# MSc Welcome & Introduction

#### **Professor Thijs van Rens**

**Director of Graduate Studies (Taught Degrees)** 

18 September 2023



#### This presentation

- Introductions
- Introductory Maths and Statistics
- MSc programmes
- Course structure and module choices
- Assessment, feedback and exams
- Supporting you
- Beyond study

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This session is being recorded and will be made available to watch online at any time

The slides have also been uploaded on our induction <u>website</u>

## Introductions





- Professor Thijs van Rens
- Director of Graduate Studies (Taught Degrees)
- S2.105
- J.M.van-Rens@warwick.ac.uk
- Teaching
- Research interests

### Introductions













Professor Ben Lockwood

Head of Department

#### Dr Claudia Rei

Deputy HoD (Teaching & Learning) Dr Alex Karalis Isaac

Deputy Director of Graduate Studies Dr Mahnaz Nazneen PGT Senior Tutor

#### Introductions – Postgraduate Office



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Carolyn Andrews Programmes Manager PGT **Robin Flint** Assistant Programmes Manager Andrea Wyld

Programmes Coordinator (MSc) **Chau Ho** Programmes Coordinator (MRes) Marion Nicholson Programmes Administrator

#### Aysa Ozcan

Student Engagement & Experience Coordinator

#### How to contact us

- Email <u>economics.pgoffice@warwick.ac.uk</u> or visit the Postgraduate Office in room S1.132
- Visit our <u>Get in Touch page</u> for frequently asked questions
- When writing emails, please use professional language and academic titles where appropriate
- Allow sufficient time for a reply and avoid making last minute requests
- Please don't send the same message to different email addresses as this duplicates work







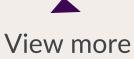
#### **Economics in Numbers**

We <u>ranked</u>

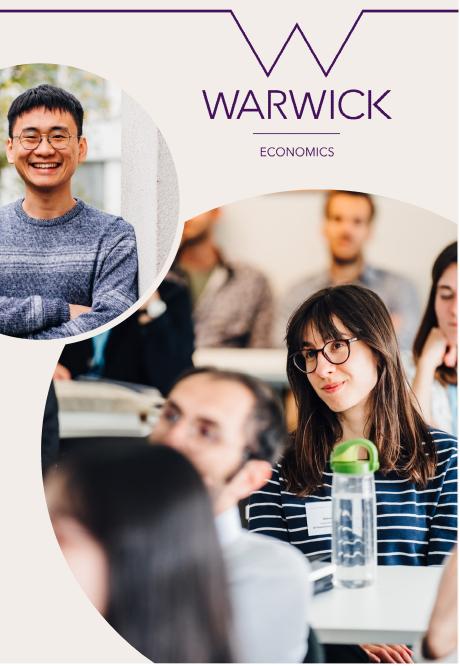
**1st** in the Good University Guide 2023 We ranked 2nd

in the UK in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021





View more key statistics



#### We focus on:





## Things to do during induction



- Look at the <u>induction timetable</u>
- Read the <u>induction checklist</u> for guidance on the key things to do in your first few weeks
- Check out our <u>MSc web pages</u>
- Look at <u>My.Warwick</u>
- Spend some time reading the <u>MSc Student</u> <u>Handbook</u>





#### Welcome week

- Welcome week runs from 25 September 1 October and is a programme of events and activities to help settle in and adapt to life at Warwick.
- Although the week is primarily aimed at students not taking a pre-sessional course, you are very welcome to sign up for events during the weekends and in your free time next week.
- Further details are given at: <u>Welcome Week | University of</u> <u>Warwick</u>

#### **Introductory Maths & Statistics**



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#### EC961 Moodle resources

- Lectures take place in this room from 2.00-5.00pm today and then from 10.00am-1.00pm tomorrow
- Classes will start from 2.00pm-5.00pm tomorrow
- Your allocated class will be published in <u>Tabula</u> at 5.00pm this afternoon





## **Introductory Maths & Statistics**

- There will be online multiple-choice (MCQ) tests in Moodle
- Test 1 on Monday 25 September (12.00-1.00pm)
- Optional second attempt for Test 1 on Monday 2 October (12.00-1.00pm).
   We will use your highest mark.
- Test 2 on Wednesday 4 October (9.00-12.00pm)

#### Test weighting in the Econometrics modules

Course	Test 1	Test 2
MSc Economics	4%	8%
MSc EIFE	4%	8%
MSc BES	8%	12%

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#### **Introductory Maths & Statistics**

- If you require extra time for tests/exams due to reasonable adjustments, please register with <u>Disability Services</u>
- This will officially enable us to give you the required extra time.
- Please also let the Postgraduate Office know so they can arrange with IT to give you extra time for the online tests (economics.pgoffice@warwick.ac.uk).

#### Your MSc Programmes

- MSc Economics
- MSc Economics and International Financial Economics
- MSc Behavioural and Economic Science (Economics Track)



# **Overview of the year**

#### Autumn Term

- Focusing on core modules
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics (Econ/EIFE) or Psychology modules (BES)
- Econometrics (continues in Spring Econ/EIFE)

#### **Spring Term**

Applying skills and exploring deeper ideas

- Research Methods (Econ/EIFE)
- Optional modules

#### **Summer Term/vacation**

Developing the skills needed to carry out original research in economics

- Dissertation (Econ/EIFE)
  - Submission deadline 11 Sept 2024
  - Proposal 24 June 2024
  - Proposed title and supervisor: 8 April 2024
  - Start thinking about a topic: Now!
- Project (BES)
  - Submission by end of August 2024





# **Teaching and Learning**

- The year will go by very fast!
- Research-led teaching
- Moodle will be used to allow for personalised teaching, shared use of resources and interactive learning
- Many modules have a sign-up resource to help you form study groups
- 15 CATS module means 150 hours of study consisting of contact hours and independent study

## **Delivery of Teaching and Learning**



- Most teaching will be in-person in the Autumn Term via weekly synchronous lectures and Support and Feedback classes
- This may be supplemented by pre-recorded asynchronous lectures on some of our modules.
- Teaching in the Spring Term will be based on a blended learning approach, which combines in-person and online interactions
- The balance between classroom and online elements will vary between modules.



#### **Course structure: MSc Econ & MSc EIFE**

	Pre-term	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3 & Summer
Required Optional core		EC901 Microeconomics A or EC9D3 Microeconomics B <b>30 CATS</b>	3	
Required Optional core		EC9D4 Macroeconomics A or EC9D5 Macroeconomics A <b>30 CATS</b>	Α	
Required Optional core	Pre-sessional Maths and Stats	EC902 Quantitative Methods: Econometrics A or EC910 Quantitative Methods: Econometrics B 45 CATS		
Options		Three optional modules (list varies between courses) <b>15 CATS each</b>		
Research			Research Methods	EC959 Dissertation <b>30 CATS</b>



#### **Course structure: MSc BES (Econ Track)**

	Pre-term	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3 & Summer
Optional core		EC901/EC9D3 Microeconomics A or B <b>30 CATS</b>		
Optional core	Pre-sessional Maths and Stats	EC907/EC987 Quantitative Methods: Econometrics A or B <b>30 CATS</b>		
Core		PS922 Issues in Psychological Science <b>15 CATS</b>		
Core		PS923 Methods and Analysis in Behavioural Science <b>15 CATS</b>		
Options			Five optional modules from the course list <b>15 CATS each</b>	
Research				PS916 Research Project <b>30 CATS</b>



## **Optional Core Modules**

- Register for Micro A and Macro A if you have studied typical undergraduate modules in Micro/Macro
- Take Micro B and Macro B if:
  - You have a first-class undergraduate degree
  - You have strong Maths ability (>=60% on EC961 Test 2)
  - You have strong analytical skills or intend to do a PhD
- AB/BA combinations should not be taken without good grounds (such as previous very asymmetric training/ experience in macro and micro)





# **Optional Core Modules**

- Econometrics A covers fundamental econometrics research skills.
  Econometrics B will supplement the development of these key professional skills by looking at more advanced topics.
- Take Econometrics B if you are familiar with (or are prepared to fill in any gaps on your own):
  - t and F tests of linear restrictions;
  - Heteroskedasticity and Serial correlation;
  - Estimation in the presence of above problems;
  - Dummy variables;
  - Exogeneity vs Endogeneity.



# **Optional Modules**

- See <u>Handbook</u> and the <u>MSc webpage</u> for available options
- Provisionally choose three from your list (differs between variants). MSc BES choose five modules.
- Then, you must register your provisional option choices with University via <u>eMR</u>. The system opens on 27 September.
- Follow the onscreen instructions and see the registration guidance
- Deadline: Monday 16 October
- Module choices automatically update on Tabula



## **WBS Modules**

- For MSc Econ, MSc EIFE: one IB-coded WBS module can be chosen:
  - IB9X7 Derivative Securities
  - IB9Y2 Behavioural Finance (also available to MSc BES)
  - IB9Y4 International Financial Management
- You must register for one of these WBS modules on eMR if you are interested
- BUT: numbers on these are capped, random selection used in the case of excess demand! If you are selected, you can't then change your mind.



#### **WBS Modules**

- WBS modules are challenging technical courses
- EC modules 62% average mark WBS 54%
- To take these modules, you must have a strong mathematics and statistics/econometrics ability, and have studied relevant topics at UG level e.g. Asset Pricing/ Corporate Finance
- If you have done little maths or stats/econometrics before your MSc, please avoid these modules
- If, by Monday 16 October, you realise you have struggled in Maths/Stats or the Term 1 core modules, do not sign up for these modules

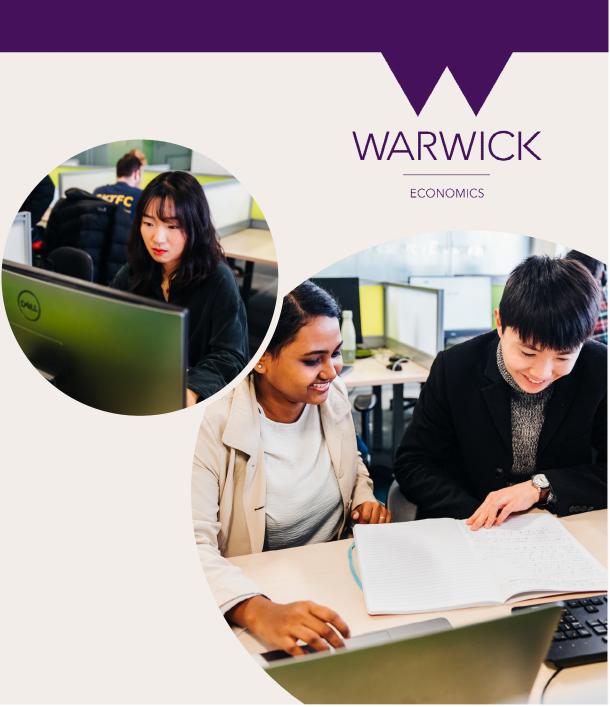


#### **Further module information**

- Attend the Presentation of Options meeting to hear from those teaching Economics modules on Friday 6 October
- Information on MSc BES optional modules in Psychology and WBS can be found in the <u>module catalogue</u>
- The PG Office can make changes on eMR for you during first three weeks of the Spring Term (apart from IB-coded modules)
- Possible an option might not run due to low numbers.
- EC991 Topics in Applied Microeconomics is not running in 23/24.

#### Assessments

- Modules are assessed by a mix of methods in the form of formal examinations and coursework, including:
  - Problem Sets
  - Essays
  - Modelling and Data Analysis
  - Class Presentations
  - Research Projects



#### Feedback

#### Coursework

- Marks returned within 20 days with written individual feedback
- Generic feedback is given for larger modules, including a CDF showing the mark distribution

#### **Exams**

- Marks released in February and June
- Generic exam feedback after
   September resits
- Those resitting will see their exam script (some exceptions)

# Other feedback sources

- Problem set solutions
- Support and Feedback classes
- Advice and Feedback hours
- Revision classes





#### Marking criteria

• The pass mark for modules is 50%

Marking and Exam Schemes

- The mean mark for our core modules is typically around 62%
- To obtain a mark of 70%, your work needs to be very good
- Although we do use the full marking scale of 0% to 100%, in practice marks of above 80% are quite rare (<10%, typically).</li>

#### **Exam Schemes**

- You need to pass at least 150 CATS, including all required core modules, and achieve at least 40% in any failed module(s)
- Progression to dissertation is not automatic: it depends on the number of failed exams



## **Degree classification**

- Degree classification is based on your weighted award average
  - ≥ 70.0% Distinction
  - 60.0-69.9% Merit
  - 50.0-59.9% Pass
  - ≤ 49.9 Fail
- This marking scale is typical for the UK, but might be unexpected for anyone who has studied abroad. Please become familiar with it.



#### Attendance

- You are expected to attend all your lectures and classes
- We want to be sure that you are coping with your work and not falling behind
- We ask that you meet fourteen <u>Monitoring Points</u>
- You will be contacted should we become concerned about your missed Monitoring Points or class attendance record
- You can submit a maximum of 2 absence per year because of short-term illness using the <u>self-certify sickness form</u>
- Email completed forms to <u>economics.pgoffice@warwick.ac.uk</u>

# Supporting You

- Personal tutors; your allocated tutor will be shown in Tabula and meetings take place in week 1
- Senior Tutor is Dr Mahnaz Nazneen
- Academic & Pastoral Support Drop-in sessions during induction (see <u>timetable</u> for details)
- Wellbeing drop-in sessions in term time
- If you are having problems on a module, see the lecturer or class tutor first
- Then, bring it up with your student representatives







#### **Mitigating Circumstances**

- If you need to miss an exam or test due to illness or personal problems, please use the Personal Circumstances portal in Tabula to inform us
- Read about <u>self-certification</u> for deadlines
- Specific coursework extension requests (with supporting evidence) can also be submitted through Tabula
- These are subject to approval by the Postgraduate Office.



#### Institutional Support

- Wellbeing Support Services
- The University Health Centre
  - Please register with a GP before you get sick
  - NHS 111 service: dial 111 for non-emergency fast help
- The Students' Union
  - Nightline service: 9pm to 9am student-run listening service
  - 02476522199
- Student Information Centre
  - Enquiries about Student Records, Student Finance and Accommodation

## **Academic Support**



- Learning to Learn in Economics
- Academic study skills
- Maths/Stats weekly drop-in sessions
- Refresher Maths for Economics
- Stata Helpdesk

- Advice and Feedback Hours
- Dissertation Helpdesks
- Economics Librarian
- Compulsory training courses
  - Introduction to Referencing
  - Avoiding Plagiarism

Full details are given on our <u>Academic Support</u> webpage





# **IT Support**

- Guide for new students
- For help contact the <u>IT Services Help Desk</u> or <u>Economics IT</u> <u>support</u>
- Keep your files safe in the cloud with <u>OneDrive</u> or your H:Drive. Don't save your work on your laptop
- Use <u>OneNote</u> for lecture notes and other material
- <u>STATA</u> both Econometrics A and B use it exclusively
- Introductory Moodle courses:
  - <u>STATA</u>, <u>LaTeX</u>, <u>R</u>

### **Study Facilities**

#### **Department of Economics**

- Study Rooms
  S1.136, S1.138, S1.139 & S1.140
- Kitchen S1.129
- Common Room S1.131 & S1.133
- Group Work S1.135 (book in advance)
- Bloomberg S0.55 (<u>book in advance</u>)
  University
- PG Hub and Library



## International Students

- There is a webpage for <u>international</u> <u>students</u>, which includes <u>immigration advice</u>
- Welcome sessions for international students on Wednesday 4 and Friday 6 October
- Student visa holders:
  - Limited to working 20 hours per week
  - Full time jobs or internships in the vacation periods are not permitted
  - <u>Change of study location</u>: Students should remain in the UK until the end of the Summer Term.

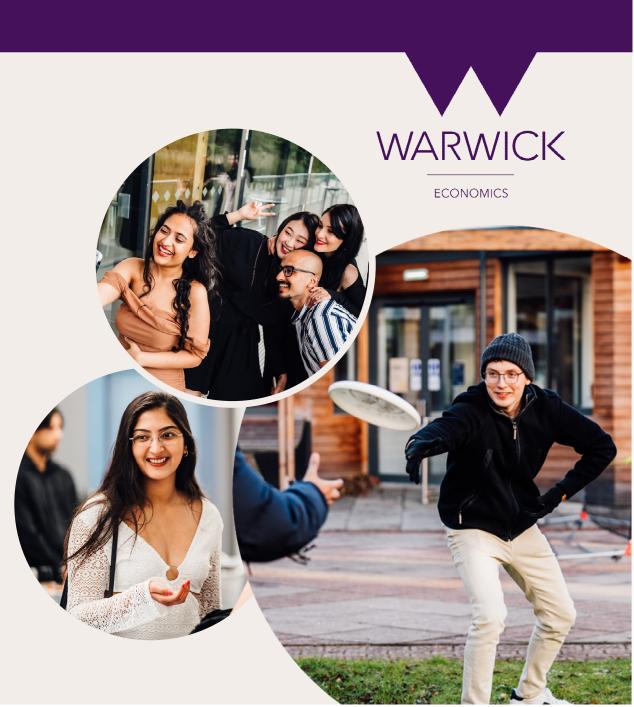






# **Beyond Study**

- Warwick Economics Lecture Series
- Social Events
- Student Societies
- Student Opportunity
- Graduate Student Staff Liaison Committee (GSSLC): please consider nominating yourself as a student representative
- Sport: Football and Volleyball



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#### Careers

- Check out our <u>website</u> and <u>Student Careers</u>
- Attend the Careers Session on Friday 6 October

**Preparing for Life After Warwick** 

- Finance roles: Sept/Oct deadline
- Internship Scheme (WISE)
- Job vacancies advertised via MS Teams (details to follow)

#### Employability

- Networking: <u>mentoring</u> and <u>LinkedIn Groups</u>
- Key skills from your degree are explained in the <u>handbook</u>
- Look at the <u>Warwick Award</u>
- IT skills training
- English Language skills
- Foreign language skills

# Finally

You must be fully enrolled to attend any teaching

If you have not already done, please go to the Student Opportunity Hub and the PG Office to complete your University and Departmental enrolment

#### Today

- Lectures: 2.00-5.00pm
- Welcome Reception: 5.00-6.00pm in the Chancellor's Suite

#### **Tuesday-Friday**

- Lectures: 10.00am-1.00pm
- Classes 2.00-5.00pm (see <u>Tabula</u> for details)





# Thank you Any questions?

