



Department of Economics

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question 1. What is the difference between the Bachelor of Economics (BEc) and the Bachelor of Commerce (BCom)?

In some ways this is not an easy question to answer. The most straightforward answer is that there are two generic degrees offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics – the BEc and the BCom; but the BEc specifies a minimum number of credit points (cp) above 100-level in ECON units (12 cp, including the Econometrics unit ECON232).

While there are different UAI cut-offs for the two degrees, many programs can be followed which lead to the award of either the BEc or the BCom (eg Economics, Applied Econometrics, Economics and Marketing, Business Law and Economics, Japanese Economy and Language); some are for the BEc only (Statistics and Econometrics, Demography and Economics); while others are for the BCom only (Finance).

Question 2. What is the difference between a study pattern and a coherent study?

Some of our programs are set out in the *2009 Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* as study patterns. For these programs, every required (core) unit at 100, 200 and 300-level (and 400 and 500-level for combined Law degrees) is specified. Where a program is set out as a coherent study, only the required units at 300-level are specified. Before the specified 300-level units can be taken students are required to complete a number of 100 and 200-level units as prerequisites. Where a 100 or 200-level unit is not required as a prerequisite for one of the 300-level units but is an integral unit to the degree, it will be specified as a “prescribed unit”. ECON232 is such a prescribed unit in the various BEc coherent

studies, as is ECON201 in the BCom (Economics + Marketing) coherent study and both ECON201 and ECON232 in the BEc (Economics + Marketing) coherent study.

Elective units are taken to complete the balance of credit points required for the degree. Single degrees typically require 68 credit points and take 3 years to complete while double degrees typically require 96 credit points and take 4 years to complete.

Question 3. What units should I enrol in?

For most single degrees, students should enrol in core 100-level units in the first year of study and core 200-level units in the second year of study to be able to complete the required 300-level units in the third year of study. For most double degree programs the required 300-level units will be completed in the third and fourth years of study.

When a program is set out as a study pattern, the required units at 100, 200, and 300 level units are specified. But almost all of the study patterns have elective units that need to be chosen to meet the 68 credit points for the degree (or the higher number of credit points for the double degree programs). You are encouraged, although not mandated, to look outside the Faculty of Business and Economics for these elective units. You can choose any 100-level units for which you satisfy the prerequisites. You may choose 100-level electives based on any particular interests you have – geography, politics, history, a language, etc. At enrolment, a list of 100-level units for which there are no prerequisites will be available. This information is also available at http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/website_administration/Econ_docs/student_support/2009_Choosing_Electives.pdf



When a program is set out as a coherent study, the required units at 100 and 200-levels are not specified. To assist you in choosing your required units in this case, recommended Programs of Study are available. These will be available on enrolment and are also available on the Department website at http://www.econ.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_programs.

Question 4. What do I need to do if I do not meet the Mathematics prerequisite for core 200-level units?

Several 200-level units include HSC Mathematics Band 2 (or higher), or equivalent, as one of the prerequisites. General Mathematics at any band does not satisfy this prerequisite. The units specifying this prerequisite are:

ECON200 Microeconomic Analysis
ECON201 Macroeconomic Analysis
ACCG253 Financial Management

If you do not meet the Mathematics prerequisite then you must enrol in an acceptable 100-level MATH unit in your first year, or if not in your first year then you must have completed the MATH unit **before** enrolment in the 200-level unit. There are two MATH units that meet this requirement – MATH123 *Mathematics 123* and MATH130 *Mathematics 1E*. MATH123 is the unit recommended by the Faculty of Business and Economics. However MATH123 is a D1 unit only and not offered at times that are always convenient to part-time students. So students unable to take MATH123 will have to enrol in MATH130 – this unit is offered D1/E1 and D2. You should note that if you fail MATH123 in the first semester and intend to enrol in ECON200 or ACCG253 in the first semester of the following year (having met other prerequisites) then you will be required to enrol in MATH130 in your second semester.

Students who come to Macquarie with “Credit for Previous Studies” (CPS), including students transferring from SIBT, will usually have met this prerequisite but it will not be automatically loaded into the Macquarie student system. These students will be required to complete a Special Approval (Waiver) Form (available from the Coursework Studies website) before they can enrol into the 200-level unit.