

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (AND ANSWERS)

FOR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

What classes will I be taking?

Most graduate students take three or four credit courses for a total of 12 credits, but *some* students will take 13 or 14 credits. All first year Economics **MA students** are required to take ECON 500, Microeconomic Theory, ECON 502, Econometrics and ECON 503, Math Analysis for Economists, during their first semester. **PhD students** are required to take ECON 611, Microeconomic Theory I, ECON 613, Macroeconomic Theory 1 and ECON 615, Economic Statistics. Any international student whose admission is provisional on taking ESL will be required to take the recommended ESL class as a fourth course. **PhD students** who want to increase their mathematics skills are encouraged to consider taking ECON 603, Advanced Mathematical Analysis for Economists, which is offered free of charge prior to the start of the semester. It will continue as a one-credit course during the semester, and students who plan to continue **must register themselves** if you have not already been registered.

What books are required for the courses I will be taking?

Information regarding the books for the courses indicated above can be found through the links in the [Schedule of Classes](#).

How do I register?

All new students will be registered for the three required courses by the Economics Department over the summer. Students who need additional fall courses, such as ECON 603, Advanced Mathematics for Economists, will need to register themselves on-line. You may contact the department for assistance if needed.

The Student Accounts office is responsible for all billing and payments. Information on **FALL 2017** billing procedures can be found at <http://www.binghamton.edu/student-accounts/paypro.html>. PLEASE NOTE that bills for tuition and fees will not be created until AFTER you are registered – the Economics Department will register you for MOST of your courses as described above. These bills will be sent to your BINGHAMTON e-mail address (see below). Students who have been offered assistantships should deduct the tuition amount from the bill if it has not already been deducted. All students are responsible for paying any fees. These are not covered by tuition scholarships.

NOTE: All students **MUST** confirm their enrollment on-line via the registration software known as the BU Brain. The office of Student Accounts will be providing information regarding this procedure at a later date. **YOU MUST DO THIS EVEN THOUGH THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT DID THE INITIAL REGISTRATION FOR YOU.**

What should I do if I have questions regarding my bill that are not addressed above?

You should e-mail the Student Accounts office at stuacct@binghamton.edu

How can I send and receive e-mail when I arrive at Binghamton?

You **MUST** claim and set up your new Binghamton e-mail as soon as possible and before coming here. IT IS IMPORTANT for you to know that the Economics Department will **ONLY** use your Binghamton address in communicating with you after you arrive on campus. Other university offices are sending important information to that address already. You can learn your account information and new e-mail address at <https://its.binghamton.edu/email>, <http://www.binghamton.edu/grad-school/new-and-current-students/new-graduate-students/index.html> or <https://password.binghamton.edu/>. If you prefer another e-mail system you may set up your Binghamton e-mail to forward to that system. Students may access their Binghamton e-mail and other internet accounts from the public computer **PODs** around the campus. **PLEASE BE AWARE** that internet based e-mail accounts often view information sent to multiple accounts (such as our graduate student listserv) as spam, so you should take steps to make sure you receive all e-mail sent by the university.

Do I have to take the ESL test?

Only those international students whose admission is **PROVISIONAL** are required to take the test **at this time**. ALL other students whose first language is not English may need to take this exam after their second semester. If you are proficient in English you will pass the test quickly.

How do I obtain an Identification (ID) card?

You may upload your own ID photos at <https://secure.binghamton.edu/idphotoupload/ajax-tools/login.jsp> - you will need your Binghamton University User ID and password to login. If you have responded to Ginny Stever (vstever@binghamton.edu) by **August 1** that you will be attending Binghamton University the Registrar will have ID cards available for you beginning on **August 17**. Otherwise you will need to make your own arrangements for obtaining an ID card. It is strongly recommended that you do this prior to the start of classes on **August 22**, as you will need information from the card for many purposes on campus. Please note that most of these cards will be printed "Graduate Student" regardless of whether you are admitted to the MA or PhD programs. This is normal and you should not be concerned about it.

Note that ID cards **do not expire** and are good for the entire time that you are enrolled at Binghamton University. Do not discard them at the end of the academic year! There is a \$20 charge to replace lost/stolen/mutilated, demagnetized or damaged cards. *Do not punch a hole in your card. It will permanently damage the card and it will have to be replaced at the user's expense.

Who will be my advisor?

The advisors for all first year PhD students is [Prof. Andreas Pape](#), Director of Graduate Studies. The advisor for all MA students is [Prof. Andreas Pape](#). Because all graduate students will initially be taking required courses in their first semester, it is not generally necessary to meet with the advisors prior to the start of the semester. They will be happy to meet with you during your first year at Binghamton and discuss any issues that you may have. After the first year, PhD students may select their own advisors. This is generally based on relationships they have established with faculty whose research interests are similar to their own. All PhD students **must** choose an official advisor, generally the faculty member who will become the dissertation supervisor, no later than the conclusion of the third year of study.

What housing is available?

While university housing is not available to graduate students, there are numerous options off campus. Off Campus College (OCC), a division of the university, stands ready to assist students in their relocation. The services they offer can be found at their website: <http://www.binghamton.edu/occ/>. Additional information for international students can be found at <http://www.binghamton.edu/iss/housing/index.html>. The various student organizations listed at <http://www.binghamton.edu/iss/new-students/virhostnew.html> may also be of some help to international students. Find fellow Economics graduate students at: [Economics Department Grad Mentor List](#) who can also answer many questions about housing.

What computer facilities will I have access to on campus?

There are numerous public computing facilities on campus (PODs), some of which are open 24 hours a day – <http://its.binghamton.edu/facilities/pods> .

What about health insurance?

All international students on F-1 and J-1 visas are mandated to be covered under the SUNY international insurance program. Information about this insurance is available through the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and at their website: <http://www.binghamton.edu/iss/health-insurance/index.html> . Students who have received assistantships and fellowships are eligible for insurance through the Graduate Student Employees Union. Information regarding signing up for this insurance should be available at the mandatory [TA/GA Orientation](#) held by the Graduate School on **August 22**.

Is there a source for specific information regarding my studies in the Economics Department?

The newest edition of the Economics Department's [Graduate Handbook](#) is the best source. You will be e-mailed when the updated version is available, but this is a good place to start.

When do classes and exams start and end?

This information is available at <http://www.binghamton.edu/about/university-calendar.html>

What are the best websites for information about my studies at Binghamton?

<http://www.binghamton.edu/economics/> – The Economics Department website
<http://www.binghamton.edu/registrar/> – Information concerning registration and records
<http://my.binghamton.edu> – BU BRAIN Self Service to register for courses, pay bills, financial aid info, e-mail accounts, etc.
<http://www.binghamton.edu/student-accounts/> – Student Accounts
<http://www.binghamton.edu/iss/index.html> – Everything for and about international students
<https://www.binghamton.edu/visiting-campus/maps-and-directions.html> – Maps of the campus