

# MEconSc International Finance

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics

*Academic Booklet 25/26*

A Guide for MEconSc International Finance Students



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# 1. Introduction & Welcome

Dear Class of 2025/26,

As Programme Director for the MEconSc International Finance Programme at the Discipline of Economics at University of Galway, I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year and to the programme. I, along with all of the teaching and support staff involved in the programme, are very much looking forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

The MEconSc International Finance programme is designed with dedicated modules to deepen your understanding of the forces driving the global economy and the operations of the international financial markets. The programme provides both a rigorous foundation in the theory of international finance and the necessary quantitative and technical skills used in applied financial market analysis. Graduates with these skills are highly valued by commercial banks, investment banks and other financial institutions, by public institutions and by multinational corporations. I hope that your experience of the programme will be both positive and rewarding.

In terms of the mode of delivery, students are expected to attend in-person on campus for all aspects of their programmes, with attendance monitored throughout the academic year. For those students who experience short term illnesses, including Covid, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow students to keep up with their work – e.g. through the provision of lecture notes or and/or lecture presentations, but there should be no expectation on the part of students that online lecture recordings will be made available. Your programme director is hosting a programme orientation session on **Monday, 8th September from 10.00am-12.00noon in room CA110** in the Carnies School of Business & Economics (Aras Cairnes) View campus map.

The contents of this handbook provide a first point of reference for general information about the programme and about the university more generally. If you have any questions or concerns, I would point you in the first instance to the various links and resources that are provided here in this handbook. There are many supports available to you from the university, and you should feel free to avail of these as required. Please also feel free to contact me, and/or Charmain Byrne (who provides excellent admin support for the programme), directly if you wish, and we will do our best to help and support you in any way we can.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming you to the programme at orientation and I would like to wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Best wishes,

**Prof. Alan Ahearne**  
**Professor of Economics, University of Galway**  
**Programme Director MEconSc. International Finance**

## 2. Useful Contacts

On a day-to-day basis, your principal contact in courses will naturally be with your lecturers and tutors. You will generally be able to clarify most issues which arise with them, as the year proceeds.

### *Economics location and contact information*

From time to time, particularly when you are required to submit assignments, you may need to call into the Economics offices. These are located on the first floor of the older part of the Cairnes Building, to the north of the main campus. This older part is informally known as “St. Anthony’s” (officially it’s part of the Cairnes Building). Some teaching rooms are located there also.

See link to campus map: [www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps)

For general enquiries on your academic studies, you are welcome to contact:



#### *Programme Director:*

Professor Alan Ahearne

Room 236, Aras Cairnes, North Campus, University of Galway

[alan.ahearne@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:alan.ahearne@universityofgalway.ie)



#### *Head of Economics:*

Professor John McHale

Room 108, Ground Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

[john.mchale@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:john.mchale@universityofgalway.ie)



#### *Economics Administrative Staff (Professional Support Services):*

Charmain Byrne

Room 201, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

Charmain Byrne: Phone 091-492501 (or internal ext. 2501):

[charmain.byrne@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:charmain.byrne@universityofgalway.ie)

Contact details for individual staff members are on the economics web site:

[www.universityofgalway.ie/economics](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/economics)

A general contact email for economics enquiries is: [economics@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:economics@universityofgalway.ie)

### 3. Academic Term Dates

*The first semester of the 2025-26 academic year begins on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025.*

Academic Year 2025 -2026	
Orientation 1st years*	Monday 8th September to Friday 12th September
Start of teaching 1st years*	Monday 15th September
End of teaching 1st years*	Friday 28th November (11 weeks of teaching)
Start of teaching all years	Monday 8th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 28th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 8th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 19th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 20th December
<b>2026</b>	
Start of Teaching	Monday 12th January 2026
End of Teaching	Thursday 2nd April (12 weeks of teaching)
<b>Easter</b>	<b>Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April</b>
Field Trips	Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th April
Study Week	Monday 13th to Friday 17th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Tuesday 21st April
Semester 2 Exams End	Friday 8th May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 4th August to Friday 14th August (9 days of exams)
<b>Holidays</b>	<b>Easter: Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April 2026</b>
	<b>Bank Holidays: Monday 27th October 2025 / Monday, 2nd February 2026</b>
	<b>Tuesday, 17th March 2026/ Monday 4th May 2026/ Monday 1st June 2026</b>
	<b>Monday 3rd August 2026</b>

## 4. About University of Galway

Founded in 1845, we've been inspiring students for over 175 years. University of Galway has earned international recognition as a research-led university with a commitment to top quality teaching. Galway ranks among the top 1% of universities in the world. Our prestigious history spans almost two centuries. Our spectacular location boasts the unique landscape and culture of the west of Ireland. Our global network connects us to partners around the world. Our researchers are shaping the future. Our students are shaping themselves. Visit [www.universityofgalway.ie](http://www.universityofgalway.ie) to learn more about the University of Galway.

### *4.1 Economics at University of Galway*

The MEconSc International Finance is hosted by the Discipline of Economics at University of Galway, part of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, one of three Schools in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law at University of Galway.

Economics at University of Galway is recognised nationally and internationally for its record in teaching, research and scholarship. The Discipline seeks to provide a flourishing and diverse academic environment which integrates teaching and research, theory and empirical applications, in a policy-oriented and interdisciplinary way. The primary teaching commitments of the Discipline include the economics components of the Bachelor of Arts, Commerce, and Financial Mathematics and Economics degrees at undergraduate level. At postgraduate level, the Discipline offers master's programmes in International Finance, Global Environmental Economics, Health Economics, and Economics & Financial Technology. The Discipline also has a vibrant PhD programme with over 20 students currently registered and several post-doctoral researchers working on externally funded research projects. In terms of its research profile, the Discipline has recognized international expertise in areas including: Environmental, Marine, Agricultural, and Climate Change Economics; Health Economics; Ageing; International Finance and Macroeconomics; Economic Theory; and Irish Economic History. Discipline staff also advise government departments in Ireland and internationally across a range of topics related to these research areas.

Throughout the programme, you will mainly be engaged with academic staff of the Economics discipline. You can find staff profiles and contact details at this link (see also the profiles of core staff teaching on the programme towards the end of this document).

<https://economics.universityofgalway.ie/people/>

#### *4.2 Economics events*

Economics at University of Galway strongly encourages economics students' wide and deep engagement in their studies. One avenue to do that is through attending our many economics events on campus, such as conferences, workshops, and the regular seminars given by academic staff, researchers and PhD students from economics at University of Galway, and by external visitors. As a class you will be notified of and invited to attend relevant events in Economics.

#### *4.3 Class representatives*

It has proved very valuable at times to have good class representatives (at least one or perhaps two, depending on numbers in the class) to raise issues and help communication amongst the class, so I hope some of you will consider putting your names forward for this role, which is not onerous. The class representatives are the first point of contact for raising issues and providing feedback to the programme director.

# 5. MEconSc International Finance – Course Outline

## 5.1 Course Outline

***Note:** The following information is intended to give an overview of the programme, and a flavour of the main themes of each module. Full details of module content, assessments, reading lists etc. will be provided by individual lecturers in the form of module outlines at the beginning of each semester*

The MEconSc International Finance is specifically designed with dedicated modules to deepen students' understanding of the forces driving the global economy and the operations of the international financial markets. The programme provides both a rigorous foundation in the theory of international finance and the necessary quantitative and technical skills used in applied financial market analysis.

It provides an emphasis on current issues in international economic policy and on recent developments in the areas of multinational investment flows, dynamics of exchange rates, risk management and asset pricing. Students gain a deeper understanding of both the microstructure and macroeconomic implications of these issues, and necessary technical skills for analysing financial data where students' experience hands-on training of computer-based machine learning and simulation models for financial analytics and decision making where these techniques are implemented in Stata and Python.

The financial services sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of the Irish economy. Over the past decade, employment in the industry has nearly doubled, and media reports continue to highlight an acute shortage of high-skilled graduates to fill job vacancies in the sector. Moreover, financial services have been identified by the Irish government as one of the outstanding avenues for the delivery of high value-added jobs in Ireland and a crucial sector in the further development of Ireland's knowledge-based economy.

### *Programme objectives*

The first two programme outcomes are School-wide and adopted across all programmes in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics:

1. Identify, analyse, and solve business, public policy and societal problems within a global context.
2. Make a positive societal impact through critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration.

The three programme-specific learning outcomes are:

Upon completion of this programme students will have acquired industry-standard skills and in-depth knowledge to:

3. Understand and appraise the fundamental theoretical and practical concepts and tools of international finance and macroeconomics
4. Develop strong quantitative, problem-solving and analytical skills used in financial services, economics and other cognate professions.
5. Provide an understanding of how global financial markets and investment firms operate and how to use computational techniques to make informed investment decisions.

## 5.2 Programme Structure

The MEconSc International Finance programme consists of 90 ECTS. Students complete a combination of modules (worth 10 ECTS each) and a project (10 ECTS) to fulfil the 90 ECTS requirement. Students also complete a preparatory course in Mathematics for Economists over the first 4 weeks in Semester 1. The course structure outline is presented as follows:

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>1 (Core)</b>	<i>Mathematics for Economists</i>	<i>Preparatory</i>	
	<i>Applied Portfolio Management</i>	<i>EC5104</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Financial Econometrics</i>	<i>EC5128</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Macroeconomics Theory and Policy</i>	<i>EC5109</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Microeconomic Theory</i>	<i>EC501</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>2 (Core)</b>	<i>Derivatives and Risk Management</i>	<i>EC5119</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Financial Data Analytics</i>	<i>EC5127</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>2 (Electives)</b> <b>(2 from 4)</b>	<i>International Finance</i>	<i>EC563</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Economics and the Global Economy</i>	<i>EC5124</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Green and Sustainable Finance</i>	<i>EC5137</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Applied Behavioural Economics</i>	<i>EC5153</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>Summer (Year)</b>	<i>International Finance Project</i>	<i>EC5138</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>Total</b>			<b>90</b>

### ***Mathematics for Economists (preparatory course) – strongly recommended for all***

**Overview:** *This course in Mathematics for Economists aims to give students the necessary mathematical skills to successfully complete the more quantitative and technical modules in economics offered under the various Master's degree programmes in economics at University of Galway. It provides a thorough revision of a range of mathematical concepts commonly used in economic analysis.*

**COURSE DELIVERY:** *This short course will run on Thursday mornings for the first four weeks of semester (11<sup>th</sup> September to 2nd October).*

### ***5.3 EC5138 International Finance Project***

The International Finance Project is intended to give students the opportunity to consolidate knowledge and skills acquired during the International Finance Masters programme and undertake an applied research project. The aims of the project are to enable the student to critically evaluate research in finance and/or economics; to demonstrate independent research; to apply theoretical knowledge and applied techniques acquired; to demonstrate critical thinking skills; and, to produce a well written final project that contributes to existing knowledge. Where appropriate, the project can be linked to employment or work placement. This module involves a series of discussions and meetings with assigned supervisors, the submission of a research proposal, the reporting of progress to supervisors within agreed timeframes, and the submission of the final applied research project.

A two hour workshop for EC5138 will take place in early Semester 2 and details on requirements will also be provided in a separate guidance document then.

### ***5.4 Work Placement***

Students also have the option to pursue a work placement opportunity incorporating the applied International Finance Project (EC5138). It is important to understand that the placement process is a competitive one, and if you wish to secure a placement you should treat it as a job search (with many advantages – e.g. supports from the university, introductions to potential placement organisation and opportunities etc.). In order to participate in the placement process, it is mandatory to attend all information

and support sessions provided by the placement officer and more generally to engage with the process from the outset. This includes submitting documents as requested, meeting deadlines, engaging with employers, making yourself available for interview etc. Failure to do so will result in you not being in a position to secure a work placement. Full details of the placement process will be provided in a separate guidance document and discussed with the programme director during our orientation session and in subsequent information sessions. Here are some general guidelines:

- If you do not secure an external placement, you will still complete EC5138 International Finance Project module (traditional research dissertation).
- Some placements will be paid, and others not. Students are strongly encouraged to view the placement opportunities as investments in their future career prospects. Our students could be offered full-time paid positions (graduate contracts and even permanent positions) with their host organisations following completion of the placement.
- Usually students undertake their work / research placement after the completion of semester 2 exams. Placements should be for a period of not less than 2 months (usually Mid-May to end of July or beyond).
- The placement organisation will generally be expected to nominate a supervisor/mentor and/or line manager to whom students on placement will be reporting on a day-to-day basis.
- Students will also be assigned an academic contact (a member of University of Galway academic staff), who will provide a first point of contact at University of Galway during the placement (this will typically be your allocated supervisor in EC5138).
- Students going on placement will be required to complete EC5138 International Finance Project (details on requirements will be provided in a separate guidance document), which will be supervised by an allocated member of the academic faculty in the Discipline of Economics.
- Placements are competitive and will usually involve students applying for and engaging in a competitive process to win the placement.
- A range of placement opportunities and contacts will be provided.

- Students are also encouraged to self-source placement opportunities. However, all placements and placement organisations must be approved by the placement officer and/or the programme director.

## 6. Module Descriptions – taught modules

### *Semester 1*

#### *EC5104 Applied Portfolio Analysis*

Successful portfolio management requires the development of a broad array of quantitative and qualitative skills, involving an analysis of both the investment instruments available in the capital market and the objectives and constraints of the ultimate investor. In addition, we will explore the linkages between portfolio management and modern risk management. This involves some interaction with the Semester 2 module EC5119 Derivatives & Risk Management.

#### *EC5128 Financial Econometrics*

This module aims to provide students with an accessible introduction to current models and techniques in financial econometrics and time series analysis. This course is designed to provide students with the tools needed to carry out empirical research in international finance. Students will be given the opportunity to apply these tools in financial econometrics research. The assignments and course lab sessions will provide students with hands on experience in analysing time series data sets.

#### *EC5109 Macroeconomics Theory and Policy*

The course provides a rigorous introduction to Macroeconomic models from the perspective of the interaction between the real and the financial sphere of the economy. The module introduces an analytical framework to analyse issues and challenges for macroeconomic policies in both the closed and open economy contexts. The module also aims to enable students with the critical practical skills of analysing macroeconomic time series data and estimating financial and business cycles for policy analysis.

## *EC501 Microeconomic Theory*

This course consists of 24 hours of lectures on microeconomic theory at a relatively advanced level. We will cover some of the core topics in microeconomics; namely, consumer choice and demand, expected utility theory, producer theory, markets and partial equilibrium, general equilibrium and welfare economics, social choice theory, and an introduction to game theory. There are two student groups, postgraduate International Finance students and postgraduate Global Environmental Economics students. Postgraduate microeconomics is mathematically more demanding than undergraduate microeconomics, and you should be aware of this. However, I will provide some excellent readings on Canvas that will help you understand the mathematics used in the course.

## *Semester 2*

### *EC5119 Derivatives and Risk Management*

Explores a range of issues related to derivatives markets and risk management. We begin by exploring the basic features of futures, swaps and options with an emphasis on economic intuition and understanding, although important quantitative techniques are developed. We use the insights developed in these topics to examine some well-known examples of derivatives mishaps and recent applications of derivatives, including credit derivatives and weather derivatives.

*EC5127 Financial Data Analytics* aims to introduce students to financial data analytics and empirical methods used in finance. The module focuses on quantitative and analytical techniques that are used in asset valuation, portfolio management, derivative valuation, risk management and financial decision making. Different financial models such as the Markowitz model (Modern Portfolio Theory), the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) and the Black-Scholes model are explained and employed. In addition, students are introduced to machine learning techniques in finance. Overall, the module has an applied focus and students will get hands-on experience with financial data analytics based on real financial data. Students will also be introduced to computer programming in Python, where these financial analytic techniques are implemented.

## *Elective Modules*

***EC563 International Finance*** aims to introduce students to the core issues in international macroeconomics and finance. Topics covered include theories of current account determination, international capital market integration, determinants of the real exchange rate, and dynamic open-economy macroeconomic models.

***EC5124 Economics and the Global Economy*** aims to increase students' knowledge and understanding of economics and economic issues in the global economy. The topics are the scope of economics, global economic issues, methodology and economic models, role of economic policy and policymakers, economic performance: measurement and analysis, and the economic and business environment.

### ***EC5137 Green and Sustainable Finance***

Transforming the global economy to make it more sustainable requires large investments, especially for enabling a green and low-carbon transition. The aim of this module is to introduce students to the important role of financial markets in the transition to a climate-neutral, green, competitive and inclusive economy. The module explores the requirements to mobilise financial markets to align with environmental and climate targets, and focuses on the different financial products and instruments that can power the transition. Overall, the module will consider how to embed green and sustainable finance principles and practice into financial decision-making.

### ***EC5153 Applied Behavioural Economics***

Behavioural economics brings psychological insights to bear on economic phenomena. In this module we examine applications of behavioural economics to policy issues in the domains of finance, the environment, and health behaviours. For instance, how do we help people save adequately for retirement while respecting individual freedoms? How can households learn to effectively reduce their carbon footprint, at minimum financial cost? In health, how can behavioural evidence help design effective policies to encourage healthy diets, regular exercise, and demand for preventative healthcare? Students study some of the pillars of behavioural economics – e.g. prospect theory, social norms, present bias, bounded rationality, limited attention and limited understanding, overoptimism and information-avoidance – and assess their relevance to policy problems. The module also critically assesses methodology, as we consider

the pros and cons of various methods used to generate behavioural evidence for policy. We focus on laboratory experiments and randomised controlled trials in the field. Students learn to assess each method and how to decide which is most suitable for a given policy problem.

## 7. Canvas (on-line learning platform)

Canvas is the web-based learning environment used at the University of Galway. There is a Canvas page for each module, including course content, and information on class projects, assignments and assessments. *All students are required to familiarize themselves with Canvas and to log on regularly to keep up to date with the requirements of each module.* Canvas will not only be used to contain and circulate key module materials (lecture notes, announcements, assignments, etc.). In most modules, submission of assignments will also be facilitated through Canvas, via Turnitin Assignments. Turnitin generates a 'Similarity Report' which identifies unoriginal submitted material. For a quick guide to Canvas, please see the following link: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/canvas/>

## 8. On-campus Facilities & Services

Services available to students can be accessed when you click on the University of Galway Students portal: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/students/> . Here we have tried to group some of those that you may find particularly useful during the course of your studies.

Before you embark on your studies at University of Galway, you will first need to register. Registration for the 2025/2026 academic year opens on 19<sup>th</sup> August. Please check for closing dates at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/quick-links/registration-dates/#tab2>

Information on how to register and further help are available here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/how-to-register/>

When you register, you will be asked to register for two Semester 2 optional modules (see Module Descriptions above.)

Module registration/change of mind for Semester 2 will become available early 2026 (usually closing on or around 30<sup>th</sup> January – but as above, please double check these dates on the registration office website).

### ***8.1 Student ID Card***

The name and spelling of your name AND date of birth on your birth cert/passport/driver licence is what will appear on your University of Galway student ID card. Your Student ID Card will be your official identification card for the duration of your programme at University of Galway and for all college related matters only.

The main form of distribution of Student ID Cards for postgraduates and undergraduates will be for the students to call in person to the Registration Helpdesk in Áras Uí Chathail on the 1st Floor, on allocated dates / date ranges (as outlined below). The Registration Desk will be open from 09:00 - 17:00, Monday to Friday during the card collection dates.

#### **Áras Ui Chathail, University of Galway, University Rd Gaillimh - Google Maps**

If a student is unable to collect his/her Student ID Card, they can contact Registration via email [registration@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:registration@universityofgalway.ie) or 091 494949 and arrange for an alternate means of distribution e.g. send in the post to home address.

### ***8.2 Library Facilities***

All registered students of this programme are automatically entitled to use the library. ID cards are issued to new students at registration. This ID card enables the user to enter the library and entitles him/ her to borrow material. Please remember that without an ID card you may not borrow and at any time you may be asked to produce it for security reasons. ID cards are not transferable, and users are responsible for all material borrowed on their card. Students are encouraged to avail of the many facilities offered by the James Hardiman Library at times which are convenient to their study programme. The library

charges **fin**es for overdue material solely to secure its prompt return so that others may avail of it. Further details may be found at <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/>

### *8.3 Computer Facilities*

PCs are available for students in PC suites around the campus. PCs are available on a "first come first served" (open access) basis for at least an hour each day. These open access hours are advertised on the door of each suite and on the notice board in the suite at the start of term. PCs are also available at times when they are not booked for classes. Should you have any difficulties using the PCs or you wish to report a hardware fault please contact the User Support Centre, Room 118, Computer Services (ext 3325). If necessary, the User Support Centre staff will make an appointment for a technical advisory session for you. Detailed information regarding use of University of Galway computer facilities is available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cs/>

### *8.4 Academic Skills Hub*

The Academic Skills Hub aims to support all University of Galway students to develop the key skills required for academic success. The Academic Skills Hub:

- Provides brief introductions to, and top tips on, **eight key academic skills**, as well as some information to help you get started
- Offers advice and resources for **studying in the online learning environment**
- Links to a range of **additional sources of support** for students, including Library resources and academic skills workshops

Further details and resources are available at <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/>

### *8.5 Academic Writing Centre*

The mission of the Academic Writing Centre is to help students to become better writers. They provide free one-on-one tutorials on essay writing and also support student writing through workshops, modules, and competitions.

They offer help in the following areas:

- Brainstorming your essay topic and outline
- Structuring an argument
- Developing your dissertation
- Improving sentence structure and punctuation
- Avoiding plagiarism
- Using secondary sources
- Editing and proofreading techniques

More information on the Academic Writing Centre here: <https://library.nuigalway.ie/awc/>

### *8.6 The Students Union (SU)*

The Students Union provides information for First Year students which is useful for anyone who is new to University of Galway: <https://su.nuigalway.ie/help-advice/firstyear/> or call into the Students' Union at Áras na Mac Léinn. Check out the University's student services page:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/> The Students Union is very useful with regard to welfare and helping with academic performance. They usually run an excellent study skills workshop during the year.

### *8.7 Student Health Unit*

The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students in a confidential, professional and courteous manner. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service. The unit is operating on a very strict '**BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY**' basis to ensure that optimal infection prevention and control measures can be maintained at all times. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE STUDENT HEALTH UNIT FACILITY WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING THE PRACTICE.**

The Health Unit is located upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn (beside the Students Union Office). Tel: 091-492604. [https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health\\_unit/](https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/)

### *8.8 Counselling*

You may meet some challenges during university life. Counselling can be an important resource for you. If you would like to set up an appointment please

email: [counselling@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:counselling@universityofgalway.ie) or phone 091 492484.

They are located at No. 5 Distillery Road (on the right hand side in a two storey house). The website is: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>

### *8.9 Business Student Advisor*

Our Student Advisor, Teresa Lydon, is a support for students throughout their time at university. Students may seek advice or guidance on a variety of matters including academic, personal, professional or financial at various stages of their education. On speaking with our Student Advisor, a student may be referred to an individual staff member or another support service for further advice, relevant to the nature of the query. Teresa is available to students by email and telephone during the mornings of Monday to Friday. It is a confidential service.

You can make an appointment by emailing [businessstudentadvisor@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:businessstudentadvisor@universityofgalway.ie)

Teresa's contact number is 086 0836646.

Further details: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/businessstudentadvisor/>

### *8.10 Disability Office*

Bernie McGee, Disability Officer, Room 216, Áras Uí-Cathail Tel. 353 (0) 91 492813

E-mail: [disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie)

### *8.11 Postgraduate Admissions*

Please see [Frequently Asked Question](#) section as your question may already have been answered there prior to presenting a query.

E-mail: [postgradadmissions@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:postgradadmissions@universityofgalway.ie)

T : +353 91 495 999

### **8.12 Fees Office**

E-mail: [fees@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:fees@universityofgalway.ie)

[www.universityofgalway.ie/fees](http://www.universityofgalway.ie/fees)

### **8.13 Accommodation Office**

**Accommodation advisory service:** <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/>

### **8.14 Parking**

University Of Galway enjoys a central location in Galway City and with this, comes parking restrictions. A system to manage parking was agreed with the staff and students' union as follows:

- There are different types of spaces on campus, including spaces for:
  - staff permit holders only,
  - student permit holders only,
  - shared use (staff student permit holders) and
  - visitor/non-permit holder pay-and-display (P&D) spaces.
- You need a permit to park in University Of Galway, or you can buy a ticket from P&D machines. Please note, that P&D tickets ONLY apply to spaces marked in blue adjacent to the meters - P&D tickets do not allow you to park anywhere else. Permit holders can use P&D spaces, but you must buy a ticket.
- Your permit/P&D ticket allows you to park in specific places and you must familiarize yourself with the zones, and which permit applies to what carpark.
- There are also 'reserved' spaces and loading bays - do not park in these.
- You may use the universally accessible parking spaces if you have correctly procured and display an IWA 'blue badge' permit.

- If you park in the wrong place, or outside of a parking space, you may be clamped. If you don't display your permit, you may also be clamped. Clamp release fee is €60 and €80 after 6pm.
- You can get your student parking permit for a charge at the Parking and Information Office, Arts/Science Concourse. There are application forms on this site.

Allow plenty of time on your first visit to campus with your car. If you have any doubts whatsoever, check the website (below) or telephone/drop into the parking office on the concourse!

### *How to get a Student Parking Permit*

Full details available at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/service-helpdesk/parking-get-to-around/>

If you park in a "Pay and Display" space, you must display a valid Pay & Display ticket and park only in spaces marked "Pay and Display". In accepting a student parking permit, you are deemed to have read and understood this Student Parking web page and the following rules and regulations. Please note that abuse of the parking management system may result in a disciplinary procedure.

### *8.15 Health & Safety*

Emergency Information: [Emergency Information - University of Galway](#)

Emergency contacts (further details): <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/contacts-emergency/>

University of Galway Safety Statement

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/healthsafety/Safety-Statement-2022-with-Presidents-Signature.pdf>

**\*\*Students are strongly encouraged to consult the University of Galway website for information on college policies\*\*.**

## 9. University of Galway Campus Map

Please see the Campus map below for the locations of all the main University services and teaching buildings. The Economics discipline is located in the older part of the Cairnes building (marked 35 on the map), known as St Anthony's. You can expect your main location for on campus activity related to the programme to be in the Cairnes building, but other venues around the university campus may also be used, depending on class size, room capacities and availability etc. Full details of lecture times and venues will be provided prior to the start of each semester.

Some of the main room numbers for lectures are coded as follows:

- AM -- the Arts Millennium Building on the main campus
- AC -- The Arts/Sciences Concourse
- CA -- Cairnes Building (including the "St Anthony's" part of it)
- ENG -- the Engineering Building (by the river, near Cairnes)
- IT -- the Information Technology Building on the main campus
- MRI -- Marine Research Institute
- UC -- Áras Uí Chathail, on the main campus, (near Áras na mac Léinn)

There are also various other campus maps online at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps/>

**An Campas Spóirt, an Daingean - an  
tionad Spóirt Réigiúnach san áireamh**  
Sports Campus, Dangan - including  
Regional Sports Centre

<b>An Áras Spóirt</b> Sports Pavilion	<b>46</b>
<b>Teach Maryville</b> Maryville House	<b>45</b>

**An Campas Thuaidh**  
North Campus

<b>An Daingean A</b> Dangan A	<b>43</b>
<b>Cúrsa Saoil</b> Lifecourse	<b>41</b>
<b>Baile na Coiribe</b> Corrib Village	<b>39</b>
<b>Baile an Chiorbhúí</b> Goldcrest Village	<b>38</b>
<b>Eolaíochtaí Bithleighis</b> Biomedical Sciences	<b>40</b>
<b>Institiúid na hEolaíochta Sonraí</b> Data Science Institute	<b>44</b>
<b>Naiolann na hOllscoile</b> University Crèche	<b>37</b>
<b>Páircéil agus Taisteal</b> Park and Ride	<b>42</b>

**An Campas Láir**  
Central Campus

<b>An tionad Nuálaíochta agus Gnó</b> Business and Innovation Centre	<b>32</b>
<b>An tionad Taighde agus Nuálaíochta</b> Research and Innovation Centre	<b>31</b>

<b>An tionad Taighde don Chothú Sláinte</b> Health Promotion Research Centre	<b>36</b>
<b>Áras Cairnes</b> Cairnes Building	<b>35</b>
<b>Áras Innealtóireachta Alice Perry</b> Alice Perry Engineering Building	<b>34</b>
<b>Áras Mhaighie Seola</b> Moyola Building	<b>33</b>
<b>An Clinic Teiripe Uirlabhra agus Teanga</b> Speech and Language Therapy Clinic	<b>33</b>

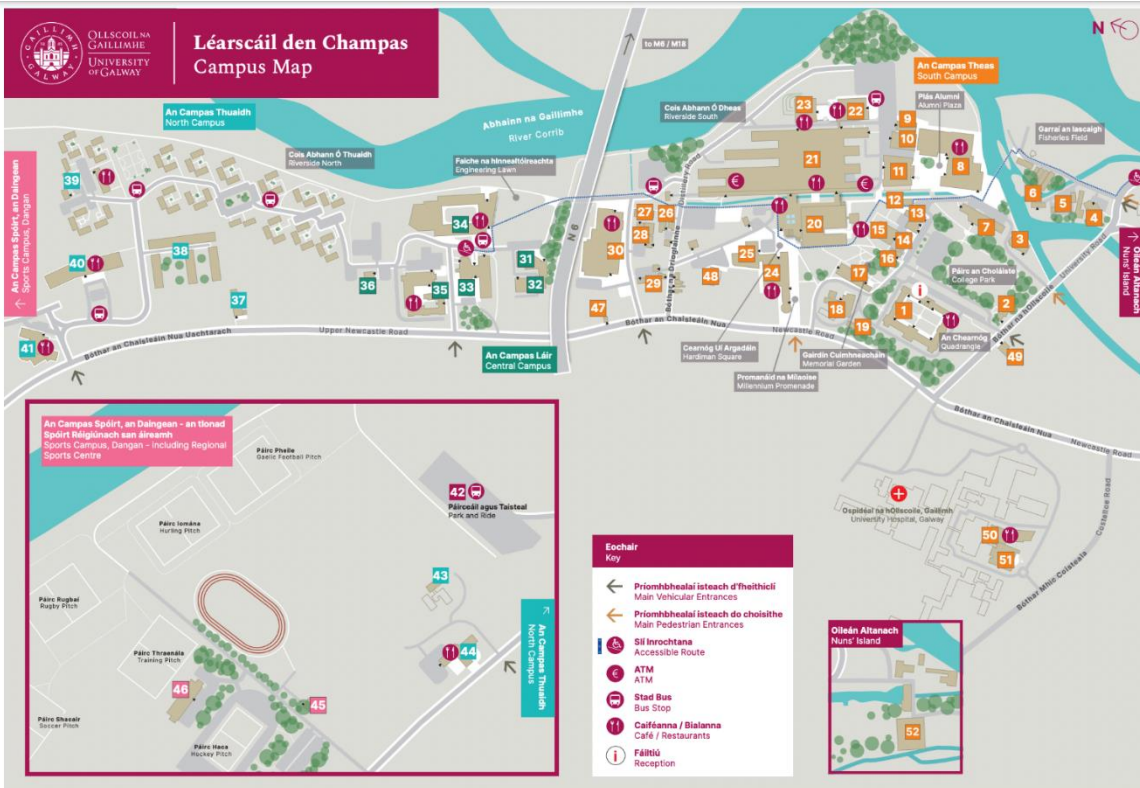
**An Campas Theas**  
South Campus

<b>10 Bóthar an Chaisleáin Nua</b> 10 Newcastle Road	<b>47</b>
<b>14 Bóthar na hOllscoile</b> 14 University Road	<b>49</b>
<b>14 Bóthar na Drioglainne</b> (An Oifig Slándála) 14 Distillery Road (Security)	<b>27</b>
<b>An Chearnóg</b> Quadrangle	<b>1</b>
<b>An Foirgneamh Anatamaíochta</b> Anatomy Building	<b>18</b>
<b>An Foirgneamh IT</b> IT Building	<b>23</b>
<b>An tionad Spóirt</b> Sports Centre	<b>30</b>
<b>Áras Dán na Mílaoise</b> Arts Millennium Building	<b>24</b>
<b>Áras de Brún</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Áras Mhairéad (Ma) Ní Éimhigh</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Áras Mháirtín Uí Riain</b> Martin Ryan Building	<b>7</b>

<b>Áras na Bitheolaíochta Daonna</b> Human Biology Building	<b>11</b>
<b>Áras na Gaelige</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Áras na Mac Léinn</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Áras Oirbsean</b> Orbsen Building	<b>22</b>
<b>Áras Uí Argadáin</b> Hardiman Building	<b>20</b>
<b>Áras Uí Chathail</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Aula Maxima</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Beár na Mac Léinn - Sult</b> College Bar - Sult	<b>8</b>
<b>Bloc E</b> Block E	<b>13</b>
<b>Bloc F</b> Block F	<b>19</b>
<b>Bloc S</b> Block S	<b>12</b>
<b>Bloc T</b> Block T	<b>28</b>
<b>Bóthar na Drioglainne</b> Distillery Road	<b>26</b>
<b>Ceoláras Emily Anderson</b> The Emily Anderson Concert Hall	<b>1</b>
<b>Comhaltas na Mac Léinn</b> Students' Union	<b>8</b>
<b>Deasc Eolais na Mac Léinn (SID)</b> Student Information Desk (SID)	<b>10</b>
<b>Foirgneamh na nDán / na hEolaíochta</b> Arts / Science Building	<b>21</b>
<b>Fortheach Institiúid Uí Riain</b> Ryan Institute Annexe	<b>3</b>
<b>Halla Bailey Allen</b> Bailey Allen Hall	<b>8</b>

<b>Institiúid na hEolaíochta Cliniúla</b> Clinical Science Institute	<b>51</b>
<b>Ionad na hÉireann do Chearta an Duine</b> Irish Centre for Human Rights	<b>4</b>
<b>Ionad na Seirbhísí Poist</b> Mail Services Centre	<b>9</b>
<b>Ionad Uí Dhonnchadha - An Drámaíocht, an Amharclannaíocht agus an Taibhléiriú</b> O'Donoghue Centre - Drama, Theatre and Performance	<b>8</b>
<b>Institiúid Lambe</b> Lambe Institute	<b>50</b>
<b>Oldeachas</b> Education	<b>14</b>
<b>Oldeachas</b> Education	<b>52</b>
<b>Réamhdhéantán Cois Abhan</b> Riverside Terrapin	<b>29</b>
<b>Réamhdhéantán Scoil Huston</b> The Huston School Bubble	<b>5</b>
<b>Scoil Scannán agus Meán</b> Digiteach Huston Huston School of Film and Digital Media	<b>6</b>
<b>Séipéal Naomh Columbán</b> The Chapel of St Columbanus	<b>48</b>
<b>Síceolaíocht</b> Psychology	<b>25</b>
<b>Teach an Gheata</b> Gate Lodge	<b>2</b>

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## 10. Meet the Lecturers

The following economics staff usually teach on the core modules of the MSc Global Environmental Economics programme and are also the main members of staff normally allocated to supervise student dissertations on the programme.



*Alan Ahearne*

Alan Ahearne is Professor of Economics at the University of Galway. He served as Economic Adviser to Taoiseach Micheál Martin from July 2020 to December 2024. He served as a non-executive director of the Central Bank of Ireland from 2011 to 2020, and chaired the Banks Risk Committee and Budget and Remuneration Committee. He served as Chair of the Joint Department of Finance ESRI Research Programme on the Macroeconomy, Taxation and Banking, and was a member of the External Advisory Group to Ireland's Parliamentary Budget Office. He has served as adviser to the IMF, Consultant to the U.K. Department for International Development, and as a Research Fellow at the think tank Bruegel in Brussels. He holds an honorary appointment at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. Alan served as Economic Adviser to Ireland's Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan from 2009 to 2011. He obtained his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University and subsequently joined the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, where he worked for seven years as a Senior Economist.



*Luke McGrath*

Luke is a lecturer in Environmental Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and Programme Director for the MSc Global Environmental Economics & Policy. Luke's research interests lie in environmental-economic accounting, the economics of sustainable development and regional development. Luke has published in leading field journals across environmental economics (Ecological Economics), environmental science (Journal of Environmental Management), development economics (Review of Income & Wealth) and economic history

(European Review of Economic History). Luke is a former Irish Research Council scholar, the recipient of the Labhrás ó Nualláin prize and the title of University Scholar from the University of Galway and a finalist for the Miriam Hederman O'Brien prize awarded by the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. Prior to his academic career, Luke served as an economist for over five years in the civil and public service with the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service (IGEES) and the Western Development Commission (WDC).



### *John McHale*

John McHale is Established Professor and Head of Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, University of Galway. He previously served as Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law and also as Director of the Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change. Prior to joining the University of Galway, John held positions as Assistant Professor of Economics and Associate Professor of Economics at Harvard University, and as Associate Professor of Managerial Economics and Toller Family Research Fellow at the Queen's University, Ontario. He holds Ph.D and A.M degrees from Harvard University, and first-class B.Comm. and M.Econ.Sc. degrees from the National University of Ireland. His published work has appeared in journals such as the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of Urban Economics, the Journal of Economic Geography and Research Policy. Professor McHale was Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from its inception in 2011 to 2016 and he has been an independent member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Pensions Board. He served as President of the Irish Economic Association from 2016 to 2018.

### *Gerald Turley*



After working for a time as a foreign exchange trader and economist, Gerard Turley joined the academic world at NUI Galway in 1990 and since then has lectured in Ireland, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the United States where in 2009 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley. As for his educational qualifications, a B.A. and a M.A. from NUI Galway (or University College Galway as it was then) was later followed by a PhD from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK. He teaches economics to both

undergraduate students and postgraduates of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. He has worked on numerous international projects, funded by the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EC EuropeAid, Adam Smith Institute, UK Department for International Development and the George Soros' Open Society Foundations. His research interests include local public finance and funding of local governments, intergovernmental fiscal relations and transition economics. He co-manages the [www.localauthorityfinances.com](http://www.localauthorityfinances.com) website.



### *Ashley Piggins*

Ashley teaches economics in the J. E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bristol, having previously studied in Cambridge and London. His Erdős number is 3. Ashley is an "Old Blue" having represented Cambridge University in tennis in the 1990s. His research lies at the intersection of economics, political science and philosophy. He is interested in welfare economics, social choice theory, game theory, philosophy of economics and electoral systems (particularly the U.S. Electoral College). Ashley has published papers in the *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Economic Theory*, *Journal of Mathematical Economics*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, *Mathematical Social Sciences*, *Economics and Philosophy*, *Economics Letters*, *Journal of Logic and Computation*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, and *Electoral Studies*. Ashley has given invited research seminars at Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris School of Economics, University of Bath, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, Université de Caen, Universidad de Murcia, Universität Osnabrück, University of St. Andrews, University of East Anglia, University Of Galway, Maynooth, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, London School of Economics, CORE, Université Catholique de Louvain, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Durham University, Universidad Zaragoza and Union College. He has taught at the University of Nottingham, University of Bristol, Queen's University Belfast and Trinity College Dublin. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).



*Cian Twomey*

Before joining the University of Galway, Cian worked in the Department of Economics at University College, Cork and previously in fund management with Bank of Ireland Asset Management, Dublin. Cian is currently a lecturer in economics within the JE Cairnes School of Business & Economics where he delivers a wide range of modules across the discipline of financial economics. For the past three years, Cian has also been Chairperson of St. Columba's Credit Union in Galway.



*Féidhlim McGowan*

Dr Féidhlim McGowan is a behavioural economist. He joined the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics as a Lecturer Above the Bar in September 2023. His main research interests are using experimental methods to explore individual decision making in different domains, and testing policy interventions to help consumers make better decisions (as judged by themselves). Within the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, Féidhlim is a member of the Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability (CERIS). He is also the Programme Director for the MSc Fintech (Economics and Financial Technology). Before joining the faculty at the University of Galway, Féidhlim was an Irish Research Council Fellow based at the Behavioural Research Unit (BRU) in the ESRI.



*Zongyuan Li*

Zongyuan Li is Lecturer in Financial Economics and Technology at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. His primarily research interests lie in financial economics and political economics, focusing on:

- (i) The effects of financial regulation and political uncertainties on companies, particularly in highly

regulated banking and real estate industries, and (ii) How companies employ various mechanisms to bypass regulations and mitigate political risks. He has published his work in several economics and finance journals, including Journal of Financial Research, International Review of Financial Analysis, and Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money. Zongyuans work has been presented at several leading academic institutions, such as the Peoples Bank of China, Columbia University, and Baruch College. Zongyuan holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration (specializing in Finance) from University of Macau, an MSc in Finance from ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, and a bachelors degree in medicine from Xian Jiaotong University. Before joining the University of Galway in 2024, Zongyuan taught at Wenzhou-Kean University and Dalian Maritime University, and served as a part-time CFA lecturer at Golden Education Institute.

*This handbook is issued for the **guidance** of students only. Course content and course options may change and students are advised to verify information in this handbook with the Programme Director and, where appropriate, module coordinators.*

*The information provided is intended for those who are joining the MEconSc International Finance full-time, in 2025.*

*The information provided here is correct and up-to-date, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of writing (11 August 2025), but is subject to change, particularly with respect to public health guidance and university policies.*



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