Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Economics		
2. Award type	Bachelor of Arts		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 6	**Mode of Study:** Full time	**Duration:** 3 years
4. Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences		
5. School	**Owning:** School of Economics		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100450 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code (internal use)	ECNU02		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	Produce graduates with a comprehensive and rigorous understanding of core economic principles and methodologies, equipping them with the ability to apply economic reasoning to a wide range of theoretical and applied issues.
A2	Develop a student's ability to apply economics to decision-making in individual, firm, and policy contexts, considering trade-offs, uncertainty, and limited resources.
A3	Develop students with grounding in quantitative, mathematical, and statistical skills, and provide opportunities to apply these to real-world economic problems.
A4	Enable students to engage in a research-led learning environment, gaining exposure to academic and policy research while developing the ability to critically evaluate economic theories and methods based on academic literature.
A5	Prepare graduates for employment or further study by cultivating key intellectual and professional skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration and teamwork.

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	Demonstrate an understanding of core economic concepts, principles, theories, and modelling approaches, and apply them effectively in academic and research contexts.
K2	Exhibit proficiency in quantitative methods and techniques, applying them to analyse a wide range of economic issues.
K3	Acquire and critically evaluate economic data, selecting and applying appropriate analytical methods to draw meaningful insights.
K4	Apply economic reasoning to assess and inform public and private policy decisions with a critical and evidence-based approach.
K5	Understand and evaluate how economic analysis operates within wider historical, political, institutional, international, and environmental frameworks.
K6	Develop expertise in selected areas of economics, demonstrating awareness of current research and various approaches to economic problem-solving.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
S1	Construct independent arguments supported by evidence, critically evaluating data, methods and economic theories.
S2	Apply quantitative techniques, using statistical software to analyse data where appropriate,

	interpret results, and assess the limitations of the analysis.
S3	Define and solve technical problems, proposing solutions even when clear answers are not available, and understanding the conditions under which viable solutions may exist.
S4	Communicate ideas clearly, accurately, and persuasively in both written and oral forms across various contexts, adapting to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
S5	Work independently and manage time effectively, ensuring deadlines are met and tasks are completed with a high degree of responsibility and initiative.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Economics is concerned with understanding the allocation, distribution, and utilisation of resources, as well as their impact on economic and social well-being, through the use of data, theoretical models, and analytical tools. Our BA Economics programme provides students with a strong foundation in core economic theory, and mathematical and statistical methods, equipping them with the critical thinking and analytical skills needed to explore complex economic issues. As students progress through the programme, they transition from studying fundamental economic principles to applying their knowledge in a diverse range of applied modules in their final year.

The programme's core content is designed to gradually build students' knowledge and skills in alignment with the learning outcomes. In the first year, students cover foundational courses in economic theory, mathematics, and statistics, providing a solid base for further study. The second year builds on this by covering intermediate macroeconomics, intermediate microeconomics, whilst continuing to develop foundations of econometric understanding across two econometrics modules. In the third year, students go on to choose a range of applied modules, allowing them to explore how core economic and econometric methods can be used to explore a range of applied areas of economics. These include a core applied module (Economic Policy and Practice) and a structured independent research project. Both these modules allow students to apply their core economic training to real world topics, where they will have to convey their findings in a range of formats. This flexible structure allows students to specialise in areas of interest while maintaining core training in economics and econometrics. Throughout the programme, students select optional modules, where an emphasis is placed on applying economic theories to real-world topics.

A variety of teaching methods are employed, including lectures, workshops, computer classes, and small group tutorials. Lectures deliver subject-specific knowledge and encourage critical reflection, while seminars/workshops/tutorials provide opportunities for student-teacher interaction to deepen understanding. Computer classes help students develop quantitative skills and proficiency in relevant statistical software. Module materials include lecture notes, videos, questions, activities, and examples to strengthen links between theory and practice. Independent study is a key component of personal development, which has increasing emphasis through the programme. Throughout the programme students will be encouraged to work independently, and where appropriate, collaboratively as part of a team. Students will be supported in this progression via academic tutoring and the use of Consultation and Feedback Times.

To support student learning, the programme will feature formative assessments, which provide students with opportunities to test their understanding and receive feedback.

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Outcomes are assessed using a variety of methods tailored to the module and level of study. The programme employs an appropriate mix of coursework (including essays and reports), unseen examinations (both end-of-module exams and mid-module class tests), and oral presentations. Throughout the programme, statistics and econometrics modules include assessments that require students to demonstrate proficiency with statistical and econometric software.

Examinations are used to test knowledge and understanding of the theories, concepts, principles, and empirical research in economics, while coursework (including essays and reports) is used to assess students' knowledge of theoretical issues, provide opportunities to apply theoretical concepts in practice (e.g., through data applications), and enable them to develop a critical understanding of existing empirical research.

To help develop transferable skills, the programme integrates work-related learning and requires students to present and communicate in various formats, including academic writing, statistical reports, policy briefs, posters, infographics, and verbal communication.

Throughout the programme, reflection on the development of Sheffield Graduate Attributes is embedded, with opportunities for students to assess and develop their skill development.

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			November 2019
2			April 2021
3			September 2023
4	Programme Simplification	26/27 - Year 1	June 2025

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