

# ECONOMICS EXTRA

POSTGRADUATE EDITION

A GUIDE FOR  
OFFER HOLDERS

2016

WARWICK

ECONOMICS

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# Welcome to Warwick Economics



**To all our offer holders.** We're absolutely delighted to have been able to offer you a place to study on one of our postgraduate degrees at Warwick.

Economics at Warwick is one of the best in the UK, ranked 3rd by The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2016, and 2nd by the Complete University Guide 2016.

But as an offer holder I'm sure you're aware of all our rankings, so the purpose of this magazine is to show you what life is really like in the department; the wide range of activities we have on offer and what it's like to study here.

We attract students from all around the world due to our reputation for offering rigorous and exciting

training. Our aim is to ensure that not only will you graduate with a degree from one of the best Economics departments, but that you'll reach your full potential during your time here. We offer a community that challenges and supports you in equal measure, that fosters your desire to ask questions - of yourself and of the world around you.

With best wishes,

**Professor Abhinay Muthoo**



# In the news

## Question Time 2015 covers a whole range of topical issues

Warwick Economics Question Time is held at the beginning of each academic year and is very similar in format to the popular BBC television show.



The event gives you the chance to engage with politicians, policy makers and academics on major issues.

Over 1,000 students and guests took their seats to watch this year's panel, which included The Right Honourable Hazel Blears, Vicky Pryce, and also saw the return of Douglas Carswell, the only UKIP Member of Parliament, who featured on the panel in 2013 when he was a Conservative MP.

**Siobhan Benita**, event chair and Co-director of the Warwick Policy Lab, said:

"We covered a whole range of issues; everything from how should the European Union more effectively handle the refugee crisis, to whether the problems in China with its stock market has an impact on the global economy.

We also had an interesting debate about what the election of Jeremy Corbyn to the Labour leadership actually means in terms of what young people are thinking about politics going forward."

Following the event our students had the opportunity to talk with the panellists at a drinks reception.

"The opportunity to get a range of different perspectives on so many different topics was really enlightening."

**Ashwin Sharma**  
Current Student

## Sir Vince Cable discusses the economy in Warwick Policy Lab guest lecture

On Tuesday 12th January 2016, Sir Vince Cable visited Warwick to give a talk on whether we're heading for a fresh economic crisis.

The talk, hosted by Warwick Policy Lab and the Warwick Economics Summit, took place in a packed lecture room with students and staff from across the University in attendance.

Sir Vince Cable, a British politician who was the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills from 2010 to 2015, discussed the 2008 financial crisis, referring to himself as the "Politician in opposition in the beginning of the financial crisis".

He then went on to offer his thoughts on the current economic environment, and

turned to the "four legacies" that he saw prevailing in the current economic environment; substantial deleveraging, gigantic banking system, corporate finance and housing price rise.

Following the lecture, audience members were able to ask their questions in a Q&A session, and Sir Vince Cable also partook in a signing for his book 'After the Storm'.





## Applications now open for the 2016 Warwick Economics Summer School

This year's Warwick Economics Summer School (WESS) will take place from 17 July to 5 August 2016 and applications are now open!

WESS is a three week programme taught by world leading Economists including Professors Ken Binmore CBE and Andrew Oswald. We offer a range of courses but if you've previously studied Economics at university you'll be more suited to our [intermediate or specialist courses for Economics undergraduates and postgraduates](#), which aim to deepen students' understanding of Economics. Our specialist courses are Behavioural Economics, Game Theory, International Development and Money and Banking.

Alongside your teaching we offer an inspirational programme of [evening talks](#). This year's speakers include Nobel Prize winner Professor George Akerlof and The Right Honourable Hazel Blears.

Also included in the tuition fee is a fantastic [social programme](#) including day trips to London with a guest lecture at the Shard, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Oxford. We have dinners, a quiz and film night, afternoon tea

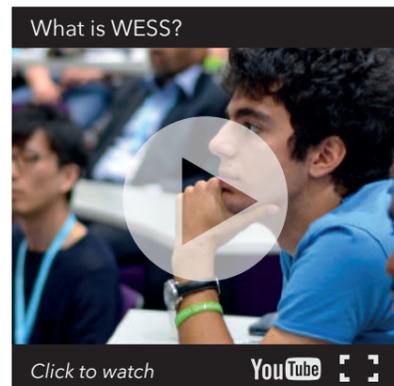
with the Head of Department, sports tournaments and more.

WESS is an excellent opportunity for you to enhance your skills and knowledge in Economics by studying at one of the leading Economics departments in Europe.

To apply or for further details go to our website: [www.warwick.ac.uk/wess](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/wess) (Please note that you must be aged 18 or over by the day the programme starts in order to be eligible).

A variety of [discounts](#) are available for early booking, group bookings and more.

[See what our 2014 and 2015 Summer School cohort thought of their WESS experience.](#)



Click to watch YouTube

## STUDENTS' QUESTION TIME EVENT

In January we held our Students' Question Time event.

Three of our students had the opportunity to sit on a panel alongside Professor Abhinay Muthoo and Chair Siobhan Benita. There was plenty of audience participation, with some really strong and well thought out opinions.

On the menu were topics such as how public services will cope with an influx of refugees, the widening inequality of income and wealth in the world, and whether it will be possible to reduce carbon emission levels given the desire for growth in developing countries such as India and China.

Our fantastic panellists dealt with all the questions exceptionally well and found it a great way to develop their confidence and public speaking skills. Economics student Hugh Myers said "Participating in Students' Question Time reinforced my confidence speaking in front of an audience. I feel that I benefited enormously from being able to research a topic, formulate my views, and deliver it in a clear and concise manner."

The audience participation added a welcome dynamic to what were already absorbing questions. I would thoroughly recommend being a panellist at the Student Question Time."



Click to watch YouTube

# Focus on academia

For postgraduates, we offer an advanced, internationally-focused education in Economics that is both intellectually demanding and professionally relevant.

## SPOTLIGHT ON

### Dr Claire Crawford

#### Background

I studied Economics at the University of Lancaster and did a Masters at UCL. I then joined the Institute for Fiscal Studies, working my way up to lead the education and skills team. I undertook my PhD part-time while I was at IFS and joined Warwick in 2014.

#### Research

I focus on the economics of education and labour economics. I work a lot on higher education access and finance issues, and I am particularly interested in topics that identify - and ideally can point

to solutions for - inequalities in outcomes. I address questions like how we can help people from disadvantaged backgrounds go to university, and the financial implications of changes to grants, loans and fees for students, universities and the government.



I also do a lot of work on the effects of government interventions in the early years, such as the impact of Sure Start centres, and whether families that are offered access to free childcare are likely to work more.

#### Achievements

My top achievements are becoming head of the education and skills team at IFS, and being offered a position at Warwick. I never pictured myself in academia- I thought I'd go to the city

to do finance. A lot of students go into economics with a narrow view of where it might lead them - I certainly did - and I think it's important to ensure we equip students with the skills to tackle a whole range of careers.

#### Known for

I'm probably best known for my work on higher education access, showing how large the gaps are between people from different backgrounds (socio-economic, ethnic, gender), what can explain this and potential solutions. My research suggests, for example, that policies trying to reduce gaps in university entry should focus on raising attainment earlier in the school system, rather than providing application support.

#### Warwick

I really like the campus, particularly the fact that it's so much a part of the local community, unlike some other campus universities.

[Read more on Claire's staff page.](#)

## MY PHD RESEARCH

Watch MRes/PhD student Rigissa Megalokonomou discuss her research at Warwick.



To find out more information about life at Warwick, pre-arrival and enrolment visit our [MRes Chat Forum](#).

## BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS AT WARWICK

In my opinion the finest part of this course is that the class consists of students coming from different backgrounds - some from Economics, others from Psychology and Finance. This helps in cross-cultural interaction which is interesting as there is always plenty to learn and explore about different societies and cultures.

Apart from learning new theories in Economics and Psychology, the course also helps students learn various computer

languages like Matlab and R programme which can help train you to collect and analyse various data from the field. Moreover, the subject involving interdisciplinary approach, provides a wider arena of jobs not only in Economics, but also Psychology and Business.



Doing a Masters in BES at Warwick, is the best career decision that I have made and I enjoyed each moment that I spent in learning new concepts in decision-making.

**Written by** Shruti Surachita, Alumni (MSc Behavioural and Economic Science, 2015)

# Focus on Extracurricular activities

On top of an advanced education in Economics, we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to enrich your student experience. There are activities run by both the department and the Students' Union societies such as Warwick Economics Society and Warwick Economics Summit.

Our students also run their own high-profile events such as the Warwick Economics Summit and the Warwick International Development Summit.

## WARWICK Economics Summit

The Warwick Economics Summit is one of the largest student-run academic conferences in Europe. Set apart from the rest by world-renowned figures, engaging debates and educational workshops touching on a range of global and economic issues, including politics, development and finance.

This year's speakers included Enrico Letta, former Prime Minister of Italy, Mark Littlewood, Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, and Michael Moller, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Visit their [website](#) to discover more about the Summit and hear what the UK's Prime Minister, David Cameron, had to say about it.



Click to watch YouTube

## WARWICK POLICY LAB

[Warwick Policy Lab](#) is an exciting project which aims to bring academics and policy makers closer together and to produce research and analysis that will have measurable impact.

The Policy Lab is based within the Economics Department. As a student you'll benefit through the opportunity to attend all the guest lectures. This year's lecture series has included Dr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Jeremy Wright, Attorney General for England and Wales, and Ciaran Martin, Director General for Cyber Security at GCHQ.

## SOCIETIES

Our [Warwick Economics Society](#) offers a wealth of opportunities for you to learn, socialise and focus on your career. It's an excellent platform to meet and network with your fellow students with similar interests. Sponsors such as Nomura, Citi and Bank of America Merrill Lynch allow the society to host events with top speakers and insights into a variety of different career pathways.

Warwick Economics Exchange is a student-run programme to promote the exchange of ideas from future economists. The focus is on postgraduate students, providing more opportunities for young economists to advocate their insights and findings.

They provide opportunities to interact with current economists through colloquium, seminars and lectures, and

more importantly for you, to present and discuss your own economic insights and research results. Previous events have successfully engaged participants in technical, advanced economic study and research. You can find out more on their [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page.

Our postgraduate students also participate in TEDx Warwick, Warwick Emerging Markets Society and Warwick Investment Forum.



Click to watch YouTube

## DEPARTMENT SOCIALS AND TRIPS

At Warwick Economics we're focused on giving you the best possible student experience. Our recent postgraduate socials have included a Christmas dinner and disco, an MSc get together, and in Term 3 we'll be holding an end of year party for all postgraduates with food, drink, music and cakes from around the world.

We're also continuing to develop the link between Social Sciences and the Arts. This year we're taking current students to the Swan Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company perform *Don Quixote*.

# Life as a Warwick Economics student

The best people to tell you what life is really like studying Economics at Warwick are our current students. Here we've given you a few tasters but you can read all the student blogs [online](#).



**Andres Fioriti**  
3rd year PhD  
Economics

## Postgrad sports at Warwick

At Warwick I can happily say that I have added Squash and Inline Skating to the sports I can play to relax my mind. These two add to my sports stock: Football, Basketball, Kayaking, Tennis, Volleyball, Handball, Chess, Swimming, Boxing and Softball.

At Warwick I have found a place where I can try absolutely everything. Now I am playing football on Sundays but I play squash three times a week at the sports centre with some of my friends. I should say I have never played squash before coming to Warwick. I didn't even know the rules!



## Engaging with your department

This year I am part of three committees: Undergraduate Management Committee (UMC),

Graduate Management Committee (GMC) and Graduate Staff Student Liaison Committee (GSSLC). At the UMC and GMC I learn how to handle the syllabus, module structure, degree structure and anything else related to the macro aspects of a department. At the GSSLC I discuss the problems postgraduate students have and how to deal with them.

Being on three committees may seem like a lot, but it takes me six hours a term for the meetings (two hours each) and potentially one or two hours more in total to look at the email or meet with people to know their concerns. If you want to get into university politics Warwick is an organized and professional place where you will learn in one year many more things than what you would expect anywhere else.

▶ Read Andres' [full blog](#).

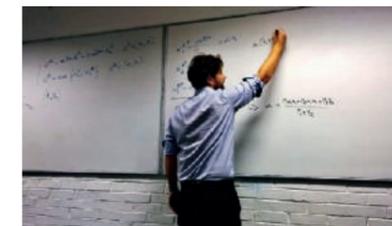


**San San Win**  
MSc Economics

## Seminars

I scheduled all my seminars one hour after the last lecture of the day. This gives me some time to do the tutorial questions if I haven't done so (which is usually what happens, so I came to appreciate this one hour gap!).

One thing I like about the seminars is that, in my experience, the tutors not only go through the questions in the problem set, but also go through many key concepts that underpin these questions. They've turned their



seminars into a mini lecture with their own slides! It's more effective because I can really benefit from going through the key material again but in a smaller class size.

## San's recommendations:

1. If you don't feel confident in maths and statistics, it'll probably help to do some preparation during vacation and before the course commences.



2. Mark the lecture slides with dates, so you can easily match it with the recordings on Lecture capture.
3. Come to the seminars prepared.
4. Be more active during seminars, ask more questions during open house.
5. Form a study group with a couple of students. I met people from our course who have been doing this since the Maths and Stats days, needless to say, they are more efficient at studying and struggle less with macro.

▶ Read San's [full blog](#).

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## Visit us

Don't just take it from us, come and see for yourself what postgraduate study at Warwick is all about at one of our [Postgraduate Visits](#).

Or, if you live further afield why not join the conversation at one of our [postgraduate live chats](#).

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If you have any queries about studying at the University of Warwick, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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