



With leading researchers in the core areas of microeconomic theory, macroeconomics, and econometrics, and in the field areas of industrial organization, international trade and development, the Department of Economics at Penn State is outstanding. Our students receive an up-to-date education in economics and the opportunity to engage in research in a variety of areas. The best students from our department obtain positions at leading academic and research institutions. Some of our doctoral students have obtained tenure-track positions at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, Northwestern University, Carnegie Mellon University, The University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University and Cornell University. Others have obtained positions in government agencies like the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Trade Commission. And some have joined well-known consulting firms. (Some of our recent placements are listed below.)

The Department

The department has grown in recent years and we expect to continue growing. There are 36 graduate faculty and 101 doctorate students. Students get a lot of attention from the faculty and there are many student-faculty collaborations in research.

We host five weekly workshops in the areas of applied economics, econometrics, macroeconomics, micro theory, and trade and development. During these workshops visiting speakers, faculty, and graduate students present their current research.

The department is home to two research centers: The Center for the Study of Auctions, Procurements, and Competition Policy (CAPCP) and the Center for Research on International Financial and Energy Security (CRIFES). The Centers sponsor research by faculty and graduate students in their respective areas. CAPCP is also the repository of many important data sets (FCC spectrum auctions, oil and gas lease auctions, etc.) that are available to researchers.

The Faculty

We have a distinguished faculty that is actively engaged in research and teaching. Four faculty members are Fellows of the Econometric Society. Some serve on the editorial boards of leading journals in economics. Our faculty's research is supported by grants from numerous government and private research organizations.

The Program

The Ph.D. program involves two years of course work and, usually, three years of research towards a dissertation. The first year is devoted to basic microeconomics, macroeconomics, and econometrics. In the second year, students take courses in specialized fields.

Students are introduced to research in field courses, where they are typically asked to make small presentations. Additionally, there are informal seminars where students present their own work. These, together with the five weekly workshops, introduce students to research. By the end of the second year all students write a research paper, which in some instances evolves into a dissertation.

Students who enter with a strong background are able to progress through the program at an accelerated pace.

Financial Aid

Almost all our Ph.D. students receive full financial aid (tuition plus stipend) in one of three modes: teaching assistantships, research assistantships, or fellowships. Teaching assistants mainly assist instructors of undergraduate courses by grading, holding office hours, and leading recitation sections. Except for some summer courses, we do not ask graduate students to teach courses. Research assistants are assigned to help faculty members in their research. Fellowship holders have no duties during their first year.

Graduate Information and How to Apply

How to Apply

Our application process is entirely electronic. We require the following supporting documents: your grades from college, GRE scores, TOEFL/IELTS scores (if your native language is not English), three letters of recommendation and any research papers. These materials should be uploaded onto the online application—

<http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/index.cfm/apply/>

The last date for applications is January 15 (if applying for financial aid). Decisions are communicated in early March.

For further information about the admission process you can [read more here](#).

Recent Student Placements

Here is a list of our academic placements for 2022. A complete list may be found on our website.

[Suat Akbulut](#) (2021) Data Scientist, Billups, Portland, Oregon

[Nino Doghonadze](#) (2022) Applied Scientist, Uber, San Francisco, California

[Hyung Gyu Rho](#) (2022) Data Scientist, Scentre Group, Australia

[Guanling Hu](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong

[Berk Idem](#) (2022) Post-Doctoral Fellow, New York University, Abu Dhabi

[Murat Inan](#) (2022) Associate, JPMorgan Chase & Co., New York

[Na Jiang](#) (2022) Quantitative Specialist, Wells Fargo

[Xiao Lin](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

[Guoxuan Ma](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China

[Wei Qiao](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, Jinan University, China

[Abhishek Rai](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, Ashoka University, Sonipat, India

[Yuta Suzuki](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China

[Rui Wang](#) (2022) Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University

[Kaida Zhang](#) (2022) Economist, Amazon, Seattle

Student Publications

Here is a sample of recent publications by our students (with graduation year):

[Xiao Lin](#) (2022, University of Pennsylvania) “How to Sell Hard Information,” Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2021.

[Ilia Krasikov](#) (2019, National Research University Higher School of Economics) “A Theory of Dynamic Contracting with Financial Constraints,” Journal of Economic Theory, 2021.

[Désiré Kedagni](#) (2018, Iowa State University) “Identifying Treatment Effects in the Presence of Confounded Types,” Journal of Econometrics, 2022.

[Bulat Gafarov](#) (2017, University of California, Davis) “Delta-Method Inference for a Class of Set-Identified SVARS,” Journal of Econometrics, 2018.

[Wang Xiang](#) (2017, Renmin University of China) “Who Will Watch the Watchers? On Optimal Monitoring Networks,” Journal of Economic Theory, 2020.

[Yu Awaya](#) (2015, University of Rochester) “Startups and Upstarts: Disadvantages Information in R&D,” Journal of Political Economy, 2020.

[Bruno Sultanum](#) (2015, Federal Reserve) “An Information-Based Theory of Financial Intermediation,” The Review of Economic Studies, 2022.

[Felix Tintelnot](#) (2013, The University of Chicago) “The Effects of Foreign Multinationals on Workers and Firms in the United States,” The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2021.

[Yao Luo](#) (2013, University of Toronto) “Structural Analysis of Nonlinear Pricing,” Journal of Political Economy, 2018.

[Yuanyuan Wan](#) (2011, University of Toronto) “Testing Local Average Treatment Effect Assumptions,” The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2017.

[Haigang Xu](#) (2011, The University of Texas at Austin) “Semiparametric Estimation of Dynamic Discrete Choice Models,” Journal of Econometrics, 2021.

[Kerem Cosar](#) (2010, The University of Chicago), “Trade, Merchants and Lost Cities of the Bronze Age,” Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2019.

[Gaurab Aryal](#) (2010, Australian National University) “Signaling and Employer Learning with Instruments,” American Economic Review, 2022.

[Tai-Wei Hu](#) (2009, Northwestern University), “Bargaining Under Liquidity Constraints: Unified Strategic Foundations of the Nash and Kalai Solutions,” Journal of Economic Theory, 2021.

[Daniel Xu](#) (2007, New York University), “Notching R&D Investment with Corporate Income Tax Cuts in China,” American Economic Review, 2021.

[Isa Hafalir](#) (2007, Carnegie Mellon University), “Interdistrict School Choice: A Theory of Student Assignment,” Journal of Economic Theory, 2022.

Graduate Faculty and Areas of Interest

S. Nageeb Ali (Ph.D. Stanford University, 2007)
Economic Theory

Andres Aradillas-Lopez (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 2005)
Econometrics

David Argente (Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2018)
Macroeconomics

Kalyan Chatterjee (DBA Harvard University, 1979)
Economic Theory

Miaomiao Dong (Ph.D. Toulouse School of Economics, 2017)
Economic Theory

Ross Doppelt (Ph.D. New York University, 2015)
Macroeconomics

Jonathan Eaton (Ph.D. Yale University, 1976)
International Economics

Jingting Fan (Ph.D. University of Maryland, 2017)
International Trade

Michael Gechter (Ph.D. Boston University, 2015)
Institutions Trade and Development

Patrik Guggenberger (Ph.D. Yale University, 2003)
Econometrics

Paul Grieco (Ph.D. Northwestern University, 2010)
Industrial Organization

Nima Haghpahan (Ph.D. Northwestern University, 2014)
Microeconomic Theory

Marc Henry (Ph.D. London School of Economics, 1999)
Econometrics

Keisuke Hirano (Ph.D. Harvard University, 1998)
Econometrics

Barry Ickes (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, 1983)
Transition and Development

Yuhta Ishii (Ph.D. Harvard University, 2014)
Economic Theory

Sung Jae Jun (Ph.D. Brown University, 2006)
Econometrics

Kala Krishna (Ph.D. Princeton University, 1984)
International Trade, Development

Vijay Krishna (Ph.D. Princeton University, 1983)
Economic Theory

Rohit Lamba (Ph.D. Princeton University, 2014)
Economic Theory

Jenny Li (Ph.D. Cornell University, 1993)
Mathematical Economics

Qi Li (Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2018)
Macroeconomics

Robert C. Marshall (Ph.D. University of California, San Diego, 1983)
Industrial Organization

Fernando Parro (Ph.D. The University of Chicago, 2011)
International Trade

Joris Pinkse (Ph.D. London School of Economics, 1994)
Econometrics

Bee-Yan Roberts (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980)
International Trade, Development

Mark Roberts (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980)
Industrial Organization

Conor B. Ryan (Ph.D. University of Minnesota, 2021)
Industrial Organization

Graduate Faculty and Areas of Interest Continued

Karl Schurter (Ph.D. The University of Chicago, 2017)
Industrial Organization

Bradley Setzler (Ph.D. The University of Chicago, 2017)
Labor Economics

Ran Shorrer (Ph.D. Harvard University, 2015)
Economic Theory

Ron Siegel (Ph.D. Stanford University, 2007)
Economic Theory

James Tybout (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1980)
Industrial Trade, Development

Ewout Verriest (Ph.D. New York University, 2019)
Labor Economics

Stephen Yeaple (Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2000)
International Trade

Ruilin Zhou (Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh, 1994)
Macroeconomics

Edited by: Marc Henry, Liberal Arts Professor of Economics and Director of Graduate Studies
Designed by: Krista Winkelblech, Graduate and Placement Administrative Assistant

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