



Survival Guide

2014-2015

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EY



Dear Economist,

Congratulations! Exams finished. Results sorted. You've secured your place at one of the top universities in the UK. Warwick is the place where you'll achieve a world class degree, meet plenty of like-minded people, and kick start your career. For some, it may be where you meet 'the one'; for others it may be the perfect escape from your parents. Whatever economist you are, the Economics Society will be at the centre of everything you do this year.

As the start of your university experience approaches, it's natural to be excited and also slightly nervous. All of us on the Economics Society know exactly how it feels to be in your position and have therefore carefully crafted this guide for you to use throughout your time as a Warwick Fresher.

This booklet is different to the official documents you'll be receiving from the Academic Offices: You should consider it a much more informal guide to studying Economics at Warwick, as written by students.

We hope to answer any questions you've got before your studying commences in October, but if you're still unsure about anything, we will be waiting to chat with you at the Freshers' Fair in the first week!

So let's get started with a little bit about what the Economics Society actually is, and how we play a major part in making your first year at University as exciting as possible.

Yours truly,

The Exec



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What we do:

We've spent a lot of our summer working to ensure this academic year is jam-packed with events for you incoming freshers. The next page contains an outline of the opportunities available to you if you choose to join the Economics Society!

To join us, all you need to do is **SIGN UP** at the **Societies Fair** during week 1 of the term (**Thursday 2nd October**) or online on the Student Union Website. This year you can become a member for absolutely nothing, it is totally **FREE!**

For now though, there are a few things you can do;

- *Like* the **Economics Society Facebook page** by typing '**Warwick Economics Society**' into Facebook. This will allow us to keep you in the loop before and during the academic year.
- *Join* the **WARWICK ECONOMICS FRESHERS 2014 FACEBOOK GROUP** to meet your new course mates and to discuss any issues with problem sets and assignments:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/274839362722340/?ref=ts&fref=ts>
- *Visit* our website to find out more about the Economics Society at www.warwickeconomicsociety.com.
- *Follow us* on **TWITTER @warwickeconsoc**.
- *Read* the pages in this guide...it will be an invaluable insight into life as an Economics student at Warwick

The Economics Society is known for its relaxed, social approach. You will find it easy to make friends and will be amazed by the caliber of the students here. We promote a strong sense of belonging and openness; something which leads to invaluable relationships among our members.

If you do have any questions already, please feel free to get in touch with the Exec at contact@warwickeconomicsociety.com, there's always someone around to give an answer!

We look forward to meeting you in October, but for now enjoy the rest of your summer and most importantly...**GET EXCITED!**

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The Year Ahead:

WARWICK ECONOMICS SOCIETY

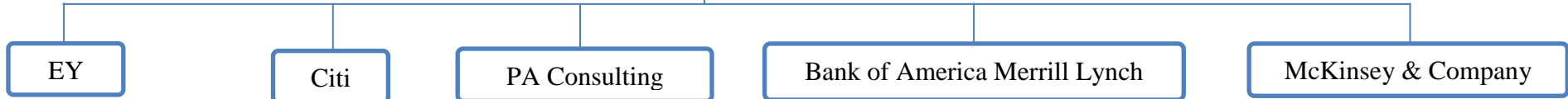
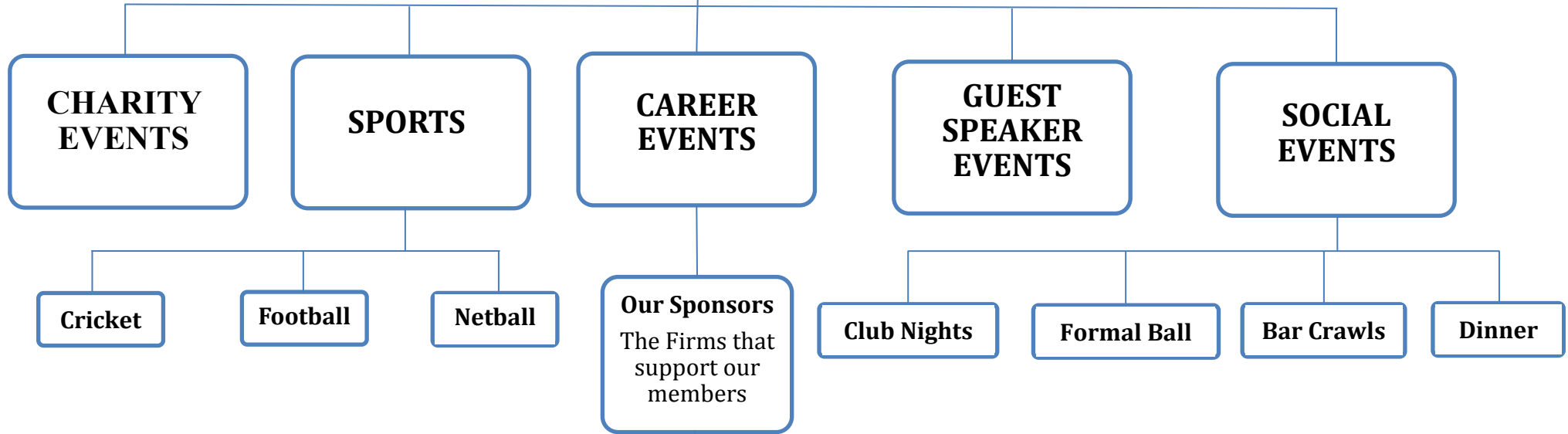




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First Week

The experience can be intimidating at first, so we are going to do our best to ease any worries you may have by sharing our experiences from last year with you!

Things to do:

There are many things to be getting on with as you move onto campus. Here is a handy list to remind you of the most important tasks:

- Get a **UK BANK ACCOUNT** if you don't already have one. It is best to set one up before coming to University. If you're an international student you should be emailed the necessary info on how to do this, don't worry.
- Bring a few **PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPHS** with you, otherwise get them done on campus. You will need these for ID cards!
- Register with the University and the NHS services located on campus, and collect your **NUS/STUDENT CARD**. Do this early to avoid standing in long queues. For loans, don't forget to bring all the necessary paperwork!
- Attend the **INTRODUCTORY LECTURE** in your department. It is a great way to meet your course mates and familiarise yourself with the teaching faculty.
- Sign up to loads of societies at the **SOCIETIES FAIR** (which will be held on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd October - week 1 of the term). It is a great idea to join societies from the start of the year as most people will be just as new and bewildered as you. It's a great opportunity to meet people who share your interests and to start getting active in university life.
- Consider topping up your '**EATING AT WARWICK**' account. This enables your Warwick student card to get a discount of 10% or more on food and drink outlets on campus. Best of all, your parents or guardians can top up your card on your behalf at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/retail/eating/>.
- Familiarise yourself with the Undergraduate Handbook, which will be sent to you directly by the department.
- Browse the information on the Economics Department Induction page: <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/current/ug/induction/>.

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- Join the Economics Department Mentor Scheme Facebook group where you can ask questions during the live Q&A sessions (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/606642916123696/?fref=ts>)
- Follow the economics department on twitter @warwickecon and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/warwickeconomics).

It sounds like a lot, but getting organised can really help out stress levels in the first couple of weeks where everything is so new. But even if you feel totally lost- there are many people eager to help you.

First lecture:

Lectures will normally start in week 2 (it varies across departments), but seminars (smaller, classroom sessions) will not begin until the second or third week of Term 1. Make sure you attend the first lecture of each module as you receive crucial information such as the format of examinations, when tests take place, the content covered etc. Carry a notepad and a pen to jot this all down, as it is rarely handed out.

Also, you will be seeing a lot of your course mates over the next three years so make an effort to interact with those around you from the offset!

Where To Go And How To Get There:

Warwick campus is a big place and even older years still get lost. Don't be embarrassed to ask for directions, people will understand, but to give you a rough sense of what's going on...

Room Numbers across the University have a similar format: 1 letter and three digits.

-The letter describes the building (e.g. **R** for Ramphal, **S** for Social Sciences etc)

-The first digit indicates the floor (0 for ground, 1 for first and so on)

-The second and the third digits stand for the room number itself

For example: S1.28 is located in **S**ocial Sciences on the **1ST** floor and is room number **28**. The abbreviations for rooms can be quite confusing but you will get used to them with time!

Economists' most regularly used rooms are **L3** (in the Science building opposite the library), **MS02** (Zeeman Building, MS stands for maths and stats, at the top left corner of the pond, over the small bridge opposite library road) and **R0.21** (Ramphal Building, diagonally across from the library).

For an interactive map of the university, see the link below:
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/interactive>



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Module Choices – Don't Panic!

Most students get pretty panicked about module choices at the beginning of the year. We agree that it can feel overwhelming, so for the first time we will be running **'1st year modules: students' perspective** on **Friday of week 1** at **4pm** in **Woods-Scawen Room** (inside the Warwick Arts Centre).

The event will consist of short presentations on some of the available optional modules from students who took the modules last year. We will outline the module as it was delivered last year, give personal views on the good and bad bits of the module, provide you with the stats and results from the previous years and answer try to answer any questions you have.

We will point you in the right direction for information about other option modules not discussed which you should also consider in order to make an informed decision. Please also bear in mind that these will be personal views and there may have been changes to module format, assessment and teaching staff.

Feel free to attend the first few lectures of any module you are considering and take your time to decide what you really want to study.

Look over **Module Feedback** and past exams as a guide. However, be warned that some courses are popular and have limited spaces so don't be the last to register (IB132 Foundation for Finance & IB133 Foundations for Accounting are prime examples)

Optional modules are 20% of your first year, so get as much advice as you can (from older years, your mentors or personal tutor) to help you decide on what modules will fit your skills and aspirations for the long term.

Please note that you must register your optional module by the end of week 3 when module registration closes! The Undergraduate Handbook is good for more information, or the Economics Department Induction Page (www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/current/ug/handbook/).

Social Life

Now we get to the good part.

The social life at Warwick caters for all tastes (though an appetite for cheesy music helps!) This section will give you a quick run-down of the main places you will likely spend many evenings of your first year. We have included the main union events and (for the more adventurous!) information about off-campus events.



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Freshers Week:

There is a whole fortnight of exciting events at the union when you first arrive at Warwick (however once lectures begin you may also need to drag yourself out of bed in the early morning). Make sure you get involved in as much you can, you rarely get to be this irresponsible again, and we older years are already heart-broken about being not so fresh!

Watch out for the “**Fresher’s Passport**”. These give you entry to all the Freshers events at the Union (along with queue-jump) and will save you a lot of time and money if you plan on going to most events. It’s probably best that you buy this before you get to Warwick because they tend to sell out (buy from www.warwicksu.com).

Bars and Pubs

Once the frenzy of Freshers fortnight is over, you may seek some more chilled nights on campus:

The Union:

Exploit your Student’s Union. Some views state that the Union is pretty samey all the time and may be overly cheesy but it is rightly the staple diet of the first year student... and your walk home is usually under 10 minutes (unless you’re Sherbourne or Westwood, ha)

The Union underwent a staggering redevelopment programme before the 2010-2011 academic year, so what can you expect from a £11 million makeover?

- **The Copper Rooms** is the home of live music and classic club nights! Keep an eye out for the Gig Guide for full public listings but expect some big acts to be performing here in the coming year. This venue is split across Room I and Room II with 1,400 and 700 capacities respectively, connected by the stylish Bar Rouge. Copper Rooms I, as the largest music venue in the region will be the new home for some incredible shows, while Copper Rooms II with its low ceilings and huge sound systems has an unparalleled ‘underground’ style.
- **The Dirty Duck** is your new local, serving traditional pub grub during lunch and dinner and providing a warm and welcoming venue to enjoy a drink until late on weekdays.
- **The Terrace Bar** is a ‘large, airy, light, classy and sophisticated bar’ overlooking the Piazza- it’s ideal to predrink in before big nights out at the union and is also open throughout the day with drink deals at hand.
- **The Atrium** is a new social hub on campus, with various outlets

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including **The Bread Oven** (a popular place to buy baguettes at lunch, speak to our Speaker Co-ordinator Krishan Parekh for full details) **Curiositea** (a popular café for its selection of indulgent hot chocolates and occasional live music events).

➤ **Non-Union Cafes and Bars:**

- **Fusion Bar** is a popular daytime restaurant/bar in **Rootes Social Building**. It's best for football and rugby matches on the big screen (if you can grab a seat in time!) and gets busy during the evenings. It has pool tables, ping pong and a restaurant that serves delicious Asian cuisine.
- **Varsity** is just off campus and is a proper pub. It is popular for doing great food, and you will pay only £1 per drink every Thursday (yes, you heard us right just £1). Legendary! Hint: for more discounts get a V-card there.
- For when you are seriously flagging from work, your cappuccino fix awaits you at **Costa Coffee** at the bottom of the Piazza, or enjoy a meal at **Le Gusta** in the Arts Centre.

Coventry:

Every now and then it is nice to get out of the campus "Bubble" and into the real world. Coventry has a good selection of restaurants, pubs and clubs and is only one bus ride away.

Kasbah (on a Monday or Friday night) tends to be the main clubbing destination with nights like the Traffic Light Party (are you single to mingle, 'could be persuaded', or definitely taken) and Kinky Fridays ('oh my god they have face paint?!?'). You can either get the normal bus in, or use the Uniexpress website to purchase a coach seat (return included- this is a popular choice!)

Coventry train station has great connections to London and Birmingham and one bus stop further from the station is the City Arcade where you can satiate all your shopping needs. It is about a £10 - £15 taxi ride from campus.

Leamington Spa:

"Leam" (say it like 'lem') is one the main student town where most second/third years live. It has lots of pubs (ideal for pub crawls), clubs (Smack, Neon and Saints to name a few) and shops. You will find that when events quieten down on campus, Leam becomes the holy-land for a night out. Taxis are a minimum of £20 from campus so consider using the Uniexpress or Unibus which offers cheap travel, queue-jump and entry to most club nights



Warwick Uniexpress website:

<http://www.theuniexpress.com/events/1/warwick-university>

Campus Information:

Warwick campus does manage to provide enough shops, cafés and restaurants to fill most first years' needs, so if you are a die-hard fan of the bubble lifestyle you may end up rarely leaving campus.

The **Costcutters** near the Piazza is the mecca of food and alcohol. It is a bit over-priced, so if you can be bothered there's a **Tesco superstore** near to Westwood which is open 24 hours on weekdays and clearly has a much larger selection of goods. There is a **Post office** within Costcutters (which supplies foreign currency - useful for our foreign tour!!)

The Union Reception, Advice and Welfare office and one of many computer rooms is located just above Costcutters (by **Xananas**, a restaurant offering a range of international cuisine). If you're collecting ticketed union events, the Union Reception is useful!

University House offers numerous extra facilities for students ranging from a café to Student services and working areas (the larger **Learning Grid** which is open 24/7) but also the International Office, the Academic Office and the Finance Department. The lovely people at the University House reception will also replace your NUS card if you happen to lose it – but beware, it's not cheap, especially if you're our VP James da Costa and lose it every other week.

Westwood is the home to many sporting facilities such as the five-a-side football pitches (be sure to join the Economics society's champion side), open and closed tennis courts, athletic track and a dance studio.

Bang in the middle of Campus is the **Arts Centre** which hosts theatre productions, a cinema, comedy events, art exhibitions and will also host the Economics Department's **Question Time** on Monday 29th September in Butterworth Hall. It has a popular café and a bookshop full of Warwick merchandise if you're already itching for that 'University of Warwick' jumper.

The rule of the **Library** is it gets quieter as you get higher: Floors 1/2 are generally filled with people checking emails, chilling, and err... studying. Floors 3/4/5 are generally silent, with the 5th Floor being especially useful as it contains all the Economics books. During Term 3 (exam period) it gets ridiculously busy so you will soon learn to get there early. For more information about Library services see <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/>

Outside the Music Centre there is the **Chaplaincy**, which hosts regular services for different faiths as well as non-religious events.

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Senate House is our last shout-out as this is where you go if you lose your key: It's just next to the Kone (the giant, questionable cone by the Arts Centre) and will sort other accommodation queries too!

Never be afraid to ask for help if you are lost, people at Warwick are friendly, don't bite and will gladly explain how to get somewhere. Even if you end up asking a fellow fresher for directions, it's more exciting to be lost together.

Words of advice

On-site Banking:

The queues for the campus banks are horrendous in the first weeks and you have much better things to do with your time. A good idea might be to go to Leam or Cov and open a bank account there with one of the two banks that are present on campus: Barclays or Santander. Otherwise you will face a journey to Leam or Cov every time you need to go the bank!

Part-time Jobs:

Sooner or later there comes that lovely realisation that the average student loan is a pittance and may not even cover your accommodation fees let alone living costs. If you can't get financial help from savings or your parents, there are various opportunities on/ near campus to earn some extra money. It is a good idea to have a nose around **early** during the first week, as that's when most places are hiring.

Unitemps is a university-run temping agency. Once you sign up, you will usually receive 3-6 advertisements a day. Many of them, however, require full-time work, or are located off-campus. However there are also jobs which require you for just one or two afternoons; they tend to be in the rather glamorous world of envelope stuffing and filling, but it is money:

www.unitemps.co.uk

Otherwise, work for the **Students Union** (bar staff, technical staff, street team and occasionally door staff); however the level of commitment can be high – around 12 hours a week. Also check out the Warwick Arts Centre, Costcutters and off-campus Cannon Park Shopping center (where Tesco is located).

P.S. If you work off-campus check before you apply whether they want you to work during vacations, especially over Christmas, so that you don't waste your time.

IT Services:

The Drop-In-Centre is located on the first floor of the Library and is open

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Monday- Friday. IT Services also provide a range of training and support, particularly for those living on campus. To update your skills, book yourself a free course at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/its/servicessupport/training>. The Training Suite is located on the Westwood Campus.

What Books Should I Buy?

During your first few lectures you will be given lists of books recommended by lecturers. There is no need to buy all the books the department tells you to (this would be very expensive); take your time, look at the books in the library, check which ones are available online via the Library website and then decide which ones you think you will be referring to most for practice questions/answers.

Although you can buy textbooks at the University Bookshop, there are other ways to buy them second hand which saves a lot of money. For example, we host an exclusive **Charity Booksale** for economists during freshers! Having gathered up first year texts from older years, we can sell them to you for a discounted price... and as we then donate a portion of the profits to charity it's definitely worth spending your money with us!

From our experience the textbooks for Macro and Micro are a must! For other modules, textbooks will be useful in supplementing lecture notes. Another popular cost-saving idea is to share textbooks with fellow course mates.

Generally textbooks became our friends during exams and as a point of reference if you really don't understand a new concept; so don't think you will be glued to these bad boys like we were in school. If you're really keen and fancy doing some pre-reading before university, read something from the reading list (we recommend 'The Undercover Economist' by Tim Harford this year as he's joining us on campus! Keep updated on the event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/682045938538839/?fref=ts>)

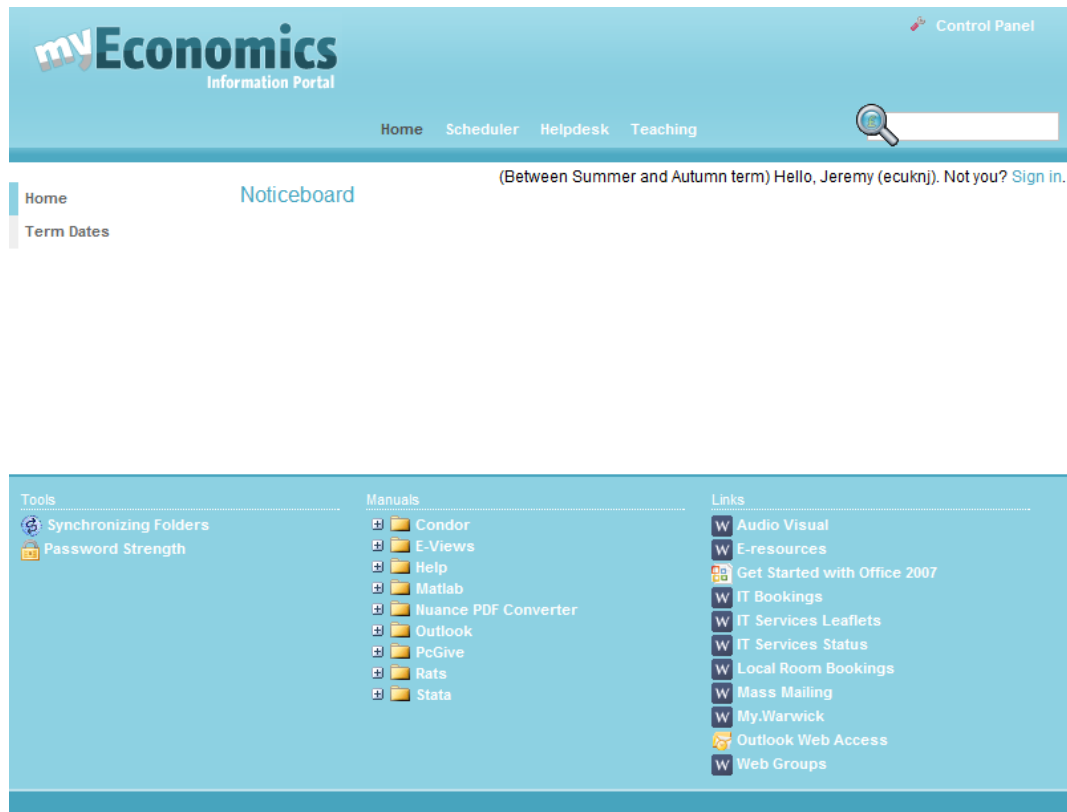
If you do have some time on your hands and REALLY want to work already then maybe refresh on some of your maths (get ready to differentiate like you've never differentiated before) and statistics as these are a big part of your coming year. But remember to chill out; first year is all about establishing yourself at university. Save the effort for when it really counts– the second and third years!

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my.Economics:

The laziest among you will rejoice to know that the Economics department introduced a new website a couple of years ago which brilliantly saves you walking ALL the way to the Undergraduate Office.



The screenshot shows the my.Economics Information Portal. At the top left is the Warwick Economics Society logo. The main header features the 'myEconomics' logo and 'Information Portal' text. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Scheduler', 'Helpdesk', and 'Teaching'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the header, a personalized greeting reads: '(Between Summer and Autumn term) Hello, Jeremy (ecuknj). Not you? Sign in.' A sidebar on the left contains 'Home', 'Noticeboard', and 'Term Dates'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Tools' (Synchronizing Folders, Password Strength), 'Manuals' (Condor, E-Views, Help, Matlab, Nuance PDF Converter, Outlook, PcGive, Rats, Stata), and 'Links' (Audio Visual, E-resources, Get Started with Office 2007, IT Bookings, IT Services Leaflets, IT Services Status, Local Room Bookings, Mass Mailing, My.Warwick, Outlook Web Access, Web Groups).

My.Economics is your own personal webpage on the department website which lets you access information about yourself and the department. You can access the economics noticeboard, fill out useful forms like “Deadline extension forms”, look at all your modules, check seminar times and attendance and view your results throughout the year... and yes... you will be tested during the year! Link: <https://myeconomics.warwick.ac.uk/>

Careers:

What can I do with an Economics Degree?

Studying Economics promotes effective decision-making, critical, strategic and analytical thinking. During your degree you will gain valuable technical, communication and problem-solving skills. As a result, a Warwick Economics Degree is held in extremely high esteem by employers.

Economists advise financial institutions, big corporates, government and international organizations. Economics provides an obvious background for work in investment banking, consultancy, accountancy and actuarial work. Yet many graduate vacancies do not ask for any specific degree and many economics graduates go on to pursue journalism, politics, or policy making to name just a few. Book an appointment with a Careers advisor to see what options are open to you.



If you want to postpone the world of work another couple of years however, you can choose to study as a postgraduate, with Warwick being the favoured institution, followed by LSE and Cambridge. Other graduates decide to take time out to travel or participate in voluntary work.

The point is, you all have so many doors open to your right now that it's important to start exploring your options!

Do not leave it until your second and third year to check out the services offered by the Student Careers & Skills Centre. Check out <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs> to find tips on finding work experience, help in preparing for interviews and much more.

Careers Fairs and Employer presentations provide a perfect opportunity to network, so be sure to join the Economics Society to gain exposure to our sponsors and your possible future employers! Why not start by visiting the **EY STUDENT PORTAL**: <http://www.ey.com/UK/en/Careers/Students>

The Careers Hub is located in the Learning Grid on the ground floor of University House. There is a Helpdesk to assist in career related enquiries. Christopher Manley is the Careers Consultant for the Economics Department and appointments can be booked with him via Myadvantage.

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Mentor Scheme:

Every year new students arrive feeling nervous, excited, anxious and under or over prepared to begin studying at the University of Warwick. The Department runs a Student Mentor Scheme to help new undergraduate students settle swiftly into the Department and University life.

All new Economics students are assigned a second or third year student mentor who will hold meetings with their mentees each term to provide friendly advice and support on both academic and more general matters. This may include things such as advice on essays, internships, preparation for tests, module choices, social life, careers and accommodation for second year! All information will be announced through emails from the department and on the Facebook group which can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/606642916123696/?fref=ts>

One of the main strengths of the Mentor Scheme is that your mentors will have been through exactly the same process and will understand all your worries or concerns! Plus they are all very friendly and you will be able to get more information about the university in your first few weeks than students in other departments!

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Final Few Words- Things you may want to remember!

- ✓ Bedding – if you don't want to use the bedding provided which ISN'T the nicest
- ✓ Clothes
- ✓ Kitchenware: most accommodation only give you kettle, toaster and microwave, everything else is on you!
- ✓ Towels and dressing gown, which will be very useful if the fire alarm goes off in the early hours of the morning!
- ✓ Computer, not necessary, but HIGHLY recommended (both for work and for downloading anything at high speeds over the university network)
- ✓ Sports kits and racquets/balls/clothing
- ✓ Passport photos
- ✓ In case of specific medical need – bring necessary documents or medications – there is a pharmacy on campus
- ✓ Alarm clock!!!!!!!!!!!! Not just one...better 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, whatever it takes for you to wake up for that dreaded 9am lecture
- ✓ It's an idea to bring something you can share around – a box of biscuits, a crate of beer, etc. to break the ice with on those awkward first meetings with your new flat mates!
- ✓ Also, bring a few things to make your room more homely, but there are always poster sales on around the union and pot plants fair on the piazza.

Well, we have tried to pack as much information into this guide as possible without making you fall asleep, hopefully.

We hope to hear from you soon, and look forward to meeting you in October!

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