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 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.

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
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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 İdem** (2022) Post-Doctoral Fellow, New York University, Abu Dhabi
- **Murat İnan** (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):

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 Haghpanah (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