



Selwyn College
Cambridge

Economics

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.econ.cam.ac.uk/apply/ba-economics>

and www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/economics

The subject at Selwyn

Selwyn has the benefit of experienced teachers in both the theoretical and applied aspects of the subject; its Fellows are keen to encourage candidates of high ability and motivation. Since 1994, high academic standards in Economics at Selwyn have been acknowledged and further stimulated by the Patrick Cross College Prize for exceptional achievement in the course by a Selwyn undergraduate economist: the prize is the largest subject award within the College, and one of the largest prizes in Economics across the University.

The College Library holds over 40,000 books, including those most relevant to this subject, and stock is continually updated.

Fellows in Economics

Oleg Kitov is the Robert Martin Fellow in Economics and the Director of Studies in Economics at Selwyn College. He is also an Affiliate Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Cambridge and an Associate Fellow at the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford. He is a recipient of the university-wide Teaching Award for the Best Supervisor in the Sciences at the University of Cambridge (2018). His main research interests are in the field of econometrics and empirical macroeconomics.

Myungun Kim is the College Lecturer in Economics and the Director of Studies in Economics at Robinson College. He was awarded the 'Best Teaching Prize' for three consecutive years at the University of Cambridge (2016, 2017 and 2018). His main research interests are in the field of macroeconomics and empirical microeconometrics.

Leonardo Felli is a Professor of Economics and the Head of the Economics Faculty at Cambridge, where he also holds the J.M. Keynes Senior Fellowship in Financial Economics. He is also a Fellow of Centre for Economic Policy Research (London) and the Centre of Economic Studies (Munich). Before joining Cambridge Professor Felli was the Head of the Economics Faculty at the LSE. Professor Felli's research has focused on microeconomics and in particular on contract theory.

Ken Coutts is recently retired as Assistant Director of Research in the Faculty of Economics and Politics.

Qualities we are looking for

In the undergraduate admissions procedure, we look for candidates who, whether already acquainted with the subject or not, possess the combination of skills which would allow them to draw the greatest educational benefit and intellectual enjoyment from the course: a natural disposition to think analytically, strong numerical skills, the ability to make use of intuitive and quantitative arguments in assessing an economic issue, and a genuine interest in economics. It was Keynes himself who – having pointed out the paradox of our discipline as “an easy subject, at which very few excel!” – explained it in terms of the mix of gifts required of a “master-economist ... mathematician, historian, statesman, philosopher – in some degree”.

www.sel.cam.ac.uk

Subject requirements

To apply to study Economics at Selwyn you should have a strong background in Mathematics (A level or equivalent in Maths or better still Further Maths), but you need not have studied Economics formally.

Pre-interview assessment

As at other Colleges, applicants will be asked to take the pre-interview written assessment for Economics, which will take place in schools and other assessment centres on 4 November 2020. You must be registered in advance (separately to your UCAS application) to take the assessment. The registration deadline is 15 October 2020. Your assessment centre must register you for the pre-interview assessment (you cannot register yourself).

Interviews

Applicants will have two or three interviews (one or two subject interviews of 20-30 minutes, and a general interview of 10-15 minutes). We do our utmost to make you feel at ease: the object of our meeting is to assess your intellectual suitability for the course, and we can do so best when you are sufficiently relaxed to think and construct an argument.

In the subject interviews we explore a candidate's ability to think logically about an economic or social issue and to obtain a view of the candidate's mathematical aptitude. While factual knowledge and evidence of a genuine interest in the subject are positive elements, the focus of this interview is on the ability to explore the implications of certain facts and assumptions for the results of a particular line of argument. You may be given some preparatory reading beforehand, for discussion in your interviews.


You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for Economics at Cambridge. It is intended to give us a fuller sense of your aptitude for your chosen course, the maturity of your approach towards academic work, and your economic and other interests.

Admissions Statistics

Selwyn typically admits between five and eight undergraduate economists in each new academic year; it is a sufficiently large intake to provide plenty of opportunities for debate and cooperation with College peers in your chosen subject. The ratio of offers to applications has varied over time, reflecting changes in the total number of applicants. Precisely because the distribution of applicants between Cambridge Colleges varies significantly from year to year, however, the offers-to-applications ratio can give a false impression. The standard required for an offer from year to year does not vary. It is more important to find a College where you will feel at home and thrive than to play a “numbers game” where the annual variations are statistically insignificant. Research has consistently shown that across the University, an applicant's chances of receiving a Cambridge offer are not affected by choice of College.

Finding out more and Open Days

The College and the Department of Economics will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 2 and 3 July.

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