Entry into the honours class in Economics, either as a single or joint honours student, requires **a pass** in each of the first year courses EC1005 and EC1505 and each of the second year courses EC2002 and EC2502. These are University rules and cannot be waived.

Role of the Honours Adviser of Studies

Every student must meet their appointed Adviser of Studies at the beginning of each academic year to formally enrol for courses. In Economics we have a Junior Honours (year three) and a Senior Honours adviser (year four). Currently they are Dr H. Battu and Professor Joe Swierzbinski. Every change of curriculum must be notified to, and approved by, the Adviser of Studies within the time allowed for such changes. Ensuring that such registrations and changes of curricula are completed within the timetable determined by both Department and University regulations is the responsibility of each individual student. The Adviser of Studies is also the first port of call for students experiencing any kind of problem affecting their work.

Requirements for the Award of an Honours Degree

All students who are admitted to an Honours programme are required to achieve 480 credit points, including at least 240 at levels 3 and 4, of which at least 90 must be at level 4. Honours degrees are awarded in compliance with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). This is a common national Framework for all awards in Scotland. Further information is available at www.scqf.org.uk.

Accordingly, students failing to meet this credit requirement will be required to make up any credit shortfall before graduating. General Regulation 21, as outlined below, sets out the procedures available to enable students to make up this credit shortfall.

In the case of a candidate who has failed to complete satisfactorily an element of Honours degree assessment at the time prescribed by Regulation 9.3, then the appropriate procedure from (a) to (e) below shall apply:

- a) If, but only if, the failure is on account of illness or other good cause, the candidate shall be required to submit her/his self for assessment at the next

available opportunity, and shall be permitted to count the result of that assessment towards Honours classification.

- b) If the failure is the result of absence or non-submission for any other cause, the candidate shall be awarded zero for the assessment concerned and shall be required to submit her/his self for assessment at the next available opportunity, but shall not be permitted to count the result of that assessment towards Honours classification.
- c) For courses at level 4 and above only, if the candidate has completed the assessment but been awarded a mark on the Common Assessment Scale between 6 and 8 inclusive, they shall be awarded the same amount of unnamed specific credit, not exceeding 30 credit points in total, at level 1.
- d) If the candidate has completed the assessment, but the course is at level 3, or the course is at level 4 or above and the mark awarded on the Common Assessment Scale is less than 6, the candidate shall be required to submit her/his self for assessment at the next available opportunity, but shall not be permitted to count the result of that assessment towards Honours classification. Alternatively, for courses at level 4 and above only, such candidates may elect to attend and submit themselves for assessment in another course or courses of equivalent credit value, which may be at any level.
- e) If any of options (a), (b) or (d) above would normally apply, but medical advice indicates that it would be unreasonable to require a candidate to appear for assessment on a subsequent occasion, and if the candidate's past record provides sufficient evidence that they would have obtained Honours, the examiners may recommend the award of an Aegrotat degree, but only after obtaining the consent of the candidate. The award of an Aegrotat degree will debar candidates from counting towards Honours degree assessment any result achieved thereafter.

Notes:

(i) For courses at level 4 and above, the timing and format of the assessment required under any of sub-sections (a), (b) or (d) above shall be determined by the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate) on the recommendation of the Head of School.

(ii) The options to achieve or be awarded credit under (b), (c) and (d) above shall not be available to candidates who have accumulated less than 90 credit points at level 4 or who have failed to complete satisfactorily the assessment for a course which, on the recommendation of the Head of the relevant School, has been prescribed by the Academic Standards Committee (Undergraduate) as compulsory for the award of a degree with Honours. Such candidates will be able to qualify for a non-Honours degree only.

Further guidance is also available in the **Guidance Note for Students who either Fail, or who Fail to Attend or Complete, an Element of Prescribed Degree Assessment** which can be accessed at: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix7x6.pdf>.

Classification of Degrees

Each course will be examined, and the student informed of the resultant grade, at the end of the semester in which it is taught. The basis for the classification of honours degrees is the Grade. This sets out the following conventions:

Degree Classification	Conventional Requirements
First	Marks at 18 or better in elements constituting 50% of the total assessment; and marks at 15 or better in elements constituting 75% of the total assessment; and normally marks at 12 or better in all elements.
Upper Second	Marks at 15 or better in elements constituting 50% of the total assessment; and marks at 12 or better in elements constituting 75% of the total assessment; and normally marks at 9 or better in all elements.
Lower Second	Marks at 12 or better in elements constituting 50% of the total assessment; and marks at 9 or better in elements constituting 75% of the total assessment.
Third	Marks at 9 or better in elements constituting 75% of the total assessment.

In the Department of Economics, all eight courses studied in the single honours degree programme are of equal value and each is equivalent to one element in the above scheme. Candidates who do not fulfil the requirements for the award of a Third Class Honours degree will normally be awarded the relevant Designated Degree, if they are qualified, or, if not, a non-Honours Degree.

In all cases, Honours classification will be determined in accordance with the *Grade Spectrum*. Students who fail an element of Honours assessment or who fail to attend or complete an element of Honours assessment, can expect to achieve no higher an award than a Lower Second Class Honours degree, in accordance with the *Grade Spectrum*. The *Grade Spectrum* gives the Examiners discretion to depart in an upward direction from the class indicated by the *Grade Spectrum*. However, there can be no undertaking that the Examiners will choose to use discretion.

No student registered for an honours programme is allowed to resit an examination in order to improve the class of his/her degree. The Department of Economics does not permit any student to substitute an additional course in place of one already taken in order to improve her/his class of degree.

School policy on Degree Classification is detailed here:

[Honours Classification](#)

You should log in using your University user name and password.

All degree classifications must be approved by the external examiner. Professor Phil Murphy, University of Swansea, is the current external examiner for Economics.

VI - Profiles of the Academic Staff

T. Barmby B.Sc. (Hull), M.Soc.Sci. (Birmingham), Ph.D. (Newcastle)

E-mail: tim.barmby@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS50

Jaffrey Professor of Political Economy, Head of Economics

After having research assistant jobs at Kent and Manchester, Tim lectured at Leeds, Hull, Loughborough and Newcastle. He held a Readership in Labour Economics at Newcastle, and then a Chair in Economics at Durham before moving to Aberdeen in 2004. Tim's research interests are in applied Personnel and Labour Economics, in particular the empirical modelling of the incentive effects of labour contracts. He has published widely in the Labour Economics area, with papers in the Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, The Economic Journal and Labour Economics amongst others. He has held grants from the ESRC, the Leverhulme Trust and private industry and has been an academic visitor at Curtin University in Western Australia, CEPS/INSTEAD in Luxembourg, Vrije Universiteit and the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam, Centre for Labour Market and Social Research (CLS) at the University of Aarhus, CentER for Economic Research at Tilburg University, and Monash University.

H. Battu B.A. (CNAAB), M.Sc. (Glasgow), Ph.D. (Strathclyde).

E-mail: h.battu@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS70

Reader, Junior Honours adviser, Programme Director (Economics)

Honours courses taught: EC3006; EC3511

His main research interests are in the fields of labour and spatial economics. In particular, his research has focused on the utilisation of education in the labour market, mobility and commuting behaviour and ethnic, gender and religious identity and inequality. He has published in the Economic Journal, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, The Manchester School, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics and Journal of Population Economics.

J. Bracht, Vordiplom in Economics (WWU Münster), Diplom. (FU Berlin), Ph.D (Pittsburgh).

E-mail: j.bracht@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS56

Lecturer and pre-Honours adviser

Honours courses taught: EC3001

Prior to joining the University in October, 2004, Juergen Bracht was a Research Fellow at the University of Bristol. His areas of research are in applied econometrics, behavioural and experimental economics.

Miguel Costa-Gomes

Email: m.costagomes@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EW S69

Professor

Honours courses taught: EC4023

Professor Costa-Gomes joined the University in January 2008. He has held positions at the California Institute of Technology, Harvard Business School (Harvard University), IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, the ISER - Osaka University, and the University of York. His main research interests lie in the area of experimental economics.

H. Dickey B.A., (Ulster), M.Sc. (Glasgow), Ph.D. (Aberdeen).

E-mail: h.dickey@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS57

Lecturer and pre-Honours adviser

Honours courses taught: EC3507; EC3511

After graduation she worked as a junior research officer at the Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre. After her postgraduate studies in Glasgow and Aberdeen, she was employed as a research fellow by the Centre for European Labour Market Research on the European Union funded Aqcess programme on "Aquaculture and Coastal, Economic and Social Sustainability". Her main research interests are labour and regional economics, and she has published in Regional Studies and Agricultural Economics.

R. F. Elliott, B.A., Dip.Soc.Sci. (Oxford), M.A. (Leeds).

E-mail: r.elliott@abdn.ac.uk

Professor

A graduate of Ruskin and Balliol Colleges, Oxford and of the University of Leeds, his main area of research is in labour and health economics. He has been a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Stanford, Cornell, IUPUI and New York in the United States, Queensland in Australia, and Universite Pantheon-Assas, Paris II in France. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Independent Commissioner at the Low Pay Commission. He has held visiting positions at several universities in the USA, Europe and Australia. He has acted as consultant and adviser to the Police Federation, HM Treasury, European Commission and the OECD. He chaired a Review of

the Area Cost Adjustment in 1996 and was a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Professional Conditions for Teachers in Scotland (McCrone Committee) (2000). He has directed a large number of research projects and published widely in the field of labour economics. His most recent research has focused on health service labour markets and resource allocation within the health services of Scotland, England and Wales. He is currently Director of the Health Economics Research Unit (HERU) based in the Faculty of Medicine.

H. K. Hvide

E-mail: hans.hvide@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS75

Professor

Honours courses taught: AC3047

Professor Hvide received his Ph. D. from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business. Professor Hvide joined the University of Aberdeen as Professor of Economics and Finance in January 2006, from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business. He has been a visiting professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2005. He has been a CEPR affiliate since 2003. Professor Hvide's current research focuses on factors that can explain the transition from being a paid worker to becoming an entrepreneur, and the performance of the entrepreneurial venture. Other areas of research interests include household finance and the stock market investment decisions made by individual investors. Earlier research focused on Personnel Economics, exploring issues such as risk taking in tournaments, delegated job design, and incentive contracts for workers that are motivated by social status considerations.

João Tovar Jalles

E-mail:

Room: EWS64

Lecturer

Honours courses taught: EC4503

Dr Jalles joined the Department in September 2011 from the University of Cambridge.

A. G. Kemp M.A. (Aberdeen).

E-mail: a.g.kemp@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS74

Schlumberger Professor of Petroleum Economics

Honours courses taught: EC3509

After graduation, he worked for Shell and the University of Strathclyde, before returning to take up an appointment at Aberdeen. He has also held a visiting appointment at the University of Nairobi. He has specialised in petroleum economics since the early days of North Sea exploration, and has over 170 publications in this field including *Petroleum Tax Analysis: North Sea*, with David Rose, [1983], *Petroleum Rent Collection Around the World* [1988], *An Economic Analysis of Petroleum Exploitation Systems in Ireland, the UK, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands*, with Alan Gray, [1988], and *The UK North Sea Southern Basin Fiscal System*, with Graham Kellas, [1988]. He has contributed papers to *Economica*, *Energy Economics*, *Energy Journal*, *Energy Policy*, *Geopolitics of Energy*, *Journal of Energy Finance and Development*, *Journal of Oil and Gas Finance and Accounting*, *Natural Resources Forum*, *Oxford Energy Forum*, *Scottish Economic Bulletin*, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy* and *World Oil*. He has acted as consultant on petroleum contracts and legislation to commercial companies and national governments as well as to the United Nations, World Bank and Commonwealth Secretariat. He was a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy until its abolition in 1992. He was a member of the Panel of Economic Consultants to the Secretary of State for Scotland until its abolition in 2000. He is a member of the Panel of Independent Advisers to the Minister for Energy. He has recently been appointed by the Cabinet Office to write the Official History of the North Sea Oil Industry. He is a member of the Economic Advisory Group to PILOT, the joint government/industry body on North Sea oil and gas.

W. D. McCausland B.Sc. Econ. (Hull), M.Sc. Econ. (Warwick), Ph.D. (Keele).

E-mail: d.mccausland@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS71

Senior Lecturer, pre-Honours adviser and Director of Teaching and Learning
Honours courses taught: EC3022; EC4503

Prior to his appointment at Aberdeen in 1995, he was a research fellow, initially at the Warwick Research Institute and later at the Warwick Business School Research Bureau. He then taught for three years at the University of Keele. His principal research interests are in exchange rate dynamics, international debt, hysteresis and non-linear systems, international trade and the micro foundations of macroeconomics. He has written a number of departmental discussion papers, and has published in a wide range of journals including the *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, the *Manchester School*, *Economic Modelling* and *Metroeconomica*.

Ramses Hani Abul Naga, M.Sc. and Ph.D (LSE)

E-mail: r.abulnaga@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS18

Reader

Honours courses taught: EC3508

Ramses joined the School in September 2010. Ramses has held earlier appointments at the University of Lausanne and the University of Bath. His research interests are in public economics, health economics, microeconometrics and the measurement of inequality and well-being.

D. Newlands M.A. (Edinburgh), M.Soc.Sci. (Birmingham)

E-mail: d.newlands@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS60

Senior Lecturer

Honours courses taught: EC3006; EC3511; EC3518; EC4502

Prior to his appointment, he was a research assistant at the University of Sheffield and lecturer at the University of Salford. He has also been a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Gdansk, and Murdoch University, Australia. His main research interests are in regional and urban economics. He has published papers in *Regional Studies*, the *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, and *Urban Studies*.

A. Patacconi B.A. Econ. (Bologna, Summa cum Laude), M.Phil and Ph.D. (Oxford)

Email: a.patacconi@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS20

Lecturer in Economics and Management and pre-Honours adviser

Honours courses taught:

Andrea joined the School in September 2009. His research interests include strategy, organizational economics and science and innovation. He has published in the *RAND Journal of Economics*.

E. C. Phimister B.Sc. Agric. (Aberdeen), M.A. Econ., Ph.D. (Manchester).

E-mail: e.phimister@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWF75

Professor

Honours courses taught: EC4003

Prior to his appointment in 1996, he lectured for several years at the University of Manchester. His main research interests lie in the analysis of spatial and regional labour markets and modelling decision making in farm households.

J. D. F. Skåtun B.Sc. (Leeds), Cand. Polit. (Bergen), Ph.D. (Essex).

E-mail: j.skaton@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS67

Senior Lecturer

Honours courses taught: EC3001; EC3509

His first degree was in fuel and combustion science. He held a tutorial post at the University of Exeter for one year before his appointment in Aberdeen. His main research interests lie in theoretical economics and includes labour economics with emphasis on contracts, labour mobility, measures of unemployment, trade unions and the economics of epidemiology. He has published in the International Journal of Manpower, Labour, Journal of Economic Studies, Research in Economics, Economics Letters, Journal of Health Economics, Metroeconomica and Australian Economic Papers.

J. Swierzbinski A.B. (Princeton), Dipl. Math. Stat. (Cambridge), Ph.D. (Harvard)

E-mail: j.swierzbinski@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS27

Professor and Senior Honours adviser

Honours courses taught: EC3505, EC3018

Prior to joining the University of Aberdeen in 2005, Joe Swierzbinski held academic positions at University College London, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington. His research interests include experimental economics and environmental economics.

I. Theodossiou B.Sc. (Piraeus), M.Phil., Ph.D. (Glasgow).

E-mail: theod@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS48

Professor

Honours courses taught: EC4502; EC4503

He has been a member of the Department since 1987. He has been visiting Associate Professor at Athens University. His research interests lie mainly in labour economics and macroeconomics. His publications include Wage Inflation and the Two Tier Labour Market [1992] and several chapters in Unemployment and Labour Market: A Study of the Aberdeen and Grampian Experience, edited by R.F.Elliott and A.Speight, [1989]. Together with Professor Sloane and R. Asplund he edited Low Pay and Earnings Mobility in Europe, [1998]. He has published papers in Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, Economica, Economic Journal, International Journal of Manpower, Journal of Economic Studies, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Post-Keynesian Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers, Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, and Urban Studies. He is a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

He became the first director of the Centre for Labour Market Research, established by the Department in January 2000.

A. Zangelidis B.A. (Athens), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Warwick)

E-mail: a.zangelidis@abdn.ac.uk

Room: EWS53

Lecturer and pre-Honours adviser

Honours courses taught: EC3507; EC4502

Prior to his appointment at Aberdeen, he was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Warwick for the period 1999-2003. During his doctoral studies he was awarded an ESRC research studentship. His principal research interests lie in the fields of applied labour economics and micro-econometrics. In particular, his research has focused on wage equation models, human capital theory and the role of trade unions and seniority policies on individuals' earnings profiles. He has presented his work at international and other conferences (ESPE, ESEM, RES) and departmental seminars.

VII - Other Information

Advising and Support Systems

Some students encounter problems during their time at university, whether academic, personal or financial. Successful students are not only those with no problems, but are those who have taken actions to solve their problems as soon as possible. If you have problems which affect, or are likely to affect, your academic performance, it is important that you let someone know as soon as possible so that you get help in trying to resolve them.

The University is keen to help you successfully complete your studies. If at any time you feel you need assistance, there is a range of support services available to help you. These include support to help with unexpected and/or exceptional financial difficulty, support for disabled students and academic learning support through the Student Learning Service. Further details about all these services are available at

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/studenthelpguide/>

You may also find help from teaching staff and the following contacts.

Advisers of Studies - they assist in your course choices and are available to discuss any matters concerning academic progress and should be informed of any personal problems affecting your course of study.

Student Learning Service - this offers study advice sessions, workshops and online resources (Tel: 273030),

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sls/>

The student learning service is based in G03/G12 in the University Office. They welcome students, but have lots of enquiries and so need an appointment service. Visit the website or email them to get an appointment. When you have an appointment, go to the reception desk in the University Office, who will direct you to the service.

Counselling Service - a confidential source of help and support for students with personal problems (Tel: 272137)

Student Health Services - located at the Old Aberdeen Medical Practice (12 Sunnybank Road, Tel: 486702)

Student Association - located in the Hub: the Student Association can provide advice on a variety of topics. For information on Student support services, visit:

<http://www.ausa.org.uk/>

Careers Service - The Careers and Appointment Service is located at: The Hub, Elphinstone Road (Tel: 01224 273601, <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/>).

From the beginning of your course of study, you will have access to the Service's resources which include information and advice on employment areas and potential employers. The staff will review your interests, abilities and skills, and help you to develop a career strategy which matches your aims. When you reach the application stage, practical advice, for example, relating to completing application forms and preparing for interviews, is readily available on an individual basis.

It is worth thinking about your CV and learning about what potential employers are looking for as early as possible. You need to build up your CV throughout your University life. You should therefore make yourself aware of the services available to you

Change of Address and Contact Details

It is important to keep your contact details up to date - you can do this conveniently via the Student Portal System.

Cheating and Plagiarism

The School policy on academic integrity (which covers cheating and plagiarism) is available here

[School Academic Integrity Policy](#)

You should log in using your University user name and password.

Please note that disciplinary procedures are covered by the University *Code of Practice on Student Discipline* and problems may require referral to University committees. The University *Academic Quality Handbook*,

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/>

gives guidance. Students should note that the University policies on plagiarism and conduct of examinations (especially *Rules for Candidates*), that are also available on those pages.

Class Representatives

We value student's opinions in regard to enhancing the quality of teaching and its delivery; therefore in conjunction with the Students Association we support the operation of a Class representative system.

You may find the school policy on class representation here

[School Class Representation Policy](#)

by logging in with your University user name and password.

Co-Curriculum

The co-curriculum enhances a student's employability and provides opportunities to develop and achieve Aberdeen Graduate Attributes. Co-curricular activities complement a student's degree programme and include: work placements, study abroad, enterprise and entrepreneurship activities, the BP Student Tutoring Scheme and the STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award initiative.

You may find the school policy on co-curriculum here

[School Co-Curriculum Policy](#)

by logging in with your University user name and password.

Further information about the co-curriculum is available at:
www.abdn.ac.uk/careers

Codes of Practice on Teaching and Learning

The University has adopted Codes of Practice for Undergraduate teaching and for Postgraduate Taught students. These set out the respective responsibilities of teaching staff and students. They can be downloaded by visiting

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendices.shtml#section5>

Disabilities

The University has policies on students with disabilities including dyslexia which may be found at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/disabilities/statement.shtml>

Particularly important are the following from

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/registry/quality/appendix5x8.pdf>

Students with disabilities such as deafness, visual impairment, dyslexia or medical problems which may impair their performance in continuously assessed work and in examinations should notify their Adviser at the earliest opportunity. If account is to be taken of such difficulties documentary evidence is necessary and should be copied to the Senate Office. Students with dyslexia must obtain an assessment of their needs from the University specialist. This can be arranged free of charge through the Student Health Service.

Mild dyslexia, in particular, may not make itself apparent until writing and reading skills are put under quite a heavy load. If you think you may have a problem it is important that you seek help as soon as possible as the University will not consider retrospective assessments (e.g. dyslexia assessments carried out after a diet of exams).

The School policy has a policy on disability support, which you may find here

[School Support for Disability Policy](#)

by logging in with your University user name and password.

International Students

While it is a big step uprooting from friends and family to study in another country, you are not alone. Over 10% of the student community is from Europe or elsewhere. A special counsellor is available for consultation who has much experience in dealing with the problems often faced by international students.

For contact information see:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/central/students/help.hti#international>

The international student website is at:

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/international/>

This provides information on various practical matters that may be of concern.

MyAberdeen (the University of Aberdeen's Virtual Learning Environment)

MyAberdeen replaces WebCT as students' virtual learning environment. This is where you will find learning materials and resources associated with the courses you are studying.

MyAberdeen also provides direct access to TurnitinUK, the online originality checking service, through which you may be asked to submit completed assignments.

You can log in to MyAberdeen by going to www.abdn.ac.uk/myaberdn and entering your University username and password (which you use to access the University network).

Further information on MyAberdeen including Quick Guides and video tutorials, along with information about TurnitinUK, can be found at: <https://abdn.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>

Information about academic writing and how to avoid plagiarism can be found at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sls/plagiarism>.

Staff-Student Liaison Committee

The Committee consists of a convenor plus course coordinators and class representatives for each course. s. The precise membership of the Committee will be posted on the departmental notice board.

- There will be at least one meeting of the Committee each semester, called by the Convener. Additional meetings can be requested at any time by any member of the Committee.
- The Convener will draw up the agenda but any member of the Committee may place items on the agenda. The agenda will be circulated to Committee members prior to the meeting.
- The Convener will record the minutes of the meetings. The minutes of meetings will be distributed to Committee members and posted on the departmental notice board.
- The Committee will discuss academic matters relating to the courses provided by the Department, such as the quality of teaching, assessment and course evaluations. The Committee will not discuss any personal matters relating to any individual student or group of students.

- The Convener will report the proceedings of the Committee to the Meeting of the Academic Staff of the Department, and draw attention to any matters that the Committee thinks appropriate.

TurnitinUK

TurnitinUK is an online service which compares student assignments with online sources including web pages, databases of reference material, and content previously submitted by other users across the UK. **The software makes no decision as to whether plagiarism has occurred;** it is simply a tool which highlights sections of text that have been found in other sources thereby helping academic staff decide whether plagiarism has occurred.

As of Academic Year 2011/12, TurnitinUK will be accessed directly through MyAberdeen. Advice about avoiding plagiarism, the University's Definition of Plagiarism, a Checklist for Students, Referencing and Citing guidance, and instructions for TurnitinUK, can be found in the following area of the Student Learning Service website: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sls/plagiarism/>.

University Counselling Service

Any student who is receiving help from the University Counselling Service, and who wishes to justify either non-attendance at classes or the late submission of coursework on the basis of the problems for which counselling is being sought, should ask a member of the Counselling Service to inform the programme coordinator that a legitimate problem exists. This notification will be treated by the Department in the same way as is certification supplied by the University Medical Centre, and the programme coordinator will inform the relevant Course Co-ordinator. Students should not approach lecturers or tutors directly as they will not be able to accept any explanation, however genuine, without appropriate supporting documentation.

University Email Communication

All students at the University are allocated an e-mail address and you will be frequently contacted by course coordinators or the Department or School by e-mail. **It is your responsibility to ensure that your email box is not full and that you check your e-mails frequently in order to keep in contact with the Department or School.** You will also find e-mail a useful way to contact staff or other students on your courses.

When contacting staff, please give a subject line and include your name and details in the email.

VIII - The Economics Society

The Department strongly supports the Economics Society that is based on the second floor of the Edward Wright Building where it has a notice board. The Society is run entirely by students for its members, and engages in two main types of activity. Talks from representatives of the business community provide an insight into the world of work, and contacts, which cannot be obtained from conventional lectures. These talks take place in the evening in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Recent speakers have included representatives from the John Lewis Partnership, Coopers and Lybrand and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The Society is also socially active, and organises black-tie balls, ceilidhs, parties at the Ministry of Sin, and is involved in the Torcher parade. Students attending job interviews have found that potential employers are impressed when told of their involvement in the Economics Society. In the spring of 2001, the Society organised a visit to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt. In the spring of 2002, it organised a visit to OECD in Paris. In 2003 the Society visited the European Commission in Brussels; in 2004 it visited the European Central Bank in Frankfurt and in 2005 the World Trade Organisation in Geneva.

IX - Prizes In Economics

The AUPEC Prize

The Department enjoys a close working relationship with the Aberdeen University Petroleum and Economic Consultants (AUPEC). The AUPEC prize, valued at £250, is awarded each year to the best student graduating with honours in Economics. It was awarded for the first time in 1998/99.

AUPEC Prize in Petroleum Economics

AUPEC agreed to sponsor a prize in petroleum economics for the best dissertation submitted in EC4001/EC4501 dealing with some aspect of that subject. This prize was available for award for the first time in 1998/99 and has a value of £250. A prize dissertation would be expected to achieve a mark of at least upper second class standard. Copies of prize-winning dissertations are deposited in the AUPEC library.

The Henry Prize

This is one of four prizes founded in 1939 under the terms of the will of the Rev. James Henry of New Zealand to recognise work in 'mental philosophy'. The prize has a value of £80 and is awarded to the best overall academic performance by a student in the Junior Honours class in Economics.

X - Postgraduate Study in Economics

The range of postgraduate courses in Economics and related disciplines is very large. The main vehicle for advanced study in Scotland is the Scottish Graduate Programme that is run jointly by the economics departments of the Universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews, Stirling and Strathclyde. This enables the programme to draw upon the expertise of a very large group of economists. The Scottish Graduate Programme comprises two parts. The first part consists of a one year taught programme, located at the University of Edinburgh, and leading to an MSc degree. The second part of the programme, for those who wish to continue to further study, comprises study for a PhD at one of the eight departments that contribute to the programme. The precise location for the second part of the programme will be determined by consultation between the postgraduate and the Course Directors, and will be strongly influenced by the desire to match the student's choice of research subject with the specialist interests of the various constituent departments.

Students who are interested in proceeding to postgraduate study in Economics on courses such as the Scottish Graduate Programme should consider selecting courses such as the following as part of their honours programme: Econometrics, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics.

These courses are not prerequisites for postgraduate study, but they do represent a considerable advantage for those studying, for example, the MSc component of the Scottish Graduate Programme.

XI - Careers for Economics Graduates

Economics provides students with a range of skills that can be used in many work environments. Economists customarily devise conceptual (theoretical) frameworks, which are designed both to clarify the principal issues involved in solving problems, as well as to provide a format for empirical investigation. These skills are widely applicable and enable those with such training to embark on a wide variety of possible careers. The Department regards its teaching obligations as twofold, to teach Economics as an academic discipline dealing with intrinsically important issues, and to provide its students with a range of transferable skills that represent a preparation for a future career. These skills range from those developed through traditional academic activities, such as writing papers, to the development of presentational skills and teamwork that are highly regarded by potential employers. Numerate skills are also highly prized by potential employers and several of our courses do provide such training at varying levels of technical expertise.

The most obvious career path is that leading to employment as a professional economist in industry, commerce or government. Those aspiring to work in such a capacity for a major financial institution or a multinational corporation should think seriously about single honours and possibly postgraduate training. Economics graduates find that a wide range of employment opportunities are open to them. The skills economists learn while taking an economics degree sets them in good stead for whatever career they choose. Recent graduates of the Department have found employment with the following organisations:

Aberdeen Asset Management – performance analyst, financial analyst
Aero Technology Ltd – Director
Alberta State Government, Canada - petroleum economist
AUPEC - petroleum economist
Cabinet Office (London) - researcher
Center for Global Development (Washington) - economist
Crown Agents – researcher in development economics
DANA Petroleum Oil Exploration - economist
Deloitte and Touche - tax accountant
Deutsche Bank – accountant, investment administration
Ernst and Young - accountant
Institute for International Economics (Washington) –Researcher in economics
KPMG – accountant, audit assistant
Luxembourg Central Bank- economist
Madacom GSM, Madagascar - operations manager
Mobile North Sea (Ltd) - finance analyst
Morgan Stanley - operations officer
Parliamentary Assistant
PricewaterhouseCoopers – auditor
Royal Bank of Scotland - corporate banking, mortgage adviser
Scottish Life - fund manager
Scottish Provident - pensions administrator
Shell UK, human resources consultant
South East England Development Agency – project manager
World Bank (Washington) - researcher in development economics