

Graduate Connection

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September 2022

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Graduate Student Handbook

The Department's *Graduate Student Handbook* containing the Department's policies and degree requirements is reissued each summer. Find it under [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) on our website.

Welcome to our First-Year Students!

Welcome. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to meet other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF event held most Fridays at 5:00PM in the light court (room 3322).

This newsletter is published three times a year about September 1, December 1, and March 1. It contains department news, descriptions of field courses available in the following quarter, listings of special events, and reminders of various administrative deadlines.

News

Faculty Changes

We welcome two new faculty this Fall.

Elisa Jácome has research interests in labor economics and public economics. She received her PhD at Princeton University. She is in room 3445.

Diego Känzig has research interests in macroeconomics and

macro-finance, with a focus on climate change and inequality. He received his PhD from the London Business School. He is in room 3449.

Three existing Northwestern faculty have expanded their ties to the Department. **Ben Golub** and **Annie Liang** are now full time in the Economics Department. Previously, they had joint appointments with the Department of Computer Science.

Kirabo Jackson, a longstanding faculty member in the School of Education and Social Policy, now has a quarter-time joint appointment in the Department. When he is in the Department, he can be found in room 3365 which he shares with Emeritus Professor Ron Braeutigam.

Congratulations to **Lori Beaman** and **Mar Reguant** on their promotion to Full Professor, and to **Piotr Dworzak** on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. **Ben Golub** has been promoted from Associate Professor without tenure to Associate Professor with tenure.

We are sorry to say goodbye to two faculty members. **Seema Jayachandran** has joined Princeton University and **Guido Lorenzoni** has joined the University of Chicago.

During the summer several faculty members moved offices:

- Piotr Dworzak to 3359
- Giorgio Primiceri to 3439
- Silvia Vannutelli to 3431

On leave this year away from Evanston are **Matthias Doepke** at the London School of Economics for the entire year, and **Mar Reguant** in Barcelona for the Fall and Winter Quarters,

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Faculty Leadership

Robert Porter has taken over as department chair for a three-year term. We are appreciative to **Joseph Ferrie** for his service as chair for the past three years. The remainder of the management team is unchanged:

Ian Savage: Associate Chair

Marciano Siniscalchi: Director of Graduate Studies

Lori Beaman and **Giorgio Primiceri:** Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions

Alessandro Pavan: Director of Graduate Placement

Robert Gordon: Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

Mark Witte: Director of Undergraduate Studies

Ivan Canay: Chair of the Junior Recruiting Committee

Staff Changes

There have been considerable changes in our staffing in the past four months including several well-deserved promotions.

Michelle Obuhanich, our Director of Finance and Administration took a position at the University of Michigan. She was succeeded by **Christy Anderson** who returns to the department after serving until the summer of 2021 as our Assistant Director of Administration and Undergraduate Student Services.

Our search for a Graduate Program Manager, vacant since Alison Stoute took a position in Kellogg in January, led to the promotion of **Lola Ittner**.

This led to the promotion of **Kayla Johnson** to coordinator of conferences, seminars, and faculty support, and to the hiring of **Mariya Acherkan** to our main office.

Max Kaulich the IT specialist assigned to our Department has taken a job outside the University. NUIT is currently working to fill the position.

Faculty Honors

Kirabo Jackson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also taking over as the lead editor of the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Nemmers Prize

The University has announced that the 2022 winner of the Nemmers Prize is **Ariel Pakes** of Harvard University. The biennial honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. More information on his visit(s) to the department in the coming two academic years and any lectures and events will be provided in future editions of the *Graduate Connection*.

Start of Year Reception

Our start-of-year reception for faculty, staff and graduate students is on Friday afternoon September 23 from 4PM to 6PM in White Auditorium on the second floor of our building. Our traditional awards will be handed out. See details in the "Events" section.

Visitors and Postdocs

Faculty visitors this year include full year visitors economic historian **Brian Beach** from Vanderbilt University and theorist **Romans Pance** from ITAM in Mexico.

Visiting us for the Fall Quarter are development economist **Lakshmi Iyer** from the University of Notre Dame, and labor economist **Edoardo Maria Acabbi** from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

We have two postdocs who are here for the entire academic year. Economic historian **Lukas Rosenberger**, who got his PhD from the Munich Graduate School of Economics, is a postdoc in the Center for Economic History. Development economist **Sarah Deschênes**, who

received her PhD from the Paris School of Economics, is spending her second year with us.

Look for updates on visitors in Winter and Spring Quarters in the December and March editions of the *Graduate Connection*.

Graduate Studies Committee

The Graduate Studies Committee is a forum for feedback from graduate students to the faculty on the graduate curriculum, programming, and administrative processes. It meets each quarter.

There are three student representatives:

- A 2nd year
- A 4th or 5th year
- A 3rd or 6th year

Nominations for the coming year, including self-nominations are due at [this link](#) by September 9. If necessary, online elections are on September 12-16.

The other members of the committee are DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi** as chair, **Lori Beaman** and **Giorgio Primiceri** (Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions), **Alessandro Pavan** (Director of Graduate Placement), **Ian Savage** (Associate Chair), **Christy Anderson** (Business Administrator), and **Lola Ittner** (Graduate Program Manager).

Students are encouraged to share concerns and suggestions with their representatives.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee is a departmental committee chaired by **Lori Beaman** with faculty, staff, and PhD student members. The committee leads diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in faculty and staff hiring, PhD program admissions, and our undergraduate program. The committee seeks feedback from graduate students on their experiences in the PhD program and

as a teaching assistant. It also seeks ideas for DEI programming.

Please reach out to Professor Beaman or **Myera Rashid** and **Tomer Yehoshua-Sandak** the graduate student representatives.

For Your Information

Department Staff

Christy Anderson - Director of Finance and Administration

James Harrington - Assistant Director of Administration and Undergraduate Student Services

Lola Ittner - Graduate Program Manager

Rita Savakis - assists Graduate Program Manager

Kayla Johnson - Events Coordinator / Faculty Administrator

Mariya Acherkan – Main office

John Affrunti – Accounts

Position Vacant - IT Specialist

Help and Support

A listing of help and support resources, both within the department and within the university, is in the [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) part of our website. If you have any suggestions for additional topics, please tell **Lola Ittner**.

Graduate Student Opportunities Website

The Department has a web page for graduate students with information on:

- Conferences
- Resources at NU
- Fellowships
- Programming at NU
- Events outside NU
- Counseling Services (CAPS)
- Job Opportunities

See the weekly update e-mail or visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/nuecon-grad-opportunities/home>

For Our First-year Students

Information on goals for first-year students, with answers to many frequently asked questions, is posted on our web site in the [Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals](#) section.

The Graduate School has a language testing regime for Teaching Assistantship (TA) eligibility. TAships are the primary form of financial support in years two through four. Please place a high priority on making sure that you meet the language requirement. In the past, otherwise qualified students have run into funding difficulties because they did not meet the language requirement.

For Those on the Job Market

The department's program to assist students on the job market has already started. Make sure you have a copy of our *Job Market Handbook* that contains a timeline of events and deadlines. If you are planning to go on the market and you have not been in contact with Director of Graduate Placement **Alessandro Pavan**, please contact him and **Lola Ittner** immediately.

Events

TGS Resource Fair

TGS is holding a resource fair designed for incoming PhD students on the second floor of Norris University Center from 1PM to 3PM on Friday September 23. [Register](#) in advance (by Monday 19th) for raffle prizes.

Start-of-Year Get Together

Faculty, staff, graduate students, are invited to a welcome back reception on Friday, September 23 from 4:00PM to 6:00PM in White Auditorium on the second floor of our

building. Heavy appetizers and drinks will be served.

We will award the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards, the Bies Essay awards, and the Eisner Fellowship.

E-mail invitations have been sent out. Book your spot through [this form](#).

Teaching

This Years' Course Offerings

The schedule for graduate courses for the coming year is shown on the [Graduate > Class Schedules](#) page of our web site, along with the timings for each quarter.

Maintaining Full-time Status

You must be registered for at least three course credits each quarter to be considered a full-time student.

First year students are automatically full time in Fall, Winter, and Spring as they are registered for 410, 411 and 480.

For students in years 2 and 3 in Fall, Winter, and Spring Quarters, if you are registered for two courses add 1 unit of Economics 590. If you are registered for one or zero courses add TGS 500. TGS 500 is listed for zero credits but assures fulltime status (and allows registration in up to one course).

Students in years 4 and above should register for TGS 500 (or TGS 512 in certain circumstances) which is considered a full-time registration.

Students in all years should register for TGS 500 in summer quarter.

Registering for Research Workshops

While it is not part of the formal degree requirements, attending research seminars is probably one of the most valuable aspects of your graduate education. You get to meet leaders in each field and observe the

cutting edge of new research. We suggest that starting in your second year, students should regularly attend one or more of our workshop series. As a signaling and commitment device you can formally register for one or more of these series. These registrations are offered in Fall and Spring Quarters. Look for course numbers between Econ 515 and 580.

Incomplete Grades

Excessive incomplete grades result in you being placed on probation by TGS. We have a policy to avoid the problem of excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our [web site](#) for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

This Quarter's Course Descriptions

Advice on Field Sequences

The Department has guidance on [acceptable field course sequences](#). These are posted in the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > Second and Third Year Goals section of our website.

Department of Economics Classes

Economics 412-1

Economic Theory and Methods

Professor Dworzak

TTh 1:30-3:20

KGH 3301

This course is a review of recent papers applying theoretical tools (mechanism design, information design, game theory) to important financial market design issues such as the optimal frequency of trade, size and price discovery, pre- and post-trade transparency, design of financial benchmarks, stress tests, and cryptocurrencies.

The course is suitable both for theory students who had little prior exposure to finance and for theory-minded finance students who would like to expand their toolkit.

Evaluation is based on in-class participation, presentation of a research paper, and a research proposal.

Economics 414-1

Economics of Information

Professor Liang

TTh 3:30-5:20

KGH 3301

The course covers papers and methods related to information and learning, for example: modeling information and knowledge, decision problems, the Blackwell order, Bayesian learning, model uncertainty, social learning, and dynamic information acquisition.

Evaluation is based equally on an in-class presentation and three problem sets.

Economics 416-1

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Känzig

MW 3:30-5:20

KGH 3301

This is a course on modern empirical macroeconomics, covering recent advances on identification and how micro data can be used to better understand macro phenomena. It surveys the recent surge in empirical work in macro and discuss how putting more emphasis on research design combined with more and better data has improved credibility and transparency, and how the new evidence can help to discriminate among competing theories.

The course has the aim to build up empirical tools and bring students to the research frontier. It covers two distinct approaches to empirical macro. The first exploits time-series variation for identification, exploiting narrative, high-frequency or other external information, and is top-down:

identifying the macro effect and then mapping out the heterogeneous effects. The second approach is bottom-up: starting from micro data, such as cross-sectional or panel data on households, firms, or regions, to estimate a partial-equilibrium effect and impose additional structure to back out the aggregate effect. Throughout the course covers exciting applications, ranging from the transmission of monetary and fiscal policy to the aggregate and distributional effects of energy price shocks and climate policy.

Evaluation is based on homework assignments, an original research proposal, and a presentation of a preliminary research project or an important existing paper.

Students who took Econ 416-1 previously and wish to take this course for credit, should register for an independent study with Prof Känzig as Econ 499-0-44.

Economics 425-1

Development Economics

Professor Beaman

MW 9:00-10:50

KGH 3301

The goal of the course is to introduce the central issues in development economics and to explore the application of microeconomic analysis, using theory and econometrics, to gain deeper insights into these questions. Applications relate to empirical microeconomic issues in developing countries. The course covers topics including health, education, gender inequality, corruption, labor markets in developing countries, and social networks. Empirical methods are emphasized throughout.

Evaluation is based on referee reports, in-class presentations, small exercises throughout the quarter, and a research project.

Economics 436-1

Public Finance

Professors Jackson and Vannutelli

Wk 1-5: MW 3:30-5:20 TCH F280

Wk 6-10 Th 1:00-3:50 ANN 101

Note the timing of this class has been altered to avoid a time conflict with ECON 450-1.

The course provides a broad overview of some of the most important topics in public finance, with a focus on recent research as well as areas that have been overlooked for a while and could be revived.

The first part of the course (Prof Vannutelli) starts with a general overview of the role of government in the economy and thinking about modern methods to compare the welfare impacts of different policy intervention. It then moves to how governments finance themselves through taxation, covering issues related to how should tax systems be designed, how individuals and firms respond to taxation and who bears the cost of tax changes, how tax evasion affects the optimal design of taxes and transfers and how can governments fight tax evasion.

The course then discusses the structure of governments, exploring issues of local public finance, analyzing why some policies in many countries are carried out by local governments, and how to design and evaluate place-based interventions.

The second half of the course (Prof Jackson), analyzes government spending in more depth, exploring mostly issues related to the economics of education. This part of the course also analyzes problems related to the assessment of public goods and public service provision such as the difficulty of measuring performance and quality of public goods.

The key objective of this course is to give student a sense of how to concretely conduct research in this area, so evaluation is based on a combination of tasks that researchers carry out in their daily lives such as

replication of existing papers, referee reports, in-class presentations, and a final (brief) research proposal.

Economics 450-1

Industrial Organization

Professors Illanes

MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 1410

This course is an introduction to industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. The first few weeks are devoted to theory. Topics include static and dynamic oligopolistic price / quantity competition, entry, collusion and antitrust.

The remainder of the course is devoted to empirical analysis. Topics include tests of market power and collusion, estimation of production functions, estimation of demand functions, and empirical studies of differentiated products industries.

Evaluation is based on a number of problem sets and a final exam.

Economics 481-1

Advanced Econometrics

Professor Horowitz

MW 5:30-7:20pm KGH 1410

The Bootstrap in Econometrics. This course explains and illustrates the usefulness and limitations of the bootstrap and why it matters in applied research. The course covers the theory of the bootstrap, provides numerical examples of its performance, and illustrates its uses in applied research. The course also explains how the bootstrap can be applied to time-series data. There are simple instructions on how to implement the bootstrap in applications.

There are occasional problem sets. Every student must write a one-page memo each week summarizing what was done in class that week. In addition, each student must write a paper and make a presentation of some course material to the class. There are no examinations.

Students who took Econ 481-1 previously and wish to take this course for credit, should register for an independent study with Prof Horowitz as Econ 499-0-38.

Economics 482

Applied Time-Series Econometrics

Professor Primiceri

TTh 11:00-12:50 KGH 1410

This course is on empirical macroeconomics, with a focus on Bayesian methods in macro models. The emphasis is motivated by the increased popularity of this methodology, which is gradually becoming the dominant paradigm in macro/time-series empirical work. Topics include methods for prediction with big data and large information sets, reduced-form, and structural Vector Autoregressions (VARs), state-space models, time-varying parameters and stochastic volatility models, estimation of linear and nonlinear dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models, model comparison and model choice.

Evaluation is based on homework assignments, and a final presentation of a recently published paper or a preliminary research project.

Economics 483

Applied Microeconometrics

Professor Bugni

TTh 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This course covers classical methods and references in nonparametric and semiparametric econometrics. The nonparametric part of the course studies the estimation of a density, conditional expectations, conditional quantiles, and the additive separable model. The course considers both kernel and sieve estimation methods. The semiparametric part studies the partially linear model, the semiparametric single-index model, and the binary response model.

Evaluation is based on problem sets and a research proposal.

Other Departments' Classes

See the Department's field sequence rules before registering for any of these classes.

Finance 584

Introduction to Econometrics
Professor Todorov

This is a Kellogg first-year course and is not appropriate as an Economics field course.

Finance 585-1

Asset Pricing I
Professor Skiadas
WTh 9-10:30 KGH 4302

An introduction to competitive asset pricing theory. Topics include arbitrage pricing, mean-variance analysis, competitive equilibrium, and optimal consumption / portfolio choice. There is equal emphasis on sound economics and well-motivated methodology, which includes an introduction to continuous-time methods of arbitrage pricing and dynamic consumption and portfolio choice with recursive utility.

There is an online textbook available from the class website. Evaluation is by weekly problem sets.

Finance 586-1

Corporate Finance I
Professor Vig
F 9:00-12:00 KGH 4302

The objective of this course is to provide an in-depth introduction to both theory and empirical work in modern corporate finance. Students are expected to be familiar with basic notions in finance, contract theory, and econometrics.

The starting point is the irrelevance of capital structure result of the Modigliani-Miller (MM) theorem. The

course then looks at a series of departures from MM such as moral hazard, adverse selection, debt overhang, bankruptcy costs, illiquid markets, bank runs, intermediation, safe assets, and debt maturity.

Evaluation is based on problem sets, referee reports and a final exam. While there is no primary textbook, some of the static models are based on Jean Tirole's *The Theory of Corporate Finance* (Princeton U.P., 2006).

MECS 540-1

Political Economy I
Professor Persico
T3:30-6:30 KGH 4130

Budget Deficits: A Political Economy View. This class reviews the economic and political-economic literature on budget deficits. It covers theoretical and empirical papers on topics including economic and politico-economic models of government debt; the impact of debt on growth; the effect of fiscal rules; and sovereign defaults. The emphasis is on recent developments in the field. The course is designed to be complementary with Public Finance and Macroeconomics.

Evaluation is by written assignments and class participation.

MECS 549-1

Technology & Innovation
Professor Spulber
T 10:00-1:00 KGH 5424

The course covers the economics of technology and innovation. Topics include research and development (R&D) races, contests and tournaments, innovation competition, digital platforms and multi-sided markets, R&D, incentive contracts for invention and innovation, adoption and diffusion of technology, markets for technology, intellectual property (patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets), and entrepreneurship. The course also considers antitrust

and public policy implications of technology and innovation. The course focuses on economic theory but includes discussion of how to obtain data and how to conduct empirical analysis of technology and innovation.

Evaluation is based on a short research paper. The paper can be empirical or theoretical and in the style of the student's field and department. The instructor will provide help, guidance, and suggestions on how to choose a topic and prepare the short paper.

MECS 550-1

Economic Theory: Decision Theory
Professor Al-Najjar
W 5:15-8:15 KGH 4301

This is a course on the theory of individual decision making under uncertainty. The material covered falls into the following broad topics: (1) classical axiomatic foundations, (2) ambiguity, (3) intertemporal choice, (4) social welfare with heterogenous beliefs, and (5) learning and testing.

Evaluation is based on class participation, class presentation of one of the papers on the reading list, and Homework.

The required textbook is *Notes on the Theory of Choice* by David Kreps (Avalon, 1988).

MECS 551-1

Health Economics
Professor Dranove
TTh 12:00-1:30 KGH 4273

After an introduction to the institutions of healthcare markets, students read and discuss health economics research in the areas of medical R&D, as well as research at the intersection of health economics with organizational economics, information economics, industrial organization, and antitrust economics. Each class features a combination of lecture and student presentations of

seminal papers. Students are also introduced to a wide variety of healthcare data sources and begin work on an original empirical research project to be completed during the second course of the sequence,

Evaluation is based on the presentation of research papers, in-class discussions, a research proposal, and final exam.

The second course in the sequence is Econ 436-2 with Professor Schnell in Winter Quarter.

MECS 560-1

Static Optimization in Economics
Professor Chaves
M 3:00-6:00 KGH 4302

The course covers optimization techniques that arise in economic applications. The focus is on convex optimization. The first half introduces the theory of convex optimization, duality, and Karush Kuhn Tucker theory in Euclidean spaces, with some pointers to infinite-dimensional issues. The second half is comprised of applications to mechanism design, statistics, game theory, and finance.

The textbook is *Convex Optimization* by Boyd and Vandenberghe (Cambridge, UP, 2004) that is available free online. Evaluation is based on class participation, a midterm exam and a final exam.

MECS 570-1

Economics of Organizations
Professor Powell
TTh 9:30-11:00 KGH 5201

This course is an introduction to research in organizational economics, which can be succinctly described as the economics of managed relationships. This course focuses on theories of incentives, adaptation, and firm boundaries, with the aim of understanding how firm practices affect and are affected by the broader economy. The main practical

emphasis is on developing applied modeling skills.

Evaluation is by an in-class presentations of a recent paper.

The required text is *The Handbook of Organizational Economics*, edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, (Princeton U.P. 2013).

COMP_SCI 497-0-08

Special Projects in Computer Science
Professor Hartline
F 2:00-4:50 TCH M349

Data economics. As data science transforms science and society, it is important to develop the economics of data. Collecting data is costly, possessing data gives market power, sharing data has risks and benefits, conclusions from data depend on data quantity and quality. The readings of the course will be drawn from the recent and classic literature Topics include valuing data, eliciting data, incentivizing data collection and sharing, adaptive data analysis, and game theory with data.

Students will prepare and lead discussions on the papers selected. Evaluation is based on a survey paper and a preliminary study for a research project.

Economics 501 Seminar

This year the seminar is run by Professor Wolinsky in the Fall Quarter and Professor Pavan in the Spring Quarter. The random drawing of the order of student presentations was in the March *Graduate Connection*.

Fall Presentation Schedule

The seminar is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00AM to 11:50AM, and on some Fridays from 2:00PM to 2:50PM, all in KGH 1410.

The specific dates are:

Week	Mon 11-12	Wed 11- 12	Fri 2-3
19-Sep	No Class	Nunes Fava	Higuera Corona
26-Sep	Poblete Coddou	Ferrara	Fedchenko
3-Oct	Fisher	Jaramillo Rojas	No class
10-Oct	Sardon	Bainwala	Fluegel
17-Oct	Mosillo	Di Tommaso	Chopra
24-Oct	Pizzimenti	Pisauro	No class
31-Oct	Ohi	Berrutti Rampa	No class
7-Nov	Okumura	Fu	Ruzzante
14-Nov	Crippa	Huang	Durazzo
21-Nov	Jardanovsk	No class	Thanksgiving
28-Nov	Sims	Iakovlev	Ramakrishnan

Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible with the permission Professor Wolinsky.

Administrative Requirements

Full practical details are on our [web site](#). Note that:

1. Students must register for Econ 501 P/N in the Fall and Spring of their third year. Two pass grades are necessary to meet the Department's research paper requirement.
2. The signed [approval form](#) must be returned to the Graduate Program Manager within two weeks of the presentation or by the Friday of exam week, whichever is earlier. At least one of the faculty signing must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.
3. A "pass grade" is issued based on the signed approval form and satisfactory attendance (see below).

Attendance Policy

Economics 501 is designed to be an interaction between the presenter and peer students. It is mandatory that all third-year students attend every Economics 501 seminar. However, things do come up, so we have formalized how we treat excessive absence. "Excessive absence results in an "N" grade being assigned for the

Spring Quarter registration. Excessive absence is defined as being absent from more than 10% of the combined number of sessions in the Fall and Spring Quarters. (For example, we expect 53 sessions this academic year, so absence from six or more sessions is considered excessive absence.) A student is considered absent irrespective of the reason or whether the instructor had been notified in advance. A student assigned an "N" grade for this reason can have the grade changed to a "P" by attending in the following Fall Quarter three sessions for each absence above 10%. (For example, a student missing seven sessions in a year with 53 sessions has to make up six sessions, calculated as $3 \times (7 - 5) = 6$.)"

Next Spring Quarter

Specific dates for the Spring Quarter will appear in the March *Graduate Connection*. However, the (random) order of presentations was included in last March's edition and is:

Ruzzante, Matteo
Pizzimenti, Cristoforo
Mosillo, Ludovica
Di Tommaso, Valerio
Huang, Shuyan
Jardanovski, Gabriel
Sims, Christopher
Nunes Fava, Bruno
Fluegel, Nina
Sardon, Sebastian
Okumura, Kyohei
Ferrara, Andrea
Higueras Corona, Jose
Ohi, Pedro
Fisher, Tom
Pisauo, Giovanni
Berrutti Rampa, Juan Felipe
Iakovlev, Andrei
Crippa, Federico
Fedchenko, Danil
Fu, Kenneth
Chopra, Hershdeep
Jaramillo Rojas, Elizabeth
Ramakrishnan, Radhika
Bainwala, Vageesha
Poblete Coddou, Sebastian

Formal Announcements

TA Periods in Residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department does not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights to be able to fulfill your duties. This is especially true as you make travel arrangements for the coming holiday season. Failure to do so is grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the coming year, the dates for which you should be in attendance are:

Fall: Tues Sept 20 - Mon Dec 12

Winter: Tues Jan 3 - Mon March 20

Spring: Tues March 28 - Mon June 12

Graduate School Deadlines

Deadlines for students wishing to receive a MA or PhD degree in December.

October 21: Application for a Degree.

November 18: Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.

December 2: Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

Human Subjects Research

Even though we are a social science rather than a medical science, it is possible that government restrictions on the privacy of human subjects may apply to your PhD dissertation. If you are collecting new data, or even using previously collected data, on individual identifiable people, then you may have to get prior approval for your research from Northwestern's Institutional

Research Board. You should read the Submitting to IRB > Getting Started section of their web site to see if it applies to you:

<https://irb.northwestern.edu/>

The web site also includes information on the approval process if that is necessary.

Students Working on NSF Grants

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires all students supported by them to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This is accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi** and **Lori Beaman** lead the face-to-face part of the class.

Funding

Non-Departmental Funding

There are several funding awards that have application deadlines during the Fall Quarter. We have listed some on a page in the [Graduate > Funding](#) section of our web site. In particular, NSF Fellowships are available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents and have a deadline of late October.

Funding for Research-Related Travel and Expenses

TGS has available funds to pay for research expenses and for travel to conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000. There is funding for two conferences during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a maximum of \$800 for each conference. Full details of the application procedures and links to

application forms are on the [funding web page](#).

One of the necessary conditions for obtaining TGS conference support is the commitment of the department to contribute \$200 in matching funds to the expenses if a student's application is successful. The Department contributes \$100 from the Eisner account and requires that the other \$100 is covered by the student's advisor.

Placement Report

Best wishes to our job market candidates from last year as they start their professional careers (academic appointments are in the economics department except where indicated):

Brendon Andrews - University of Alberta

Riccardo Bianchi Vimercati – PIMCO, Newport Beach, CA

Modibo Camara – Stanford University (business school)

Matteo Camboni - University of Wisconsin

Mario Cannella – Bank of Italy

Junyan Guan - Compass Lexecon, Chicago

Honn Tai Lam - University of California Los Angeles (Business School)

Jiachen Ma – T3 Trading Group, New York City

Matteo Magnaricotte - University of Chicago (Crime Lab)

Kristina Manysheva – Columbia University (business school)

Joris Mueller - National University of Singapore

Michael Porcellacchia - Kiel Institute for World Economy, Germany

David Stillerman – American University (business school)

Yunus Topbas - Peking University, China

Francesca Truffa - University of Delaware (postdoc at Stanford University)

Benjamin Vatter - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Business School)

Ashley Wong - Tilburg University, The Netherlands (postdoc at Stanford University)

Graduation Rates

The first table shows the percentage of each class making it to completion of first year classes, achieving candidacy (passing qualifying examinations), defending a dissertation prospectus, and completion of the Ph.D.

Class	First Year	Cand- idacy	Pros- pectus	Ph.D.
2006	88%	73%	69%	65%
2007	96%	86%	79%	75%
2008	89%	85%	81%	74%
2009	100%	85%	77%	69%
2010	96%	81%	67%	63%
2011	90%	85%	75%	70%
2012	100%	90%	90%	90%
2013	97%	90%	83%	79%
2014	100%	88%	71%	71%
2015	95%	80%	75%	75%
2016	96%	77%	77%	69%
2017	93%	87%	83%	na
2018	100%	88%	81%	na
2019	91%	91%	na	na
2020	100%	100%	na	na
2021	96%	91%	na	na

For the 248 students entering in the ten-year period between 2006 and 2015, on average 95% completed the first-year classes, 84% completed candidacy, 77% defended a dissertation prospectus and 73% received a doctoral degree. One of these students is still registered and may yet obtain a Ph.D.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 2006 and 2015. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take up a job. The mean is 5.99 years, and the median is 6 years.

Duration	Number of Students
4 years	2
5 years	33
6 years	123
7 years	14
8 years	7
9 years	1
10 years	1

Notes

Office Allocations

The carrel selection process was completed in August. Students move between now and the start of classes. Check your email detailing how you can pick up metal keys and when the access lists for rooms with electronic access will be updated.

The carrel rooms contain small lockers that function in the same way as a hotel safe. Users select a 4 to 8 digit code. Instructions can be found on the [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) page of our web site. First year students using the locker room (3486) must provide their own padlock(s).

Keys

If you are having problems with your Wildcard accessing electronically-controlled exterior and wing-entry doors in the building, please see the Business Administrator. If you lose your Wildcard you need to contact the Wildcard office.

If you lose the key to your office door key or the key to your carrel drawers, we charge a \$15 replacement fee for each.

Printing and Copying

Instructions for installing drivers on your computer to print to the copiers in room 3320 are posted in the [Graduate](#)

> [Current Student Resources](#) section of our website. Your usercode is your 7-digit NU student ID number. You can also use this code to make walk-up copies on the copy machines.

Graduate students are given an allowance of 500 copies/prints per calendar month. You are billed each month at 6¢ a page for any excess above 500.

You will be given a separate code for any prints / copies made as part of teaching assistant duties.

First Year Group Meeting Rooms

There are six rooms assigned as group meeting rooms for first year students (3192, 3196, 3478, 3482, 3488 and 3494). We do not have a formal booking system in place for these rooms but could introduce one if problems emerge. Currently usage is based on first come – first served. It is inappropriate for groups to lay permanent claim to a specific room. Belongings should not be left in the rooms when not in use. Lockers are provided in room 3486 for storage.

E-mail Group Mailing Lists

The Department has four group mailing lists. The group mailing list for graduate students is:

<econ-grads@northwestern.edu>.

There is also a list called

<econ-1stys@northwestern.edu>

which is for first year students. Do not mail to both lists as the second is a sub-set of the first.

Note that these are “closed” lists to avoid spam postings. To post to the lists you must use your @u.northwestern.edu e-mail address. Mail from other addresses (e.g., gmail) is automatically rejected.

Coffee Machines in Pantry

There are coffee machines in the pantry that can either brew espresso or regular coffee. The machine

requires capsules that you need to provide yourself.

Next Graduate Connection

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