Graduate Study

Admission Requirements for Graduate Study

The Department of Economics specifies the following prerequisites for graduate study in economics: one full year of college mathematics and an appreciable number of professional subjects in economics for those qualified students who have majored in fields other than economics. Applicants for admission who have deficiencies in entrance requirements should consult with the department about programs to remedy such deficits.

Master of Science in Economics

In unusual circumstances, admission may be granted to current MIT students seeking the Master of Science degree. The general requirements for the SM (http://catalog.mit.edu/mit/graduate-education) are given in the section on Graduate Education.

Master of Applied Science in Data, Economics, and Development Policy

The blended Master of Applied Science in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (http://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/master-applied-data-economics-development-policy) is an intensive program consisting of a series of nine subjects and three seminars plus a capstone experience (a summer internship and a corresponding project report). Students will gain a strong foundation in microeconomics, development economics, probability, and statistics; engage with cutting-edge research; and develop practical skills in data analysis and the evaluation of social programs. Only students who have successfully completed the MITx MicroMasters credential in Data, Economics and Development are eligible to apply to the on-campus Master’s program.

Email for more information (dedp_masters@povertyactionlab.org) or visit the website (https://micromasters.mit.edu/dedp/blended-masters-program).

Doctor of Philosophy

A candidate for the doctorate must demonstrate mastery of core content in microeconomic theory, macroeconomics, and econometrics; complete further coursework in four fields of study; and submit and defend a dissertation that represents a contribution to knowledge. The four fields are chosen from advanced economic theory, econometrics, economic development, finance, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, monetary economics, organizational economics, political economy, and public economics. Each may be satisfied by one year of coursework, although additional coursework in a student’s primary field is often recommended.

There is no required minimum number of graduate subjects in the department. Students must be in residence for a minimum of two years. However, candidates ordinarily need two full academic years of study to complete the core and field requirements, and the doctoral thesis typically requires three or four years of additional research effort.

Interdisciplinary Program

Economics and Statistics

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in Statistics provides training in statistics, including classical statistics and probability as well as computation and data analysis, to students who wish to integrate these valuable skills into their primary academic program. The program is administered jointly by the departments of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Economics, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, and Political Science, and the Statistics and Data Science Center within the Institute for Data, Systems, and Society. It is open to current doctoral students in participating departments. For more information, including department-specific requirements, see the full program description (http://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/graduate-programs/phd-statistics) under Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs.

Financial Support

Many doctoral students are supported by scholarship and fellowship grants, as well as by teaching and research assistantships.

Inquiries

For more information regarding admissions or financial aid (evako@mit.edu), contact Julia Martyn-Shah, 617-253-8787. For undergraduate admissions and academic programs (gking@mit.edu), contact Gary King, 617-253-0951. For any other information (memiller@mit.edu), contact Megan Miller, 617-253-3807.