

## Program Overview

Over 60 students from a variety of colleges and universities around the world are enrolled in the Economics Department's graduate program. Faculty members are highly accessible and classes are small (typically five to 20 students), emphasizing student-faculty interaction. Regularly scheduled seminars and workshops allow visiting speakers, departmental faculty and senior graduate students to present on-going research. Assistantship opportunities for exceptional PhD students provide additional practical experience in teaching and research.

The department offers an MA and a PhD program, with approximately 10 graduate courses each semester. Students may also enroll in finance courses in the School of Management as well as in courses in public administration (PAFF) through the College of Community and Public Affairs. Our emphasis on applied empirical work prepares students for a wide variety of careers in the academic, governmental and private sectors both here in the U.S. and abroad.

**Application Instructions** (Please read this section carefully before submitting your application or before emailing us with your questions.)

**The economics department does not consider applications submitted via email. The only way to be considered to admission is by using our application portal: <https://gograd.binghamton.edu/apply/>.** PhD students in economics do not select their advisors until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the PhD program, so there is no need to contact faculty members prior to applying. Individual faculty members cannot admit students on their own, so sending an email to a faculty member will not improve the probability of being admitted.

**If you would like to request an admission fee waiver, please follow these instructions.** First, you must start your application and upload all necessary documents. You should not submit your application or pay the application fee. Next, once you upload *all* application documents, email [econgradadmission@binghamton.edu](mailto:econgradadmission@binghamton.edu) with information in support of your waiver request two weeks before the application deadline. We have a very limited number of waivers available, and we generally allocate those shortly before the application deadline. If you are not successful in receiving an application fee waiver, you will need to pay the full application fee before the application deadline for your application to be complete.

If you have questions about the department or the admissions process, please email [econgradadmission@binghamton.edu](mailto:econgradadmission@binghamton.edu). If you have logistical questions about your application (e.g. required paperwork, forms, etc.), please contact the Graduate School at [gradadmission@binghamton.edu](mailto:gradadmission@binghamton.edu). If you have questions related to the international student status (visas, I-20 or DS-2019 forms, etc.), please email the International Student office at [iss@binghamton.edu](mailto:iss@binghamton.edu).

**Applications and admissions timeline.** The application deadline is listed here: <https://www.binghamton.edu/admissions/graduate/apply/deadlines.html>. Generally, it is in the end of January or beginning of February. Our admission decisions are made in late February or early March.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Do PhD students get funding?  
A: Most of our PhD students are fully funded through teaching assistantship. They cover tuition and living expenses.
2. Q: Do I need to apply for funding separately?  
A: No. You only submit one application, and admission and funding decisions are made jointly.
3. Q: Can I submit my unofficial transcript during the application process?  
A: Yes. However, an official transcript is required at the time of admission, prior to enrollment.
4. Q: I have a degree from an English-speaking country. Do I need to take TOEFL?  
A: No. See the Waiver Eligibility section here: <https://www.binghamton.edu/admissions/graduate/apply/international-students.html>
5. Q: Do I need to secure/look for a Faculty member before I can apply and secure an Assistantship in the form of TA/RA?  
A: No. In economics, students choose their advisors during their studies (usually during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year), and all applicants go through the same centralized admission process (i.e. individual faculty members cannot admit their own PhD students). There is no need to get in touch with faculty members prior to the start of your studies.
6. Q: Can I request an application fee waiver?  
A: We have a very limited number of fee waivers available and distribute those later in the process. Please go ahead and upload all necessary documents for your application on the application website, but do not submit the application and do not pay the application fee. We will let you know later in the process whether you will receive a waiver.
7. Q: Can I request a GRE waiver?  
A: No. GRE scores are an integral part of our review process. You may submit unofficial scores at the time of application, but you will be asked to submit your official scores prior to receiving an offer of admission.

8. Q: Is there a required minimum GRE or TOEFL score?  
A: The minimum TOEFL iBT score for international students is 80, per the university rules (<https://www.binghamton.edu/admissions/graduate/apply/international-students.html>). There is no minimum required GRE score, but most of the admitted students have the quantitative GRE score of 150 or above.
9. Q: I already hold a Master's or PhD degree from another institution. Can I receive a second degree from Binghamton University?  
A: The State University of New York policy states that a second degree at the same level (e.g., master's or doctorate) can be awarded only when a significant amount of additional course work in a very different field is completed. Normally when a student has already earned a master's or doctorate in a given discipline (e.g., economics or history) at another foreign or U.S. institution, a second degree at the same level in that discipline cannot be earned at Binghamton University.