

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

MAKING THE WORLD GO ROUND



“ Our Department of Economics is filled with curious people – curious about the world around us. Our concern as economists is outcomes – what happens around us, and why. What decisions matter, and why? Why does a change in the rate of interest affect us so much? How should we organise healthcare, energy markets, and transport?

The economics profession, over the years, has developed tools for looking into such questions. We equip you with knowledge and awareness of these tools, and the ability to use them to analyse events you're interested in. We don't tell you what to think, instead we equip you to think more deeply: we give you the tools to think seriously about why things have happened the way they have.

We do this not just through lectures, but through small group sessions looking at topical social and political events from an economist's perspective. We do this, informed by our own research into the events that are happening around us now, over the past years, decades and even the centuries. Join us if you're curious to learn more about the events that determine our world. ”



Dr James Reade

Head of the Department of Economics

reading.ac.uk/economics



“Economics is everywhere, and understanding economics can help you make better decisions and lead a happier life.”

Tyler Cowen, Economist

“Applying economic theory to enhance research in early Alzheimer’s Disease diagnostics and prevention.”

RE-IMAGINING DEMENTIA



Dr Fangya Xu

Dementia is a rapidly rising concern with severe personal and societal impacts, especially in areas of low- and middle-income countries. Dr Fangya Xu’s research into Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease exemplifies how economists at the University of Reading apply their learning to important real-world problems, across a variety of disciplines.

Dementia is a significant health challenge of our lifetime and one of the major causes of severe cognitive deficits, disability, and dependency in daily life. With diagnosis expected to increase, Dementia is one of the Societal Challenges listed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and a health priority for Europe. This urgency and significance has triggered Fangya’s research in applying economic theory to enhance research in early Alzheimer’s Disease diagnostics and prevention.

Working across disciplines to acquire a holistic understanding of important areas such as healthcare, Fangya applies economic tools she has learnt to positively impact the world we live in. Collaborating with clinical study scientists is helping Fangya understand the nature of Dementia in the hope to discover a new data-driven model to diagnose Alzheimer’s

Disease early. Consequently, she also expects her research to improve monetary conditions at a microeconomic and macroeconomic level by reducing diagnosis costs and patient diagnosis waiting times, relieving some financial burden to individuals and society.

Fangya frequently combines her research and teaching, encouraging students to use real-world examples when learning about economic theory. She enjoys an interactive teaching style and fosters a positive and supportive relationship with her students, hoping to train the next generation to tackle important issues using economics. As a result of her excellent teaching, Fangya has been nominated for the Reading Universities Student Union Teaching Excellence Award and Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme Supervisor of the Year in helping students gain real research experience.

CAN WE GROW ECO ECONOMIES?





Dr Stefania Lovo

Climate change is threatening our future, but is it an inevitable part of economic growth? Dr Stefania Lovo believes that adopting ambitious and transparent policies is crucial for tackling the crisis and ensuring a clean path to economic development.

Stefania's research focuses on the application of economic concepts to the analysis of environmental issues and policies. The central questions in environmental economics are concerned with the trade-off between development priorities and environmental sustainability. Some poorer countries

need industrial growth – is it possible to reach a compromise between industrialisation and environmental conservation?

The research Stefania undertakes constantly feeds into her teaching at the University of Reading. This year she plans to incorporate the findings of her research on climate change adaptation and tenure insecurity in Malawi into her first-year undergraduate module "Economics of Climate Change". This module is extremely topical, and the content requires updating every year owing to new advancements in research on the subject and the constantly evolving international and policy landscape.

Stefania previously worked as a senior expert in environmental analysis for the European Commission, which benefits her teaching. On her third-year module "Environmental Economics" Stefania uses her own experiences to demonstrate how European institutions are incorporating climate change provisions into free trade agreements, to strengthen international commitments to reducing greenhouse emissions.

“ I am passionate about applying economics to understand and overcome the challenges to achieve a fair balance between economic growth in poorer countries and the protection of our planet.”



ECONOMETRICS FOR KICKS



Dr James Reade

Dr James Reade was inspired by a student to research economic behaviour in sport. His research has now come full circle and is directly influencing his teaching at the University of Reading.

When a PhD student asked James for his help in analysing a large dataset of betting prices on football matches, James realised that sport offered an abundance of data which economists could use. James' research into the economics of sport now feeds directly into his undergraduate module "Economics of Sport and Games". This module investigates issues such as labour markets through a sports lens, for example, what is the impact of net migration in relation to football?

The benefit of a sports-focused economics project is that students often have an intimate knowledge about why things happened in their sport, and this is incredibly helpful when pulling together economic and econometric models.

The purpose of econometrics is to model the data as best possible, and that involves knowing a lot about the subject which is generating the data. James has given talks to Formula One teams, betting companies and sports governance organisations based on the work he and his students have produced. He contributes regular material and statistics for the Oldham Athletic AFC matchday programme for each match.

James is proud that his research is used in everyday life. While economists are using sports data to learn about decision-making, sports participants are using this research to learn more about optimal strategies to win. James provides analysis to local football clubs and sports gaming companies, as well as organising and attending conferences and workshops, regularly attracting high profile speakers to Reading.

“ I love the fact that I get to combine my love of sport and data in my research, and that my research is having a positive impact on both students at Reading and on sport in the world around us. ”





**THE FREE
WORLD?**



MACROECONOMICS HAS THE ANSWER



Dr Alexander Mihailov

Dr Alexander Mihailov is a global economist who uses macroeconomics to advise policymakers in how best to improve our world focusing on socioeconomic, political and monetary issues.

Alex has always been curious about how beliefs are formed and how they motivate us over our lifetimes – how they shape our values, trigger our actions, and consequently drive our political, economic and social decisions. Passionate about macroeconomics, Alex began investigating the effects of different worldviews within a society, country and within global communities.

Alex's interest in socio-economic dynamics was ignited long ago, when communism fell apart in 1989, but rekindled again when Christian supporters of the former US President Donald Trump favoured restrictive policies on immigration, specifically towards Muslim-majority countries. This inspired a strand of research exploring the effect of social diversity on conflict and innovation probabilities. Alex's

research suggests that people should be educated in a way that does not prioritise a single worldview. He hopes educational change will increase generational innovation and reduce conflict, and consequently improve the world we live in.

Economics is a fundamental tool we can use to integrate the world around us, helping us to make better decisions which will benefit us as nations and individuals. Alex promotes the benefits of working collaboratively to solve economic issues by bringing together researchers from across the globe. As co-founder of the European Workshop on Political Macroeconomics, he gathers together researchers from across Europe to explore topical issues and collaborate on proposing research-based solutions. Combined with

his expertise in international economics and finance, these activities have led to many high-profile and influential media appearances across the world since the war in Ukraine started, such as at the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Fortune, VoxEU, The Conversation, and Alternatives économiques.

Alex's passion for social, political and behavioural macroeconomics influences his undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, with third-year lectures on advanced macroeconomics and a master's-level module on advanced macroeconomic analysis. Alex believes that 'modern macroeconomics is an indispensable quantitative tool that helps us better understand the socio-economic driving forces of technological and human progress and the evolution of our global society'.

“ People should be educated in a way that does not prioritise a single worldview. ”

LEARN FROM ACTIVE RESEARCHERS

At Reading your learning is truly informed by research, through our academics as well as external guest speakers.

Our Economics Department focuses on applied economic research directed towards improving the quality of life in the UK and around the world. We work to address current socio-political issues, such as ethnicity and inequality in the job market, the gender pay gap, and UK housing reform.

To deliver research-led teaching, we align our modules to our research clusters, ensuring your learning is being informed by the latest developments.

Research cluster	Examples of aligned modules ¹
Behavioural Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behavioural Economics
Business Economics and Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Economics• The Economics of Financial Markets• Money and Banking
Labour and Household Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economics of Labour
Sport Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economics of Sport and Games

We strengthen and explore our research through an active guest speaker programme, which offers a different perspective, whilst keeping you in touch with the latest global developments and challenges. Previous visitors have come from universities including Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE, and economic institutions such as the Bank of England and the Office for National Statistics.

The University of Reading recently hosted the Royal Economic Society's Annual Public Lecture where high profile economists were invited to speak at these lectures, offering current students the opportunity to engage with prestigious guest speakers.

¹ All modules are subject to availability, see inside back cover.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

We use a variety of teaching and learning methods to establish a strong theoretical foundation, followed by development of your knowledge and tools for analysing real world economic data.

Our Economics Department is part of the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations, offering you a wider breadth of expertise – from sports to environmental, and business to finance.

How you'll learn

As well as lectures, we offer small-group tutorials where you will discuss and analyse theory and practice through case studies, group presentations, debate and games. We also use a range of assessments, from essays and exams, to policy brief writing, statistical briefing exercises and group projects.

Outside of your timetable, we run informal Conversations in Economics, which enable you to mix across year groups, from first years to PhD students. In these sessions you will discuss real topical issues from an analytical economics perspective, such as Brexit or tipping in restaurants.

Real-world facilities

If you study BSc Economics and Finance you will have access to the simulated trading room and financial data feeds at our on-campus International Capital Market Association Centre (ICMA). We also have computer labs with software that economists commonly use in business.

“From my own experience, game-based teaching is a very effective way of improving student engagement and enhancing the learning experience, especially to illustrate abstract economic principles or theories.”

Dr Minyan Zhu
Lecturer in Economics

YOUR CAREER

A degree in economics offers you a range of opportunities, from working as an economist, to roles in business, finance, investment or other areas.

Placement opportunities

Boost your undergraduate degree by taking an integrated year in industry, a summer placement, or a two week work experience, supported by our dedicated placement team.¹

As a masters student you have the opportunity to undertake a Capstone project. You will work with an organisation on a real policy problem, or choose an extended placement project.

Past placement destinations have included:

- Government Economic Service
- Bank of England
- Deloitte
- NHS England
- IBM

Career prospects

Graduate career destinations have included:

- Office for National Statistics
- Deloitte
- Citigroup
- British Chambers of Commerce
- Ministry of Defence

“As part of my degree, I completed a year-long placement with The Walt Disney Company. I loved every minute of it and have learnt invaluable skills. The support I received from the University was amazing!”

Alicia Harding
BSc Economics, Walt Disney placement

“The MA Public Policy taught me skills which benefit me as a Public Sector Economist in Kenya; including research skills, knowledge of both Politics and Economics, how stakeholders interact in the policymaking process and evidence-based policymaking.”

Sharon Adhiambo
MA Public Policy, now working as a Public Sector Economist

ALUMNI PROFILE

A unique energy of “openness and freedom” attracted Freddy Farias Arias to study BA Politics and Economics at the University of Reading. He took full advantage of the opportunities Reading offered him and is now thriving in his career.

Freddy endeavoured to get the most out of his university experience. He joined his economics professors to deliver lectures at the Nanjing University of Information, Science and Technology (NUIST) in China. He also did a summer placement at the Office for National Statistics via the Government Economic Service placement scheme. Freddy is immensely grateful for the support he received from the School’s placement coordinator who set up tailored one-to-one mock interviews and provided detailed feedback on his applications.

Freddy now leads the International Analysis Team at the Office for National Statistics. His degree in economics has provided him with the knowledge and skills to lead a team producing analysis on the UK’s international economic statistics, such as trade and cross-border investment.

He hopes that in the future he will move his career into policy or diplomacy, and Freddy believes the skills he gained during his studies at Reading will continue to play a key role in him achieving that.

“The knowledge and experience I gained as part of my degree at Reading has given a strong base to what I do now, and what I aim to do in the future.”



¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover.

GO INTERNATIONAL

Studying abroad on your undergraduate degree can open a whole new area of the world to you.

Studying abroad offers you the opportunity to develop valuable life skills, while expanding your academic knowledge and enhancing your employability.

You can choose to study abroad for either one year, as part of an integrated four-year undergraduate degree, or for one term during your second year, or on a summer school at our partner universities. You will be supported by our Study Abroad Coordinator during your application and time abroad.

Study Abroad offers a range of exciting and rewarding international destinations. We currently have partnerships in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America.¹

To find out more, please visit the Erasmus & Study Abroad office at reading.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoing

“I cannot recommend studying abroad enough. If you want to meet a range of new people, see new and different places and expand your personal horizons, all while enhancing your university experience, then study abroad is for you.”

Joshua Collings
BSc Economics, Study Abroad in Virginia, USA.

A HOME FROM HOME

Our community is made up of people from around the globe and our use of small seminar groups encourages dynamic discussion among you all.

Our community

We offer plenty of opportunities to get involved in our supportive student community; including weekly Conversations in Economics', public seminars, and our student run Economics Society.

We are very much a global community, with staff and students joining us from all around the world.

International students

We want to make your transition to university, and to the UK, as easy as possible. The University's International Student Advisory Team offer support on issues such as visas and immigration, and understanding UK culture. You can also benefit from the STaR Mentor Scheme, matching you with a current student mentor at the University before you start here.

If you don't have British A levels or the equivalent, our International Foundation Programme (IFP) is an access course which will provide you with the skills you need to start undergraduate studies in most degrees at Reading. The IFP gives you the option to choose modules in Economics.

“The University of Reading is the place to be! The diversity on campus makes you feel at home, and I like that the professors keenly support the students.”

Patience Rukundo Ingabire
MSc Business Economics

¹ Subject to availability, see inside back cover.





Important Information

This brochure was issued in 2023 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2024. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (May 2023). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check reading.ac.uk/study

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

Copyright and trademarks

© University of Reading, 2023

The University of Reading name and logo are registered trademarks. All rights reserved.

Topics

Topics are provided as a taster of the areas of study that may be available on each course. Information is correct at the time of going to press (May 2023), for a list of compulsory (core) modules please check reading.ac.uk for the most up to date information. Teaching staff on specific courses mentioned in this brochure may be subject to change.

Joint courses

Our joint courses may have extra requirements, including English language requirements. Please check the individual course pages on our website for further details.

Year abroad and placement fees

Some courses include an optional or compulsory year abroad or placement year. During this year you will only pay a partial fee which is currently set at 15% of the normal tuition fee. Check the website for the latest information: reading.ac.uk/fees-and-funding

Placements

Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their School/Department.

Study abroad

The partnerships listed are correct at the time of publication (May 2023). For up to date information on the University's partnerships contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk

Where Study Abroad is not a compulsory part of the degree programme, the University of Reading cannot guarantee that every applicant who applies for the scheme will be successful. Whilst efforts are made to secure sufficient places at partner institutions, the number of places available and the University's partners can vary year-on-year. In all cases, the University cannot guarantee that it will be possible for applicants to choose to study abroad at a particular institution. Further, certain courses and/or institutions may require you to satisfy specific eligibility criteria. It can be a competitive process. For further information on the University's Study Abroad Scheme please contact studyabroad@reading.ac.uk.



Department of Economics
reading.ac.uk/economics

 /readingeconomics

 @readingSPEIR

Ask us a question
reading.ac.uk/question

