Northwestern | Department of Economics

Graduate Connection

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Graduate Student Handbook

The Department's *Graduate Student Handbook* containing the Department's polices 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

New Placement Director

Walker Hanlon is joining **Ben Golub** as one of the Co-Directors of Graduate Placement. Assigning two co-directors reflects the growing activities in preparing our students for the market and working with recruiters. He replaces **Robert Porter**.

Faculty News

Joel Horowitz retired at the end of the last academic year but remains active in the Department as an emeritus professor.

Congratulations to **Piotr Dworczak** on his promotion to Full Professor, and to **Gaston Illanes**, **Harry Pei** and **Molly Schnell** on their promotions to Associate Professor with tenure.

Frank Limbrock has transitioned from a joint appointment with Kellogg to a full-time position in Economics as an Associate Professor of Instruction.

We have a quite a few faculty members away on leave for the entire year. **Silvia Vannutelli** won a Hoover Fellowship and will spend the year at Stanford University. Also away for the year are **Piotr Dworczak**, **Diego Känzig**, and **Harry Pei**. **Abi Adams** is on maternity and family leave in Fall and Winter quarters, and **Molly Schnell** in Fall and Spring quarters. **Jim Hornsten** and **Marciano Siniscalchi** will both be away on leave in the Fall Quarter. **Eddie Dekel** will be away on leave in Winter Quarter.

We bid farewell to **Mar Reguant** who is now full-time in Barcelona but remains as an adjunct faculty member at NU, **Kunal Sangani** who is moving to Columbia University and **Garima Sharma** who is moving to the University of California Berkeley.

Staff News

After decades of service **Rita Savakis** left the University. Through her work supporting the graduate program, Rita guided and supported generations of graduate students and faculty with care and commitment. We are waiting for authorization to initiate a search for her replacement.

Nemmers Prize

The winner of the biannual Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics is **Whitney Newey** of MIT. He is visiting the department for a month starting in late October.

During the visit he is giving his Nemmers lecture on October 27. In addition, he is teaching a short course of four lectures. More details on both in the events section.

On May 7 and 8, 2027 we host a conference related to Prof Newey's work. More details in the March *Graduate Connection*.

Annual Holiday Reception

Our annual reception is in the late afternoon of **Thursday December 3** in White Auditorium on the second floor of our building. Our traditional awards are handed out. See details in the events section.

Visitors and Postdocs

We welcome four visitors for the Fall Quarter. Theorists **Jan Knoepfle** from Queen Mary University of London and **Jian Li** from Iowa State University. We also welcome labor economist and former faculty member **Sergio Urzua** from the University of Maryland, and IO economist **Chuan Yu** from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In addition, Nemmers Prize holder macroeconomist **Whitney Newey** is in residence from October 26 to November 23.

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 18. If necessary, online elections are on September 21-25.

The other members of the committee are DGS **Federico Bugni, Ben Golub** and **Walker Hanlon** (Co-Directors of Graduate Placement), **Igal Hendel (**Co-Director of Graduate Admissions), **Ian Savage** (Associate Chair), **Marciano Siniscalchi** (Co-Director of Graduate Admissions), **Christy Bullion** (Business Administrator), and **Lola Ittner** (Graduate Program Manager).

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

For Your Information

Faculty Leadership Team

Jeffrey Ely: Department Chair
Ian Savage: Associate Chair
Federico Bugni: Director of Graduate Studies
Igal Hendel and **Marciano Siniscalchi:** Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions
Ben Golub and **Walker Hanlon**: Co-Directors of Graduate Placement
Jeffrey Ely: Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee
Mark Witte: Director of Undergraduate Studies
Vivek Bhattacharya: Chair of the Junior Recruiting Committee

Department Staff

Christy Bullion - Director of Finance and Administration
Samantha Westlake-Hart - Assistant Director of Administration and Undergraduate Student Services
Lola Ittner - Graduate Program Manager
Mariya Acherkan - Events Coordinator / Faculty Administrator
Maggie Hendrix – Main office
John Affrunti – Accounts
Steve Messick - IT Specialist

The assistant position to the Graduate Program Manager is currently vacant.

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 refreshed and moved the server for the web page with information on:

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

See the weekly e-mail or visit: the webpage.

For Our First-year Students

Information on goals for first-year students, with answers to many frequently asked questions, is posted on our website 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 Co-Directors of Graduate Placement **Ben Golub** and **Walker Hanlon**, please contact them and **Lola Ittner** immediately.

For Those Serving as RAs or TAs

The department has handbooks for those serving as Research Assistants (RAs) or Teaching Assistants (TAs). In addition to containing practical information, these documents contain information on these positions required as part of the collective bargaining agreement with NUGW-UE. These manuals are an integral part of your appointment letters. Read them at:

- Teaching Assistant Manual
- Research Assistant Manual

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 website to see if it applies to you. The website also includes information on the approval process if that is necessary.

Using Undergraduate Research Assistants

If you are considering using undergraduate research assistants to assist in aspects of your doctoral research such as data collection, some caution is advised. The university discourages work with undergraduate students on a volunteer (unpaid) basis. Northwestern has guidelines on undergraduate research participation:

After reviewing the policy, please discuss with the Director of Finance and Administration, before moving forward. Note that it is generally inappropriate to have an employment relationship (paid or unpaid) with an undergraduate who is also in a class in which you are serving as a teaching assistant.

Calendar & Events

2026-27 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Wed** Sept 23 - Fri Dec 11
Winter: Mon Jan 4 - Fri March 19
Spring: **Tues** March 30 - Fri June 11

Graduate School Deadlines

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

October 23: Application for a Degree.
November 20: Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.
December 4: Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

Thanksgiving

The University is closed on Thanksgiving Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving (November 26 and 27).

Upcoming Holiday Season

Friday December 11 – Last day of Fall Quarter exams
Monday December 14 – Grades due - TAs must be available in Evanston until 3pm
Thursday December 24 – University closed for Winter Recess
Monday January 4 – University reopens
Monday January 4 – First day of Winter Quarter. TAs must be in Evanston to commence duties

Teaching Assistant Training

If you are a TA for the first time or missed the previous year's program, you must attend a half-day training organized by the Department specifically for Economics TAs.

This is held on **Friday September 18** in room 3301.The schedule is:

- 10am-Noon: Workshop led by **José Lara**, an accomplished TA in the Department.
- Noon-1pm: Lunch Break
- 1pm-2pm: Panel discussion with experienced TAs from different fields.

NU-Toulouse IO Conference

The 22nd Joint CSIO / Toulouse School of Economics conference on industrial organization is on **Friday, September 25 and Saturday, September 26** in KGH 5101. Further details at the **event website**.

REStud North American Tour

The REStud North American Tour, recognizing the most promising graduating doctoral students, stops at Northwestern on **Wednesday**

October 14. The tourists this year are **Adrien** Couturier (LSE), **Bjoern** Höppner (Bonn), **Amen** Jalal (Harvard), Ananya **Kotia** (LSE), and **Haoyuan Zeng** (Zurich). The sessions run from 8:30AM to 3:30PM in KGH 1420/30. The schedule is at this link. Register at this link.

Winter RA Appointments

Winter Quarter funding encompasses the December, January, and February paychecks. The last day for notifying us of any changes to your existing funding for Winter is **October 15**. Examples are obtaining or extending an RAship we did not already know about, or obtaining new external funding.

American Capitalism History Conference

The Center for Economic History is organizing a conference around the theme *American Capitalism: 250 Years of Growth of a Successful Economic System*. The conference is on **Friday and Saturday, October 16-17** in KGH 1410.

The final conference program is forthcoming. It features both keynote addresses on broad interrelated themes and recent research on specific aspects of these themes.

Nemmers Lecture

The Nemmers lecture by **Whitney Newey** is at 4:00PM on **Tuesday, October 27** in KGH 1410. All faculty, staff and graduate students are invited. No reservations required. A reception follows in the Light Court (KGH 3222).

Nemmers Mini-Course

Whitney Newey is offering a short, specialized course in econometrics. A series of four lectures occurs over two weeks in early November in KGH 33301. Look for an announcement nearer the time.

Holiday Party & Awards

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are invited to a holiday reception on **Thursday, December 3** from 5:00PM to 6:00PM in White Auditorium on the second floor of our building. Heavy appetizers and drinks are served.

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

Look for e-mail invitations and an RSVP form later in the quarter.

Save the Date

Thursday April 8 – Prospective PhD Visit Day

Friday / Saturday May 7/8 – Nemmers Conference for Whitney Newey

Teaching

This Years' Course Offerings

The schedule for graduate courses for the coming year is shown on the Graduate > Class Schedules page of our website, 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 full-time 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 website 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 Strulovici
MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

This course covers optimal control and stopping theories and their applications to economic problems. It starts with an introduction to stochastic processes, stochastic calculus, and stochastic control, with a focus on continuous time, including topics such as the smooth pasting condition, the Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman equation, and the Martingale Representation Theorem. The techniques are then applied to models such as optimal portfolio choice in finance, optimal entry/exit decisions in IO, and dynamic principal-agent models.

Students also see how to establish comparative statics results in dynamic models, such as monotonicity of the value function and of the optimal stopping time or optimal control, as well as other properties of the value function (convexity, homogeneity). The course also covers models of optimal learning and experimentation, including a study of the multi-armed bandit problem, and an application to labor economics.

Evaluation is by problem sets, a paper presentation, and the submission of a research project or review paper.

Economics 425-2
Development Economics
Professor Udry
MW 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301

Students intending to write their thesis in development economics or intending to represent themselves as such in the job market should take this course along with MECS 540-4 (Spring 2027) and 425-1 (Prof. Beaman, Fall 2027). All other students can take two out of the three.

The goal is to introduce students to central issues in development economics and to explore the application of microeconomic analysis to gain deeper insights into these questions. The primary focus is on empirical research, emphasizing the interplay between theory, observation, experimentation and estimation and testing. The course examines how research programs grow from these interactions within and across papers. Topics this year include household organization, gender, agriculture, technological change, risk and finance.

Students are expected to read and comment on all the required reading and to participate in class discussion. Evaluation is based on a series of assignments (referee reports and presentations) and a personalized writing assignment.

Economics 440-2
Labor Economics
Professor Jãcome
MW 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This class covers core topics in the field of labor economics and offers an overview of approaches for thinking about the determinants of income. The first few weeks focus on human capital investment, persistence of income across generations, and the importance of neighborhoods and local shocks. The second half covers the economics of immigration, discrimination, and crime. Classes consist of lectures in addition to class presentations and discussions.

Evaluation is based on a class presentation, two practice referee reports, a research paper proposal, and class participation. The proposals are presented in the final two classes to gain feedback from peers.

Economics 450-1
Industrial Organization
Professors Bhattacharya
TTh 11:00-12:50 KGH 1410

The course covers the background theory of industrial organization but focuses on empirical analysis. Topics include estimation and identification of demand systems, extensions of demand analysis in the context of matching, price discrimination, search, and auctions.

Evaluation is based on problem sets and a final paper.

Economics 460-2
International Economics
Professor Christiano
TTh 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

The course focuses on recent developments in high-frequency, open-economy macroeconomics. The field is evolving rapidly. Until recently, there was a clear consensus associated with the names of Mundell and Fleming (M-F). However, the behavior of the global economy appears inconsistent with the M-F model.

Among recent developments, the course discusses the failure of interest rate parity conditions as well as the models used to make sense of those failures (Itskhoki-Muhkin, Gabaix-Maggiori). The course also discusses the conditions necessary for foreign exchange operations to be effective, as well as the role of balance sheets in propagating the effects of shocks. The so-called dominant currency paradigm is discussed, as well as the critique of that paradigm.

The course also studies the short and long-run effects of tariffs, both when just one country imposes a tariff and when other countries retaliate.

In any macro discussion, it is important to lay out the set of facts that you want to explain. The course discusses the use of time series methods and high-frequency estimates of monetary policy shocks, to construct these facts.

Economics 482
Applied Time-Series Econometrics
Professor Primiceri
TTh 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301

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), local projections (LP) and LP-IV, 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 take-home final exam, or a final presentation of a recently published paper or a preliminary research project.

Economics 498-1
Advanced Topics in Economics
Professor Hanlon
TTh 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This course satisfies the department's economic history requirement and can be combined with Econ 420-2 (Winter 2027) or ECON 420-1 (Spring 2027) for a sequence in economic history.

Topics in Economic History. The class surveys high-quality recent work in economic history. It covers a wide range of topics including technology, trade and industrial policy, long-run growth, institutions, culture, demography, urbanization, and gender.

In addition to providing an overview of important recent work in economic history, the course seeks to teach the nuts-and-bolts of developing a successful research paper, including how to come up with a good question, how to develop that into a successful research project, and how to structure a research paper.

This is a reading-intensive course based entirely on recent academic papers. Students are expected to read several papers a week and come to class ready to discuss them. Students are also responsible for one or two in-class presentations.

Evaluation is based on class participation, in-class presentations, and the production of one full-length research paper due one year after the end of the class.

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
TTh 1:00-2:30 KGH 4273

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
Professors Benmelech & Matvos
F 9:00-12:00 KGH 4302

This course introduces major topics in corporate finance. The scope is to learn some of the most prominent models of capital structure, financial contracting and financial intermediation and to discuss empirical papers that are related to the theories covered in the class.

MECS 540-1
Political Economy I
Professor Persico
T 5:30-8:30PM KGH 4301

This class is designed as an introduction to the field of political economy. The class covers models, stylized facts, and empirical findings.

Covered topics include: the function of the state; freedom, collective action, and morality; models of voting; nondemocracies; bureaucracies and state capacity; separation of powers and civil society, including media and activism; budget deficits; and the political role of business organizations.

After taking this class, students should be able to generate their own research ideas and position them within the broader field of political economy.

MECS 540-2
Political Economy II
Professor Baliga
W 5:30-8:30PM KGH 4418

Note: MECS 540-1 is not a prerequisite.

This course offers a theoretical treatment of conflict. Strategic interaction within and across nations involves conflict and cooperation. Disagreement between a country's population and its leadership can cause internal conflict, oppression, and terrorism. Disagreement between countries can lead to war, costly arms races and impede economic development. Conflict often arises even though there is some cooperative solution that satisfies all the relevant actors.

The course studies the fundamental causes of conflict (positive analysis) and possible solutions that create cooperation (normative analysis).

Evaluation is based on in-class presentations of papers or new research ideas that might form part of a dissertation.

MECS 560-1
Static Optimization in Economics
Professor Sandroni
T 5:00-8:00PM KGH 5201

This course introduces static optimization techniques in the context of economic analysis. The focus is on understanding and applying mathematical methods to solve optimization problems that arise in economics. Topics include unconstrained and constrained optimization, duality, and applications in consumer and producer theory.

Students are encouraged to bring topics and applications that are of interest (e.g., decision theory, game theory, matching models, welfare economics, principal-agent models, mechanism design, auctions, statistics, finance, social choice). They are incorporated in the course as special topics.

MECS 570-1
Economics of Organizations
Professor Powell
F 1:30-4:30 KGH 5301

In addition to MECS 470-1 and 570-2, a new course MECS 571 Personnel Economics (Winter 2027) can also be used to form a sequence in the economics of organizations.

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 presentation of a recent paper.

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

Econ 501 Seminar

This year the seminar is run by Professor Olszewski in the Fall Quarter and Professor Pavan in Spring Quarter.

Fall Schedule

The seminar is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00AM to 11:50AM. The reserve time of Fridays from 2:00PM to 2:50PM looks like it is not needed this fall.

The draft schedule, based on the random order in the March *Graduate Connection*, has been available online since late July. Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible, using the online spreadsheet.

Administrative Requirements

Full practical details are on our website. 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 39 sessions this academic year, so absence from four 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 five sessions in a year with 39 sessions has to make up six sessions, calculated as 3x(5-3)=6.)"

Next Spring Quarter

The draft assignment of people to dates and times are announced by e-mail on February 1. The (random) order of presentations was included in last March's edition and is:
Gutmann, Michel
Carney, Adelyn
Ash, Elizabeth
Lam, Nguyen
Wu, Tylor
dos Santos, Joao
Sourisseau, Nicolas

Sanchez Pena, Lara
Cristovao Nascimento, Sergio Andre
Firmin, William
Adams, Jason
Nourbash, Ethan
Leitloff, Patrick
Dong, Jingze (Alex)
Leksanov, Dimitriy
Schwerz Cahali, Arthur
Endo, Hiro
Hinchberger, Andrew
Cufre, Maia

Funding

Winter Quarter Funding

Winter Quarter funding encompasses the December, January, and February paychecks. The last day for notifying us of any changes to your existing funding for Winter is **October 15**. If you obtain a new external fellowship, send the details and your offer letter to the Graduate Program Manager. If you are being appointed as a stipend Research Assistant, the faculty member fills in an online form detailing the funding source for the RAship.

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 website. In particular, NSF Fellowships are available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents and have a deadline of mid-October.

Funding for Research-Related Expenses

TGS has available funds to pay for research expenses. The maximum one-time research grant is $3,000. Full details of the application procedure and links to application forms are on the research-related expenses web page. These awards are made twice a year. The next deadline is October 19.

Funding for Conference Expenses

TGS also has funds available for travel to conferences. 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 research-related expenses web page.

A special note. TGS allocates a budget every three months for conference travel. If you are planning conference travel in the period September 1 – November 30, you should apply immediately as applications are denied when the budget runs out. For travel between December 1 and February 28, the application portal opens on October 16.

Additional Work

It is possible for Fellowship holders to supplement their fellowship by working for hourly pay as a research assistant, tutor, grader, proctor or performing other administrative tasks for a maximum of 20 hours per week. The 20 hours a week is the aggregate of all paid work from all sources combined. For all but the most minimal assignments (< $600) requires a permission to work form to be filed with TGS.

Students funded as TAs or as stipend RAs are already presumed to be working for 20 hours a week, and additional paid work is not allowed.

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):

Vageesha Bainwala: Amazon, Seattle
Hershdeep Chopra: London School of Economics, UK (postdoc)
Federico Crippa: University of California Berkeley
Bruno Fava: Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros (CEMFI), Madrid Spain
Danil Fedchenko: University of Melbourne, Australia
Andrea Ferrara: Bank of Italy
Luxi Han: Amazon, Seattle
Jose Higueras: Penn State University
Elizabeth Jaramillo-Rojas: Inter-American Development Bank
Gabriel Jardanovski: Analysis Group, Chicago
Miguel Jorquera: Cornerstone Research, Chicago
Ludovica Mosillo: Inter-American Development Bank, Washington D.C.
Cristoforo Pizzimenti: PIMCO, New York City
Radhika Ramakrishnan: Cornerstone Research, Chicago
Johanna Rayl: University of California Berkeley (Agricultural and Resource Economics) (postdoc)
Matteo Ruzzante: Luiss University, Rome, Italy
Sebastian Sardon: Uber Technologies, San Francisco
Christopher Sims: Xiamen University, China

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.
2010	96%	81%	67%	63%
2011	90%	85%	75%	70%
2012	100%	90%	90%	90%
2013	97%	90%	83%	83%
2014	100%	88%	71%	71%
2015	95%	80%	75%	75%
2016	96%	77%	77%	73%
2017	93%	87%	83%	83%
2018	100%	88%	81%	81%
2019	91%	91%	78%	78%
2020	100%	100%	96%	85%
2021	96%	96%	96%	na
2022	100%	100%	95%	na
2023	100%	96%	na	na
2024	100%	100%	na	na
2025	100%	95%	na	na

For the 246 students entering in the ten-year period between 2010 and 2019, 96% completed the first-year classes, 86% completed candidacy, 78% defended a dissertation prospectus, and 77% received a doctoral degree.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 2010 and 2019. 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 6.03 years, and the median is 6 years.

Duration	Number of Students
3 years	1
4 years	3
5 years	15
6 years	148
7 years	17
8 years	4
9 years	0
10 years	1

Building and Facilities

Office Allocations

The carrel selection process for students in years two and above was completed earlier this summer. Students should move before 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 was 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 website.

Keys

If you are having problems with your Wildcard accessing electronically controlled exterior and wing-entry doors in the building, please see the Graduate Program Manager. 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.

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.

First Year Locker Room

Lockers for first year students are in room 3386. Students provide their own padlock(s).

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.

Information Technology

Printing / Copying / Scanning

The access system for our printers / copiers / scanners in room KGH 3320 was updated during Spring. Place your Wildcard on the reader to log in.

Instructions including those for installing drivers on your computer to remotely print are posted in the Graduate > Current Student Resources section of our website.

Use the same account for all your needs including for any work done as part of TA or RA duties. We do monitor all accounts each month for fraudulent activity.

E-mail Group Mailing Lists

The Department has six group mailing lists. The group mailing list for graduate students is: <econ-grads@northwestern.edu>. There is also a list called <econ-1styrs@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.

IT Help and Support

To request help and service from NUIT e-mail:
servicedesk@northwestern.edu
or see Steve Messick in room 3285.

Next Edition

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