



# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

## APPENDIX TO THE MPhil/PHD DEGREE STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023/24

This appendix should be read in conjunction with the [core MPhil/PhD student handbook](#)

The Department of Economics sits within the School of Law and Social Sciences which covers the following disciplines: Economics, Law, Criminology and Social Work and Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (PIRP).

### Welcome to your School

We would like to welcome you to the School of Law and Social Sciences at Royal Holloway, University of London. Our school includes: [Department of Economics](#), [Department of Law, Criminology and Social Work](#), [Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy](#). All three departments are highly regarded for their research and teaching and have an active and vibrant research culture. We strive for excellence in research and generating real-world impact beyond academia.

Being a postgraduate research student in our School, you become an integral part of our research community. We offer a stimulating research environment and advanced training in both research-specific and transferable skills. Our MPhil and PhD student community is relatively small, thereby ensuring a consistently high level of interaction between the students and academics. Across the School, we have over ninety research students representing more than 20 different countries, bringing diverse perspectives, experience and skills to our departments.

You will find support in your studies not only from your immediate supervisory team but also from the PGR contact in your home department:

- Economics: Professor Manolis Galenianos ([Manolis.Galenianos@royalholloway.ac.uk](mailto:Manolis.Galenianos@royalholloway.ac.uk))
- Law, Criminology and Social Work: Professor Jill Marshall ([Jill.Marshall@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Jill.Marshall@rhul.ac.uk))
- PIRP: Professor Jennifer Piscopo ([Jennifer.Piscopo@royalholloway.ac.uk](mailto:Jennifer.Piscopo@royalholloway.ac.uk))

Dr Emily Glorney  
School Director of PGR Education

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### Welcome to your department

Prioritising teaching excellence as well as research output, we are proud to have a strong reputation in both research and student satisfaction.

In the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF), our department was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the country and in the top 4 University of London Economics Departments for research. Of the research outputs submitted for evaluation by the department, 98 percent were deemed to be 4\* or 3\* with four-star being "world-leading" (36%) and 3-star being "internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour" (62%). The research submitted spanned all major areas of economics, from micro- and macroeconomics, to development economics and public policy, thus highlighting the broad range of expertise held in the department. In terms of student satisfaction, in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2022, 97% of our PhD students were happy with their supervisor and 87% were satisfied their overall experience in their research programme.

We offer a stimulating research environment and a vibrant PhD programme with advanced economics training in the first year. During the four years of the programme, students engage in independent research work that produces an original contribution to the field of economics. The PhD community is relatively small with about 20-25 students enrolled, thereby ensuring a high level of interaction between research students and academic staff. Being a PhD student at the Department of Economics, you become an integral part of our research community.

The department has a great placement record for PhD students. Our graduates are successful in getting jobs in academia, research organisations, governments or international bodies. Examples of recent placements include: London School of Economics, Bristol University, University of Stirling, Max Planck Institute (Bonn, Germany), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, National Institute of Economic Research, and Institute for Employment Studies.

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## Key contacts

Role	Name	Email	Phone	Room
Executive Dean	Professor Matthew Humphreys	<a href="mailto:Matthew.Humphreys@rhul.ac.uk">Matthew.Humphreys@rhul.ac.uk</a>	01784 276482	McCrea 1-04
Head of Department	Professor Dan Anderberg	<a href="mailto:Dan.Anderberg@rhul.ac.uk">Dan.Anderberg@rhul.ac.uk</a>	01784 414082	H317
School Director of PGR Education	Dr Emily Glorney	<a href="mailto:Emily.Glorney@rhul.ac.uk">Emily.Glorney@rhul.ac.uk</a>	01784 276283	ABF23
Department PGR Lead	Professor Manolis Galenianos	<a href="mailto:Manolis.Galenianos@rhul.ac.uk">Manolis.Galenianos@rhul.ac.uk</a>	01784 276390	H208
School helpdesk*		<a href="mailto:LSS-school@rhul.ac.uk">LSS-school@rhul.ac.uk</a>	01784 276883	McCrea 1-01

\* For the majority of your non-academic related issues, please contact the [Doctoral School](#). However, for queries about teaching contracts, expenses and study space within the school, please contact the School of Law and Social Sciences helpdesk.

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## Staff

[List of academic staff in the Department of Economics](#)

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## Research areas

The Economics department at Royal Holloway displays strength across all main fields of discipline, and so supervision can be offered in most areas of research. Our staff members are renowned for their work in theoretical and applied microeconomics, labour economics, development economics, and experimental economics. Economics faculty also pursues multidisciplinary topics and benefits from interaction with Computer Science and Psychology departments among others. Further information about staff research interests can be found on our [research webpage](#).

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## Staff-Student Action Meeting

The purpose of the PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting is to maintain and foster communication within the School. The meeting is a platform to receive and to discuss matters of concern to both students and staff. As such, it provides a formal means of communication between students and the School Board.

The PGR Staff-Student Action Meeting meets at least once every term. You can use the Meeting to raise any issues by either attending one of the meetings or passing the information to the current student representatives. Course representatives are there to represent your views and ultimately, to help improve the quality of education provided by the University.

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## Facilities and resources

PhD students on the programme are provided with facilities for carrying out their research. The PhD room in H209 in the Horton building has a number of workspaces with PCs provided by the department. The room works on a hot-desk basis with year 2 and year 3 students having priority for their use. The students can also use the LSS School PhD room located in 0-02 in the McCrea building. The Department ensures that students have necessary software packages for their research (e.g., Stata, Matlab, etc.).

The Department encourages students to present their work at conferences, such as the Royal Economics Society or the European Econometric Society annual conferences. PhD students can be funded up to £250 per year to attend academic conferences (subject to the availability of funds this limit may be raised to £500). Any costs over this limit must be paid for by the student. All requests for funding must be made to the Economics PGR Lead and will be considered by the Economics Department Postgraduate Research Committee.

The following conditions apply:

- The conference must be approved by the student's supervisor as being appropriate for their studies and by the PGR Committee.

- Students need to have satisfactory attendance of PhD internal and external seminars to apply for travel and conference funds.
  - Students must be presenting a paper at the conference. The paper must be deemed to be of PhD quality. Normally this will require that the student has been upgraded to the PhD degree.
  - The student must be in good academic standing and be on course to finish their PhD within 4 years. Students in their 2nd or 3rd year must have been upgraded to the PhD degree. Students in their 4th year must have completed 2 papers to PhD standards.
  - The student must have obtained approval and arranged cover for any missed teaching or other departmental duties.
  - In keeping with University policy, all travel arrangements must be made in accordance with the University Travel Policy.
  - The student must be registered at least half-time in the department during the academic year in which the conference takes place.
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## Careers and employability

The department actively supports the placement of PhD graduates in positions at universities, research institutes, government agencies, and private corporations. We organise practice job talks and mock interviews for students going on the job market and seeking for jobs in academia and research institutes. The Careers Service at the University also runs Careers days with RHUL alumni and other professionals aimed specifically at PhD students.

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## Research skills and training

You should discuss your research skills training needs with your supervisor and adviser soon after you start your research degree and fill out the [Research Student Training Log](#) with details of courses that you should attend during the year.

### Advanced Courses

You will begin on the MPhil degree for the first two years, and will need to meet certain requirements to progress – to upgrade - to the PhD student status. In your first year, students undertake advanced economics training that provides skills and knowledge necessary to proceed to the independent research work (see PhD Training Programme on our webpage for details). The PhD courses are taught by our own faculty or by external experts. First-year students are required to take PhD-level Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Econometrics courses taught in cooperation with the City University and Birkbeck College. Passing these courses is a requirement to upgrade to the PhD candidate status.

Additional training opportunities (such as external summer schools or workshops) might be funded by the department according to individual students' specific research needs. The remaining years of the programme are fully devoted to research.

### External and internal seminars

Part of the training throughout the programme is attending internal and external seminar series. The department holds two weekly Research Seminars – Theory and Applied, with external speakers, and a weekly internal workshop. Research students are expected to attend these

seminars. Additionally, students have to attend and present at least once in a weekly PhD seminar. Students are encouraged to invite their advisors and other faculty members to their presentation. Students near completion (and especially the ones going on the job market) are also expected to present their research at the internal seminar.

### **Teaching experience and training**

As part of the financial support offered to selected research students the department employs a number of students as Teaching Assistants. Teaching Assistants are required to work for up to six hours/week during the three terms and are required to be present for the full year.

Students that are employed in a lead teaching role are required to register for the University's [inSTIL](#) programme (Programme in Skills of Teaching to Inspire Learning). If you are teaching as part of a team, you may choose to do this programme but are not required to do so. You must be engaged in teaching at the same time as participating in inSTIL, as teaching observations are an intrinsic element of the programme.

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### **Annual reviews and upgrades**

Although you will meet with your supervisor regularly during the academic year, your academic progress is formally reviewed at least once every twelve months, regardless of whether you are studying full or part time.

- [Core annual review details](#)
- [Annual reviews in the Department of Economics](#)

All MPhil / PhD students start their programme on the MPhil and have to pass the upgrade review meeting in order to be eligible to submit for the PhD.

- [Core upgrade details](#)
- [Upgrades in the Department of Economics](#)