Economics at Queen’s

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Programme Director



WHY ECONOMICS?

Three important reasons:

1. Answers important questions to make our societies better.

2. Pays well if you put the effort.

3. Teaches you useful skills that are unlikely to be replaced by AI.

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1. WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE OUT OF WORK?

2.2% Unemployment rate

Among people working or looking for work (aged 16+).

25.8% Economic inactivity rate

Not working and not looking or available to work (aged 16–64).

115,000 working-age people are inactive due to illness.

What would help more people who want to work find a job?

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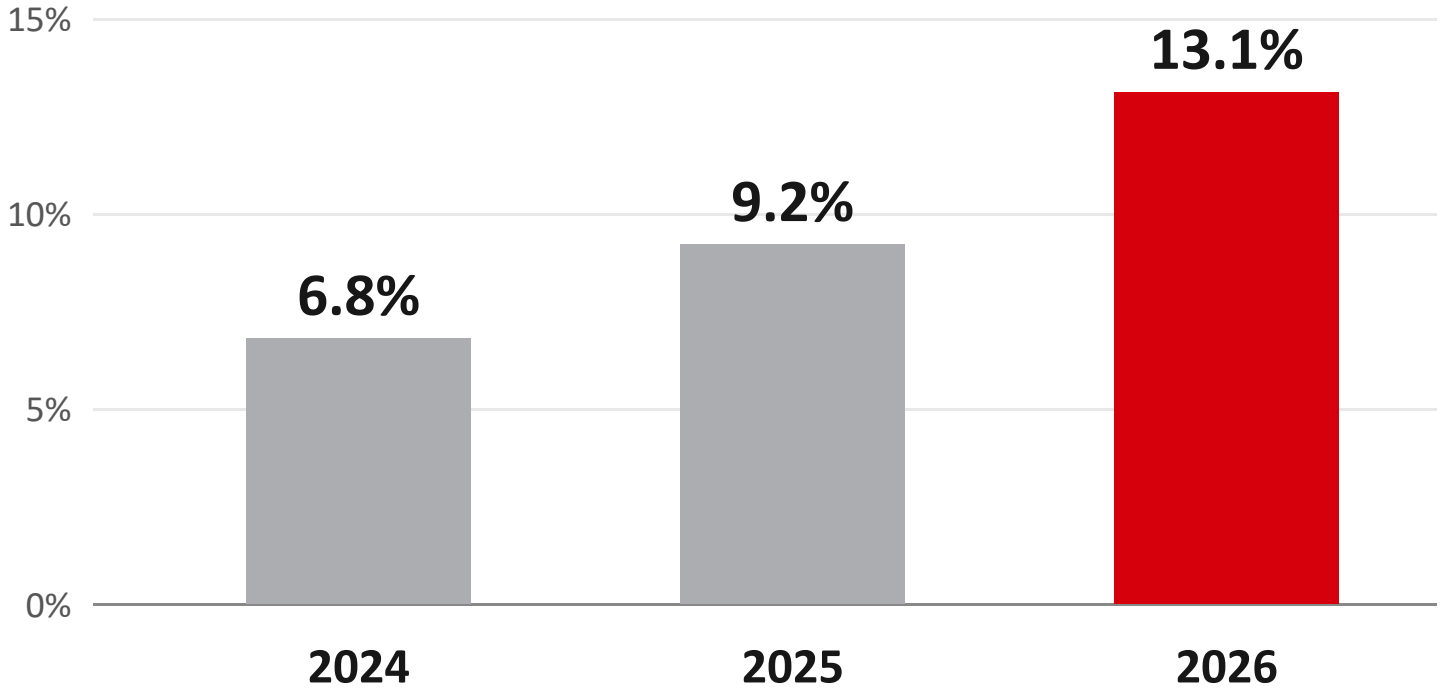
Source: NISRA, Labour Market Report, 17 November 2026 (July–September 2026).

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOUNG MEN?



23,000

young people (men and women) outside work, education and training in early 2026.

Survey estimates fluctuate; they are not proof of a lasting trend.

What prevents young people from getting a foothold in the labour market?

Source: NISRA NEET releases, May 2024, May 2025 and May 2026 (January–March each year).

2. WHY ARE WAGES LOWER HERE?

Productivity means the value we create in each hour of work.

12.7% lower

Output per hour in NI relative to the UK average (2024).

Could access to both UK and EU goods markets help create better-paid jobs?

Median annual full-time pay (2026)



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Sources: ONS regional productivity (2024, released 24 Nov 2026); NISRA ASHE (2026).

3. DOES THE SCHOOL SYSTEM SHAPE OUR FUTURE?

Five or more GCSEs at A*–C (or equivalent), including English and maths, 2024/25.



Different pupils attend different schools. The gap alone does not tell us why.

How could we give more children the chance to succeed?

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Source: NI Department of Education, Year 12 and Year 14 Examination Performance 2024/25, Jan 2026.

4. DOES MORE SPENDING MEAN BETTER SERVICES?

Public spending per person (2025/26)

Northern Ireland £17,096



England £13,902



Northern Ireland has higher public spending per person than England.

53.7%

of patients waiting for a first hospital outpatient appointment had waited more than a year (June 2026).

How should we allocate public money to improve people's lives?

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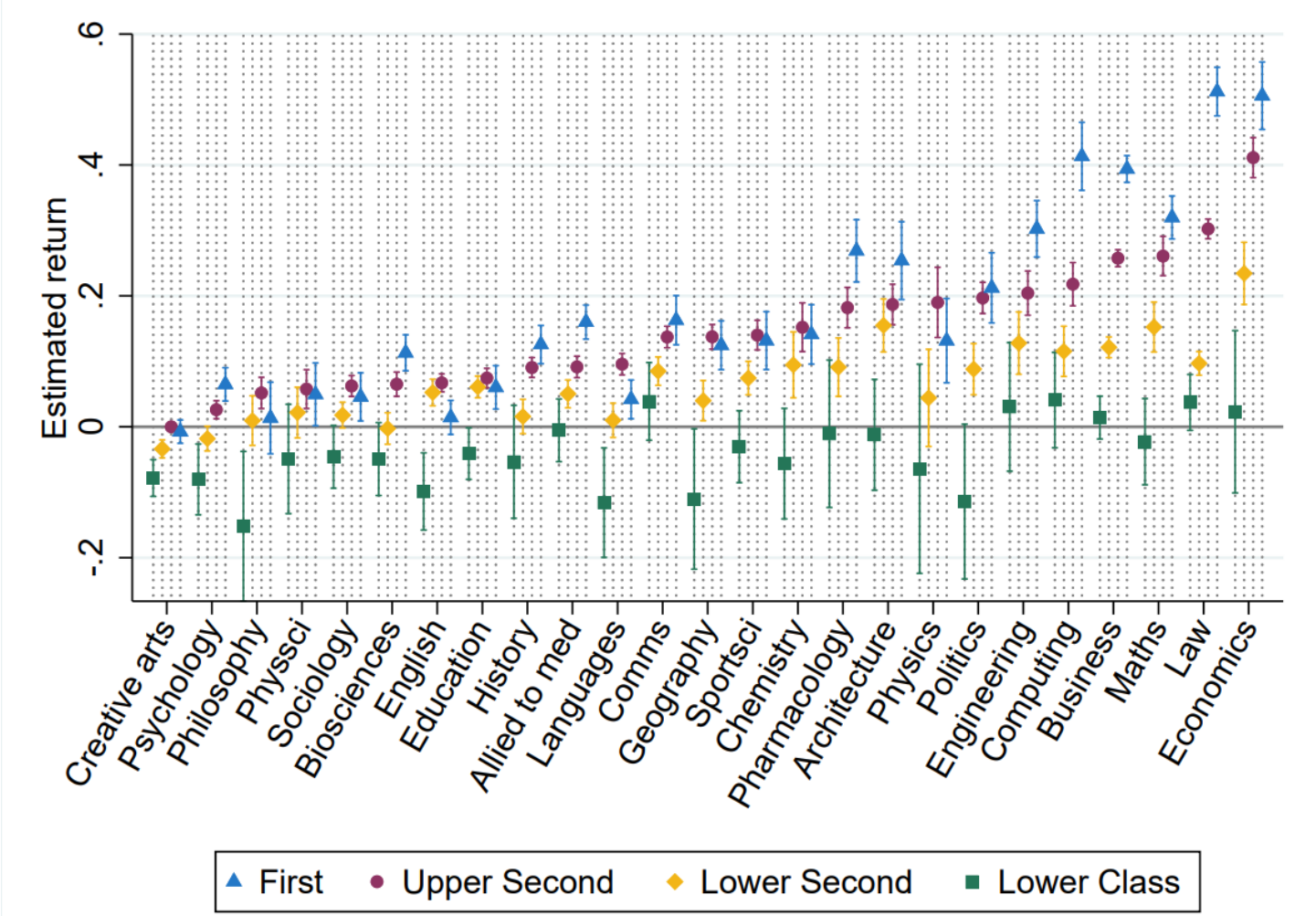
Sources: HM Treasury, Country and Regional Analysis 2026; NI DoH, outpatient waits, 30 June 2026.

THE VALUE OF A GOOD DEGREE: WOMEN

Economics graduates with strong results are among the higher earners in this study.



Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2022. Earnings at age 30, using England-linked records.

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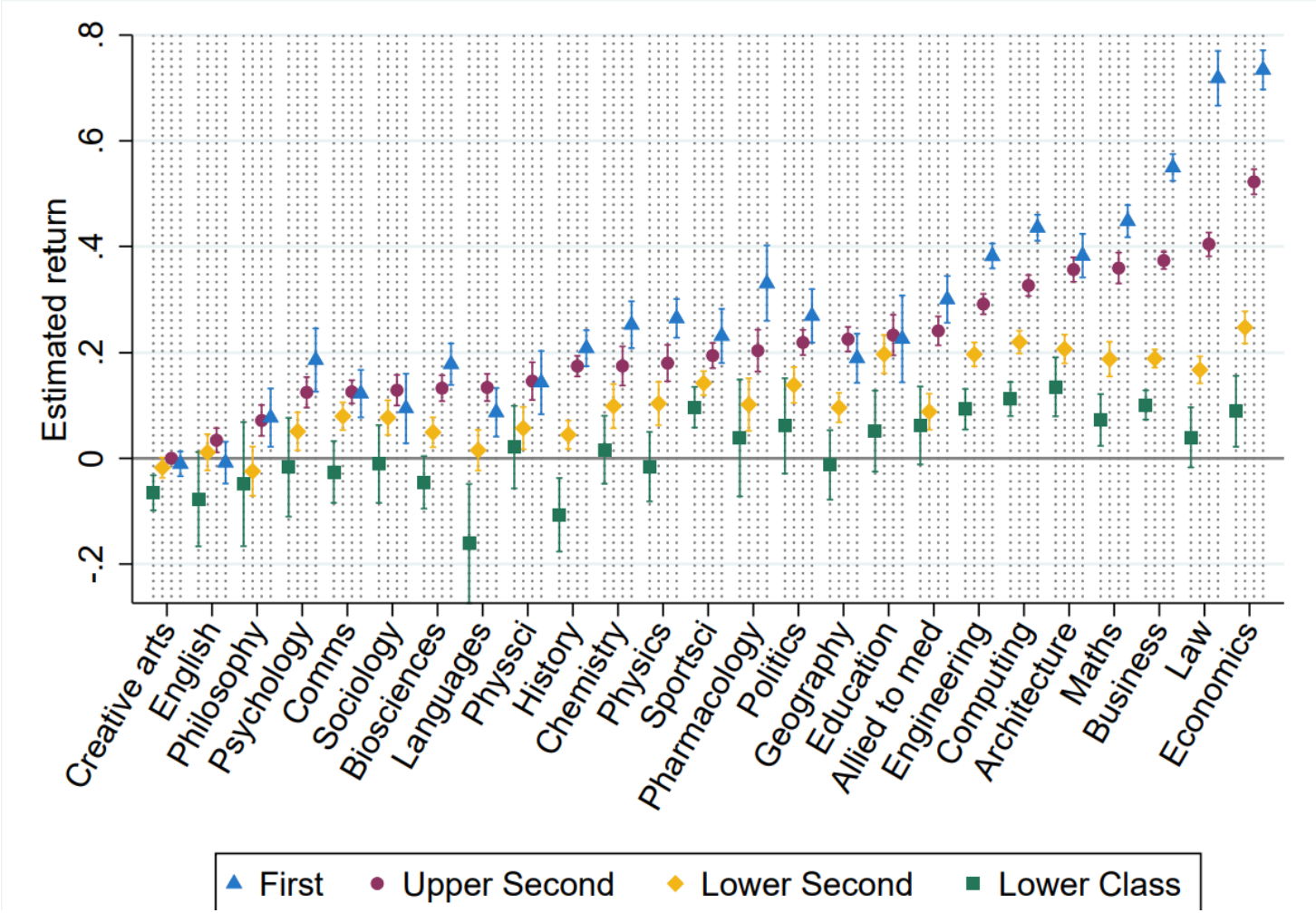
THE VALUE OF A GOOD DEGREE: MEN

Economics graduates with strong results are among the higher earners in this study.



Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2022. Earnings at age 30, using England-linked records.

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YOUR JOURNEY

Year 1 — Foundations

Economics, mathematics, statistics and communication

Year 2 — The toolkit

Microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, game theory and growth

Year 3 — Specialise

Applied econometrics, advanced microeconomics, labour, public economics, networks and economic history

Year 4 ?

Optional placement or study abroad

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CHOOSE THE DEGREE THAT FITS YOU

BSc Economics

BSc Economics with Finance

BSc Business Economics

BSc Economics and Accounting

Economics with a Language

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YOUR DEGREE: STRUCTURE

BSc Economics

Year one

SEMESTER 1	
ECO1004	Mathematics for Economists
ECO1021	Principles of Economics 1
ECO1014	Communicating Economics

SEMESTER 2	
ECO1003	Statistical Methods
ECO1020	Principles of Economics 2
FIN1001	Financial Institutions and Markets



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YOUR DEGREE: STRUCTURE

BSc Economics with Finance

Year one

SEMESTER 1	
ECO1004	Mathematics for Economists
ECO1021	Principles of Economics 1
ACC1002	Accounting

SEMESTER 2	
ECO1003	Statistical Methods
ECO1020	Principles of Economics 2
FIN1001	Financial Institutions and Markets



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YOUR DEGREE: STRUCTURE

BSc Business Economics

Year one

SEMESTER 1	
ACC1002	Accounting
ECO1021	Principles of Economics 1
OWL1009	Organisational Behaviour

SEMESTER 2	
ECO1009	Quantitative Methods
ECO1020	Principles of Economics 2
FIN1001	Financial Institutions and Markets

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YOUR DEGREE: STRUCTURE

BSc Economics and Accounting

Year one

SEMESTER 1	
ACC1001	Introductory Financial Accounting
ECO1021	Principles of Economics: Micro
ACC1005	Law for Accountants

SEMESTER 2	
ECO1009	Quantitative Methods
ECO1020	Principles of Economics: Macro
ACC1003	Introductory Management Accounting



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YOUR DEGREE: BSC ECONOMICS

Year two

SEMESTER 1	
ECO2011	Game Theory
ECO2031	Macroeconomics
ECO2024	Microeconomics of Markets

SEMESTER 2	
ECO2008	Introduction to Econometrics
ECO2012	Industrial Organisation
ECO2001	Economic Growth

OPTIONAL PLACEMENT OR STUDY ABROAD

Year three

SEMESTER 1	
ECO3043	Advanced Microeconomics
ECO3015	Applied Econometrics

Optional	
ECO3019	Labor Economics
ECO3020	Economic History
ECO3032	Economics of Networks and Institutions
ECO3036	International Economics
ECO3037	Environmental Economics
ECO3044	Advanced Macroeconomics
ECO3038	Contemporary Econ Issues

HOW MUCH DOES EACH YEAR COUNT?

	YEAR ONE 10%	**YEAR TWO** 30%	**YEAR THREE** 60%
DIRECT ENTRY INTO YEAR TWO		**YEAR TWO** 33.3%	**YEAR THREE** 66.6%

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YOUR DEGREE: STRUCTURE

MEconomics

Year four

SEMESTER 1	
ECO4001	Research Methods for Economists
ECO4002	Welfare Economics and Public Policy
ECO4003	Monetary Policy & Central Banking

SEMESTER 2	
ECO4004	Data Science & AI for Economists
ECO4005	Research Project



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WHAT IS STUDYING ECONOMICS LIKE?

Lectures: 3 hours per module each week. Learn the ideas.

Tutorials and workshops: 1 hour in smaller classes each week.

Questions you might investigate

Econometrics: does integrated schooling lead to better wages?

Environmental economics: how could a carbon tax work in Northern Ireland?

Labour economics: what helps young people find work?

Final-year research: choose and investigate your own question.

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ANNUAL CALENDAR 2026–27

Date	Week	Activity
21/09/26 – 23/10/26	1-5	Teaching
26/10/26 –30/10/26	6	Reading week
2/11/26 – 11/12/26	7-12	Teaching
14/12/26 –18/12/26	13	End of Semester Assessment
21/12/26 – 1/1/27		Christmas Break
4/1/27 – 8/1/27	14	End of Semester Assessment
11/1/27 –15/1/27	15	Development Opportunities

Date	Week	Activity
18/1/27 – 5/2/27	1-3	Teaching
8/2/27 – 12/2/27	4	Reading week
15/2/27 – 19/3/27	5-9	Teaching
22/3/27 – 2/4/27		Easter Break
5/4/27 – 30/4/27	10-13	Teaching
3/5/27 – 28/5/27	1–4	End of Semester Assessment

Date	Activity
2/8/27 – 13/8/27	Supplementary Assessment Period (Resits)

OPTIONAL WORK PLACEMENT

Examples of organisations where students can gain experience

Oxford Economics	Citi	Baker McKenzie
Financial Times	EY	GSK
McLaren Automotive	BMW	Tourism Ireland
Deloitte	BT	Artemis Technologies

An opportunity to apply what you learn and gain experience before graduating.

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My student experience

Eason Tang 3rd Year, Economics / Finance







FTI CONSULTING

Economic Consultant · 9-month placement year

- Reviewed financial statements and models in Excel
- Analysed market data using econometric analysis
- Worked with professionals and fellow placement students via Slack and email
- Assisted clients based abroad
- 5-day work experience in Manchester (Nov 2025)
- Content Creator & exploring my personal life

ADVICE

Always be curious & ask questions

A QUOTE I FOLLOW

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

WHERE CAN ECONOMICS TAKE YOU?

Work in government, business and finance, or continue studying.

Economics and public policy

Central Bank of Ireland · Department for Energy Security and Net Zero · Northern Ireland Civil Service · Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Finance and professional services

Rothschild & Co. · HSBC · Citco · PwC · KPMG

Consulting

McKinsey · Deloitte

Postgraduate study

Further study and research

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EUROPEAN STUDY EXCHANGES

Eligible students may receive financial support through the International Mobility Grant.

Belgium	Finland	France	Germany	Spain
• Universiteit Antwerpen • Hasselt University (tbc)	• University of Jyväskylä	• Audencia Business School • EDHEC Business School • EmLyon Business School (tbc) • EXCELIA Business School • IESEG School of Management • NEOMA Business School • Paris School of Business • Rennes Business School • SKEMA Business School • EM Strasbourg Business School • Université Franche-Comté	• EBS University of Business and Law • Leibniz Universitat Hannover • Universitat Konstanz • Universitat Mannheim	• Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona • Universidad de Deusto • ESIC Business and Marketing School • ESIC University • IE University • University of Vic

Partner list supplied by the programme. “tbc” means “to be confirmed”.

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OUR STUDENTS DO WELL

82% achieve a First or upper-second-class degree (2:1).

Support throughout your degree

- Personal tutors
- Programme director
- Module coordinators
- Student representatives

We want you to succeed, and there are people here to help.

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OUR ECONOMICS TEAM

22 research-active academics with PhDs.

Connected to practice: Former Chief Economist at Ulster Bank, advisers to the Northern Ireland Department for the Economy, and members of the Confederation of British Industry's Economic Strategy and Competitiveness Working Group and the Northern Ireland Productivity Forum.

Leading in research: Editors and editorial board members of international academic journals, including *European Economic Review* and *Business History*.

Making an impact: Our research has been featured in the *Financial Times*, *The Times*, *Forbes*, *MIT Technology Review*, the BBC and others.

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WHY ECONOMICS AT QUEEN'S?

A rigorous degree in economics connecting theory to practice.

Personal academic support and small-group tutorials.

Opportunities to gain work experience and develop contacts with employers.

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Questions?
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