



UNIVERSITY OF
WATERLOO

So Ya Wanna Go to Grad School – **UW ECON**

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Why Graduate School?

- **For the Money:**

- One of the top paying graduate degrees:

“Monster places a graduate degree in economics among the top 10 best-paying graduate degrees, with a median pay higher than engineering and computer science.” (Taken from <https://www.kaptest.com/study/gre/career-paths-earning-a-masters-degree-in-economics/>)

- **For the More Interesting Job:**

- Having a graduate degree will get you further up the career ladder and allow you more freedom in choosing what to work on

- **For Yourself:**

- Knowing more about the world is a good thing

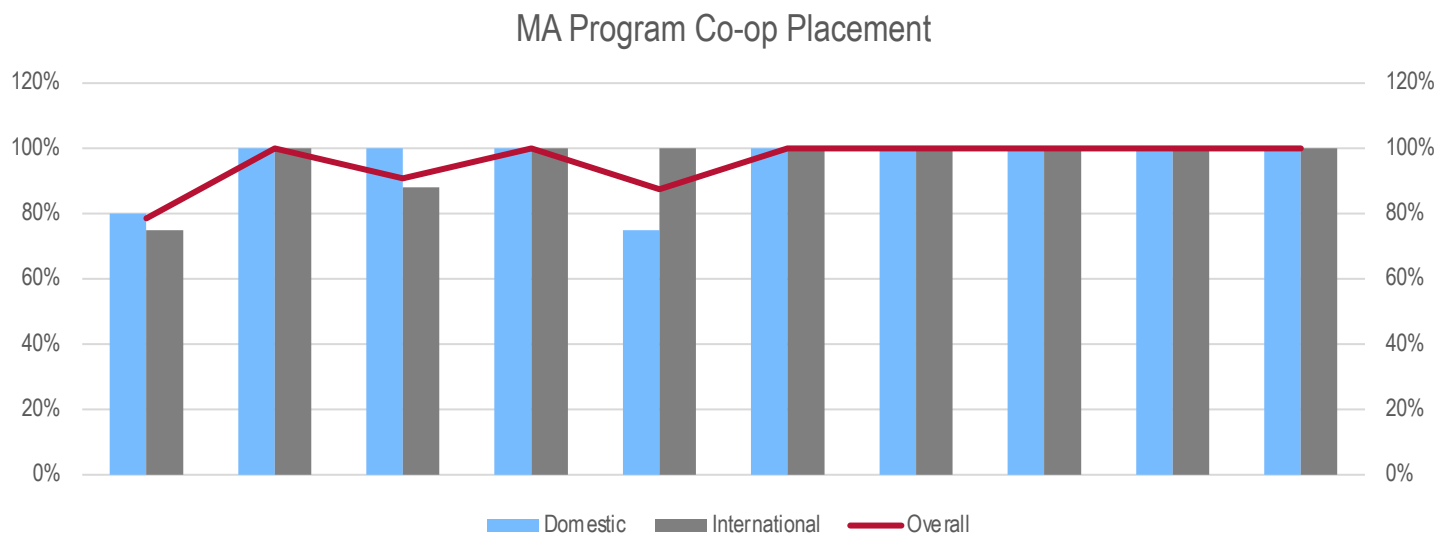
Why Graduate School?

Costs are relatively low

- **Financial Cost** – Costs are partially/fully covered by funding (scholarship and teaching assistantship. For 2023-2024, our typical funding package is \$18,000 for MAs and \$26,000 for PhDs)
- **Time Cost** – Our Regular MA program is 3 terms (12 months) of coursework; 5 terms for the Co-op option

Why UW ECON?

Some Facts:



To increase job placement, the department offers **soft-skills training** to all MAs: workshops, mock interviews, career advice, and network opportunities with alumni.

Why UW ECON?

Recent MA Co-op Placements (2020, 2021, 2022)

- Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure, Research Analyst
- Environment and Climate Change Canada, Research Analyst
- Peel Region, Data & GIS Analyst
- York Region Financial Department, Analyst
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Quantitative Analyst, Risk Management
- Ontario Ministry of Finance, Macroeconomic Analyst
- Innovation Science and Economic Development Canada, Senior Policy Analyst
- TD Bank, Data Science & Advanced Analytics
- RBC, Internal Auditor, Capital Markets
- Public Safety Canada
- Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Junior Economic Analyst
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Toyota, Data Analyst
- Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Analyst
- XE.com, Data Science Associate
- Loblaws, Growth Analyst

Why UW ECON?

Recent MA to PhD Program

- **Matthew Azevedo (2023) – PhD, UofT**
- **Ayaka Behro (2023) – PhD, UofT**
- **Lujyne Amro (2022) – School of Environment, UW**
- **Ruimin Zeng (2021) – PhD, UW**
- **Wenxuo Xu (2020) – PhD, UW**
- **Khusro Mir (2020) – PhD, UW**
- **Zetian Zhang (2020) – PhD, UW**
- **Aidi Yu (2017) – PhD, Economics, UW**
- **Xingtong Ji (2017) – PhD, Social and Ecological Sustainability, UW**
- **Zehua Pan (2017) – PhD, Economics, UW**
- **Allison Nicole Devlin (2016) – PhD, Economics, UofT**
- **RenFang Tian (2015) – PhD, Economics, UW**

The MA Co-op Program

Co-op Option (5 terms / 20 months)

Five core courses (*), four electives and eight month (2 term) co-op placement

<u>YEAR 1 - Fall Term</u>	<u>YEAR 1 – Winter Term</u>	<u>YEAR 1 – Spring Term</u>	<u>YEAR 2 – Winter Term</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Academic integrity workshop▪ (*) ECON 600 math camp (remote)▪ (*) ECON 601 micro theory▪ (*) ECON 607 data science▪ (*) ECON 621 econometrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ (*) ECON 602 macro theory▪ Two electives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Co-op experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Two electives OR <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Masters Research Paper
		<u>YEAR 2 – Fall Term</u>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Co-op experience▪ Co-op Work term report	

Electives: Labour, Health, Monetary Theory, Innovation, Numerical Methods, Topics in Macroeconomics, Water Resource Economics, Environmental Economics, Machine Learning, Econometric Methods for High Dimensional Data, Law and Economics

The Regular MA Program

Coursework Option (3 terms / 12 months)

Five required courses (*), two electives and an MRP.

YEAR 1 - fall term

- Academic integrity workshop
- (*) ECON 600 math camp
- (*) ECON 601 micro theory
- (*) ECON 607 data science
- (*) ECON 621 econometrics

YEAR 1 – winter term

- (*) ECON 602 macro theory
- Two electives

YEAR 1 – spring term

- Masters Research Paper

Graduate Diploma in Computational Data Analytics for the Social Sciences and Humanities

- Open to all grad students in Arts
- Take 3 additional courses in addition to your degree requirements
- Courses include:
 - ACC 640 - Unstructured Data and Neuro-Linguistic Programming
 - ECON 626 - Machine Learning for Economists
 - ECON 673 – Econometric Methods for High Dimensional Data
 - GEOG 606 - Scientific Data Wrangling
 - GEOG 607 - Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems
 - HIST 640 - Digital History
 - HLTH 605B - Quantitative Methods and Analysis
 - HLTH 650 - Applied Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence in Public Health
 - INTEG 640 - Computational Social Science
 - INTEG 641 - Hard Decision and Wicked Problems
 - PS 627 - Introduction to Coding and Programming
 - PSYCH 640 - Data Analysis and Graphing in R
 - STAT 830 - Experimental Design
 - STAT 831 - Generalized Linear Models and Applications
 - STAT 842 - Data Visualization
 - STAT 847 - Exploratory Data Analysis

Tuition

Tuition (2024 W)

- Canadian/PR: \$2838.63 / term (\$756 for Co-op terms)
- International: \$8532.63 / term (\$756 for Co-op terms)

- More Info. is available at:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/finance/student-financial-services/tuition-fee-schedules>

Some FAQs About Co-op

- Enrolment in Co-op is not firm until:
 - The beginning of Winter
 - You may switch between Regular and Co-op before then
- To graduate with the Co-op option you **need** to find a co-op internship
 - If you do not find one through official co-op channels, you can arrange your own job
 - The department often hires students as RAs or TAs

Applications

Admission Requirements

- Honour's bachelor's degree in economics with a minimum 75% overall average in the last two years or last 20 courses.
 - advanced microeconomics
 - advanced macroeconomics
 - advanced econometrics
 - mathematical economics; as an equivalent two terms of calculus and one term of linear algebra
- Our advanced level courses include micro: 391, 392, 393, macro: 406, 407, 408, 409, econometrics: 322, 323
- Courses that are mandatory for the intensive specialization (421, 491 and 496) are not required, but helpful
- Most of our successful applicants have an 80%+ average.

Applications

1. Honour's bachelor's degree in economics

- Strong preparation in economics and mathematics

2. Two academic letters of reference

- Give the professors who are writing your references the information they need: the list of programs you are applying for, and an unofficial copy of your transcript
- Give your professors enough lead time; they may be writing many letters
- Ranking is more important than score
- If possible, diversify your references across fields
- Senior-year course instructors are preferred, especially those with Professor in their title (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor)

3. Complete your on-line application

- <https://uwaterloo.ca/discover-graduate-studies/application-process>

4. Application deadline: February 1

- Admission is only for September of each year

Applications

Some Other Suggestions on Grad School Application

- Do not put all your eggs in one basket
 - Our grad program is very competitive. Every year, we received hundreds of applications and we only admit 10 international students with funding and 10 to 15 domestic.
- How to “Optimize” your grad school application strategy?
 - Think about what you why you want to go to grad school; there may be multiple routes to get you where you want to go

Other Comments

- Some Other Econ Grad Programs Our Students Go To:

In Canada:

**UofT, Western, Queen's, UBC, McMaster, McGill, SFU,
Alberta, Calgary, Concordia**

Elsewhere:

Duke, NYU, USC, Northwestern, Durham, LSE

➤ Questions?

Department of Economics Contacts

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