Graduate School in Economics:
When, Why, How, and Where!

Department of Economics

November 3, 2022
Agenda

• 15:30-15:45: Applying to U of C’s Graduate Programs by Dr. Stefan Staubli
• 15:45-16:00: Applying to Canadian Graduate Programs by Dr. Arvind Magesan
• 16:00-16:15: Applying to Graduate Programs in the United States by Dr. Leonard Goff
• 16:15-16:25 School of Public Policy’s Master in Public Policy by Dr. Kent Fellows
• 16:25-16:45: Benefits of Graduate School and Process by Dr. Jeffrey Church
• 16:45-17:00: Questions
• 17:00-17:30: Student Panel
  - Moderator: Raj Lakhan, Academic Program Specialist
  - Jacob Graham (Zoom), MA 2021, University of British Columbia
  - Reid Fortier, MA Student, University of Calgary
  - Anju Hollis, MA 2022, University of Toronto
  - Stephen Classen (Zoom), MA 2022, University of Calgary
  - Jordan Schmike (Zoom), MA Student, University of Toronto
Applying to U of C’s Graduate Programs

Department of Economics

Stefan Staubli, Associate Professor
Graduate Program Director
UCalgary’s Department of Economics

➢ Collegial environment
➢ Office space
➢ Highly competitive funding
➢ Vibrant research environment
➢ Multiple departmental seminars, other events
➢ Excellent placement record
➢ Expertise in many areas: energy, environment, labour, trade, applied micro, public economics, monetary, industrial organization, health economics, and more!
Where our students go

Master’s Students
➢ Halifax Partnership (Taylor Grady)
➢ IHS Markit (Hilary Bao)
➢ O’Brien Institute (Shahreen Khair)
➢ NEB (Ryan Quan)
➢ RBC (Prince Afrim)
➢ Brookfield (Deny Sullivan)
➢ Alberta Utilities Commission (Phil Alonzo)
➢ Westjet (Morgan Gluszak)
➢ Alberta Electricity System Operator (Lars Renborg, Brendan Jewitt)
➢ Enbridge (Vadim Parshintsev)
➢ Twitter (Brent Cohn)
➢ Competition Bureau (Adam White)
➢ Graduate Programs at LSE, John Hopkins, UBC, Toronto, Cambridge, UBC, Queens, Warwick
➢ ...

PhD Students
➢ Jevan Cherniwchan (U of Alberta)
➢ Juan Moreno-Cruz (Waterloo)
➢ Itziar Lazkano (UW Milwaukee)
➢ Victor Song (SFU)
➢ Jinan Liu (University of Nebraska)
➢ Matt Krzepkowski (Finance Canada)
➢ Olena Ivus (Queen’s)
➢ Meng Sun (Thompson Rivers)
➢ Wei Dai (UBC Okanagan)
➢ Safoura Moeeni (University of Regina)
➢ Miguel Olivo (University of Sydney)
➢ Arezou Zaresani (University of Sydney)
➢ Qiongda Zhao (Mount Royal University)
➢ Elham Adibnia (Institute for Health Economics, U of A)
➢ Fruzsina Mayer (Statistics Canada)
The Main Graduate Programs at U of C

- **Master of Arts**
  - Can be terminal degree → employment
  - Course-based or thesis-based
  - Preparation for further studies at the PhD level
  - **NEW: Doctoral-stream option**, where during your MA you take PhD-level classes and write comprehensive exams to begin (effectively) in your 2nd year PhD

- **Doctor of Philosophy**
  - Leads to research or academic positions
  - Compete for senior government or industry positions
Master of Arts (Course-Based)

12-month program, Fall entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block Week (late August/Early September)</th>
<th>Fall Semester (September – December)</th>
<th>Winter Semester (January – April)</th>
<th>Spring Semester (May – June)</th>
<th>Summer Semester (July – August)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students attend 2-week Math Camp</td>
<td>ECON 615: Advanced Econometric 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECON 657: Micro Theory 2</td>
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<td>ECON 659: Macro Theory 3</td>
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<td>Core Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Courses</td>
<td>ECON 691: Research Methods I</td>
<td>ECON 693: Research Methods Course II</td>
<td>ECON 695: Research Methods III</td>
<td>ECON 697: Research Methods IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Courses</td>
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<td>Four Field Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Research Project</td>
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<td>Students complete and present an independent research project under faculty member supervision</td>
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Funding available

- **Department Recommended Scholarships**
  - Frank Anton / John Dalgarno Memorial Scholarship (5 x $10k)
  - Arthur Child Memorial Scholarship ($15k)
  - Stephen G. Peitchinis Memorial Graduate Scholarship ($7.2k)
  - Department of Economics Alumni Graduate Scholarship ($2.6k)
  - Economics Society of Calgary Graduate Scholarship ($2.8k)

- **FGS Graduate Award Competition**
  - Special Awards Competition: **January 15 Deadline**, no citizenship restriction
    Details: [https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/graduate-award-competition](https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/graduate-award-competition), FGS Awards workshop: November 28

- **Teaching and Research Assistant Opportunities**
  - “Full” allocation is roughly $9,000 per semester
SSHRC Funding for Master’s Students

➢ Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Master’s funding (CGS-M) is valued at $17,500
➢ “Canadian Graduate Scholarship – Master’s Program”
➢ Must be a Canadian (citizen or PR) enrolled in, or will apply to, a Canadian institution
➢ Deadline to request transcripts – **November 5**
➢ Deadline for **entire application** (including references and transcripts) – **December 1**

➢ [https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships](https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships)
Requesting Transcripts Funding for SSHRC CGS-M

➢ General information including link to transcripts request form:
  https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships

➢ How to request transcripts:
  ➢ Should have received an email from Merrit Penny with instructions
  ➢ Student complete transcripts request form
  ➢ Save completed form as “YourLastName-CGSM Transcript Request” and send by e-mail to gsaward@calgary.ca by November 5

➢ Important: form says the following, which you can ignore

You must be a current University of Calgary Master’s student to request your transcripts from FGS

I confirm I am a current University of Calgary Master's student
Benefits of and Support for SSHRC Application

➢ CGS-M applicants are automatically considered for the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarships (AGES) – annual value of $11,000

➢ 30% of the adjudication weight is on your research proposal. If you would like a faculty mentor to go over your research proposal, please email the department at econgrad@ucalgary.ca.

➢ The Graduate Leaders Circle hosts CGS-M scholarship cafes & one-on-one mentoring sessions in November. Details: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships

➢ Slides from FGS workshop on CGS-M application strategies: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/5/awards_2022_CGSM_Workshop.pdf
Questions about Ucalgary’s grad program?

➢ Contacts:

➢ General Inquiries: econgrad@ucalgary.ca

➢ Graduate Program Advisor: Merrit Penny at penny@ucalgary.ca

➢ Graduate Program Director: Stefan Staubli at sstaubli@ucalgary.ca
Econ Grad Programs in Canada

Arvind Magesan

November 2022
First Thing:

- Our honors students are highly regarded and have a very strong reputation across the country.
- Why? The program is tough and you get the same training as honors students at the top schools in Canada.
- Our honors students have gone to top MA/PhD programs in recent years (i.e. in Canada, UofT, UBC) and done very well.
- AIM HIGH.
Common Questions

1. What schools should I consider?
2. How do I choose between them?
3. How do I maximize my chances of getting in?
Where to apply?

Within Canada there are tiers in terms of research quality, which is correlated with a lot of things you care about (more in a moment) but is definitely not everything (especially for those you looking for a terminal MA):

1. Toronto and UBC
2. Western*, Queens**, SFU, UofC, McMaster, McGill, Université de Montreal
3. Everyone else

How do I choose between them?

The answer to this depends on what you want.

1. Terminal MA and then industry/gov’t
2. Stepping stone/more training before PhD
3. Not sure/keeping options open/school is fun etc.
How do I choose between them?

- Job placement success, for the job YOU want. Best measure of program “quality.” Schools post these on their grad websites.
- Course/program offering. Does it match what you want?
- Funding. It is much more competitive than you think, GPDs will respond to offers. Talk with Stephen Claassen and Jordan Schimke.
- Location and cost of living.
- Office space, student life etc. Reach out to current grad students at other places (we might be able to help with this).
How do I maximize my chances?

1. Grades in your honours courses.
2. Choose letter writers carefully.
3. For better or worse, connections matter - get your profs who have connections at the places you go to to push for you. It works.
4. We want you in the best programs possible - exploit this!
If you are looking for a terminal MA route to a good job, MA in Econ programs aren’t your only option.

1. Master’s of Financial Economics (MFE) (UofT and UWO both have very strong ones)
2. Master’s of Public Policy (most schools have one)
Good Luck!

Feel free to be in touch if you need to discuss anything - anmagesa@ucalgary.ca (SS430)
Applying to Graduate Schools in the United States

Department of Economics

Dr. Leonard Goff
Assistant Professor
 Programs in the US

➢ Many of the world’s best economics departments are in the US
  ➢ MIT, Stanford, Harvard, Chicago, Berkeley, etc.

➢ Similar to Canadian programs but differ in:
  ➢ Mostly PhD programs, fewer master’s programs
  ➢ US undergraduates often don’t complete master’s degrees
  ➢ Do not need a master’s degree for entry, though it can help
**Canadian vs American Graduate Schools**

➢ Most of the very best schools of Economics are in the US
➢ Don’t take these rankings *too* seriously, but here’s one top 50 list in N. America:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO</td>
<td>443</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>HARVARD UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>407</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>STANFORD UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>398</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>335</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY</td>
<td>327</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVIA</td>
<td>310</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>PRINCETON UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>267</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>NEW YORK UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>284</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>YALE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>253</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN</td>
<td>188</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>DUKE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>183</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>CORNELL UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO</td>
<td>160</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>141</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>128</td>
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<td>20.</td>
<td>BOSTON UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>TEXAS A&amp;M UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES</td>
<td>107</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>BROWN UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>28.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS</td>
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<td>BOSTON COLLEGE</td>
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<td>OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>INDIANA UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
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<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>85</td>
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<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE</td>
<td>85</td>
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<td>40.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA</td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN</td>
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<td>42.</td>
<td>VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>43.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>MCMASTER UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, MADISON</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>65</td>
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https://econtop.uvt.nl/rankingsandbox.php
Canadian vs American Graduate Schools

- Reasons for going to US: training, interests, branding, career options
- A higher ranked Canadian university may be a better option over a B-listed US university in terms of finances, branding, and career options

- Tuition fees in the US vary widely, but are overall among the highest in the world
  - There are options for financial aid
  - Don’t get sticker shock though
- Most US schools require GRE exams (some have recently made it optional, e.g. Harvard, MIT, Stanford, UC Berkeley, Maryland, Emory)
Application differences

➢ Most programs still require the **GRE exam**
  ➢ Similar to the SAT undergraduate exam for US students
  ➢ Questions can be tricky
  ➢ Need to prepare for it to do well
  ➢ Plan early! GRE should be taken a year in advance of applying to grad school – leaves room if you make a mistake
  ➢ Economics programs care about Quantitative section the most

➢ Mathematics preparation is key
  ➢ For top programs strong applicants have completed Real Analysis
  ➢ More math classes most honours programs require
  ➢ At UofC this would be like completing a math minor
Preparing your application

➢ Top programs are very competitive
➢ Need to have a strong GPA, strong reference letters, high GRE quantitative score, and strong math background to be competitive
➢ There is a broad range of programs of different levels and different strengths
➢ Good application strategy is to apply to a range of schools
  ➢ some reach (hard to get into)
  ➢ some well targeted (where you have a good change) and
  ➢ some safety (where you would go and are likely to get into)
Financial aid

➢ The tuition levels for US PhD programs are high
➢ Most offer financial aid to many students
➢ Financial aid typically covers tuition and living costs
  ➢ In my case (2015), stipends ranged from ~13k-35k USD
  ➢ Don’t let the posted tuition levels put you off
➢ Usually involves working as Teaching &/or Research Assistant
  ➢ In my case, first year and two later semesters off
➢ Grad workers @ private schools used not to be unionized, but this is changing
➢ Schools may offer stronger financial aid packages to attract you
CHANGE THE WORLD
APPLY TODAY FOR THE
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY
POLICYSCHOOL.CA
WHY MPP?

One-year program (August 2023 to August 2024)

Integrated multi-disciplinary program focusing on applied learning

Professional development opportunities

Internship opportunities

Career focus and placement
A YEAR IN THE LIFE……

- **AUGUST**
  - PREP READING

- **BLOCK WEEK**
  - INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF PUBLIC POLICY

- **FALL TERM**
  - 2 CORE & 1 ELECTIVE

- **NOVEMBER**
  - CASE WEEK (PPOL 600)

- **JANUARY BLOCK WEEK**
  - 1 CORE

- **WINTER**
  - 3 CORE & 1 ELECTIVE

- **MAY BLOCK WEEK**
  - COMMUNICATING PUBLIC POLICY

- **SPRING/SUMMER**
  - (MAY-AUGUST) CAPSTONE (& INTERNSHIP)

- **END OF AUGUST**
  - CAPSTONE COMPLETE

www.policyschool.ca
# INTEGRATED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

## CORE COURSES

### ECONOMICS:
- MARKETS & PUBLIC POLICY
- PUBLIC FINANCE
- DECISION ANALYSIS

### POLITICAL SCIENCE/PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION:
- GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONS
- COLLECTIVE CHOICE & STRATEGY

### LAW:
- LAW & REGULATION

### COMMUNICATIONS:
- COMMUNICATING PUBLIC POLICY

## ELECTIVES (change annually)
- Health Policy
- Social Policy
- Foreign Policy
- Indigenous Policy
- Tax Policy
- Energy Transitions
- Energy & Environmental Policy
- Multi-Faces of Israel (Travel Study)
Opinion: Is it time to sell off Crown corporation ATB Financial?

Calgary Herald
Oct 20, 2020 • 3 minute read • Join the conversation

Is it time to sell off Crown corporation ATB Financial? asks columnist. PHOTO BY BRENDAJ

Academic, Community, and Political Engagement: Crafting Pandemic Preparedness Policies for Vulnerable Families

Author: Jennifer Reader, Supervised by Dr. Jennifer Zewdie

BACKGROUND

Vulnerable families
- Family experience vulnerability under stressors overruling determinants
- Economic need
- Physical need
- Social need
- Cultural need
- Education: help families navigate their specific needs is a proactive context
- Social vulnerability is exacerbated when families are prevented from comprehensively accessing services needed for daily function.

Evidence-based Practice in the Community
- Evidence-based interventions integrate patient-centeredness, expertise, and clinical evidence to provide the robust, most effective services to families.
- Yet, there is a disconnect between research collection and analysis, and subsequent translation of evidence-based practices into community-level services.

Pandemic Preparedness and Community Organizations
- COVID-19 has highlighted pre-existing knowledge mobilization challenges.
- Knowledge mobilization is critical for community organizations to engage in, as so many programs are traditionally offered remotely.
- The creation of COVID-19 and impact, combined with how knowledge mobilization, implies evidence-based pandemic preparedness is not yet readily available for community organizations.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: What happens for researchers

RESULTS

Policy Category
- Rapid Revenue Streams
- Transition to Online Service Delivery
- Inclusive Communication and Collaboration with Government

Policy Issues
- Funding and grant focus
- Funding shortages, income loss
- Access to hardware
- Underfunded and overburdened

Inefficient guidelines, lack of sector-specific guidelines
- Coordination between health and regulatory bodies

Policy Solutions
- Equity laws for policies and programs
- Evidence-based policies and programs
- Inter-agency communication partnerships
- Between sectors, policymakers, and community organizations

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ACADEMICS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
There is a need for provincial leadership around hazard management, technological solutions, and staff training.

Will Alberta’s Recovery Plan leave women behind? Read the new Economic Policy Trends from Anna Cameron, @vanessaorin, and @LindsayTedds on The Gendered Implications of an Infrastructure Focused Recovery - policieschool.ca/wp-content/upl...
HOW TO APPLY?
FEBRUARY 1 DEADLINE

Requirements:
- 3.3 GPA (last two years of study)
- A four-year baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from a recognized institution
- Degree complete by September 2023

Complete an online application
- APPLY ONLINE NOW

Submit supporting documents:
- A current resume / curriculum vitae
- Two academic references
- A personal statement
- One copy official transcripts from every post-secondary institution you have attended
- Proof of English Proficiency Test (International students)

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN
PERSONAL STATEMENT

Describe HOW the MPP would further your future career goals

Describe the strengths, ambitions & experience YOU will bring to the program

A capstone project that examines a contemporary public policy problem is a requirement of this program. Describe a project that YOU might be interested in developing

Describe your ability to work in a TEAM atmosphere & how this has contributed to your successes
TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

TUITION
- Assessed per course basis (11*course fees)
- Domestic students: $2,346.24 (per course)
- International students: $3,605.70 (per course)

GENERAL FEES
- Are assessed for all students
- $2,000 approximately

SCHOLARSHIPS
- Are not guaranteed
- Offer letter sets out promised amount
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

33.3% GOVERNMENT

32.6% PRIVATE

14.4% ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

17.8% NON-PROFIT

1.8% MEDICAL
Graduate School in Economics: The Benefits and Process

Jeffrey Church
Professor and Undergraduate Director
Department of Economics

Graduate School in Economics: WHEN, WHY, HOW, and WHERE!

November 3, 2022
This could be you . . .

- Bertram Neurohr (LSE MA 2009)
  - Oxera in Berlin
    - Consulting firm antitrust and regulation
    - [https://www.oxera.com/Our-People/Key-People/Senior-Consultants/Bertram-Neurohr.aspx](https://www.oxera.com/Our-People/Key-People/Senior-Consultants/Bertram-Neurohr.aspx)

- Jon Lo (LSE MSc 2017)
  - [https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-lo-atlas/?originalSubdomain=ca](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-lo-atlas/?originalSubdomain=ca)
  - Serial Entrepreneur (Economics and data science)
    - e-commerce platform for edible bugs
    - Dare to Care Packages Forbes 30 under 30 winning initiative
    - Matching platform for food and beverage brands and retailers
      - [https://jonlo.co/automated-outreach/](https://jonlo.co/automated-outreach/)
    - Consulting firm using satellite imagery and machine learning to calculate economic growth around the world at a near-neighborhood level.
      - [https://505economics.com/our-team](https://505economics.com/our-team)
Other Graduate Programs last few years

- Canadian
  - University of British Columbia
  - University of Toronto
  - Queens
  - Western
  - McGill
  - Waterloo
  - Alberta
  - McMaster
  - Victoria

- International
  - Barcelona Graduate School of Economics
  - U Nottingham
  - Cambridge
  - University of Warwick
  - Johns Hopkins
  - Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
  - University College London
University of Calgary Department of Economics
last few years

- Alberta Electric System Operator
- Agrium
- Westjet
- Canada Energy Regulator
- Alberta Utilities Commission
- TransAlta
- Market Surveillance Administrator
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Enbridge
- Power Advisory LLC
- Twitter
- Brookfield
- Competition Bureau
- City of Calgary
- Utilities Consumer Advocate
- ATB Financial
- RS Energy Group
Graduate School: Benefits

• Human Capital
• Opportunities and Careers
• Financial
• Prestige
• Challenge
Human Capital Accumulation

- Develop expertise in economic analysis
- Emphasis is on application and communication of economic intuition
  - Causal explanation supported by consistent facts
  - Rejection of other explanations inconsistent with facts
- Economists not mathematicians
- Research and communicate findings on questions that matter to employers and not academics
  - Policy
  - Profit maximization
- More than just 6 or 8 more additional courses
  - BIG QUESTION: Can you formulate a research question and implement a methodology subject to time, resources, and data constraints and communicate the results?
Considerations for Terminal MA

• Choose program carefully
  - Emphasis on terminal MA or preparation for Ph.D.

• Placement record
  - Where, How Much, How Many?

• Placement resources

• Careful which pond
  - Type of Job
  - Geographic Location
  - Local, National, International Job Market
Considerations for Terminal MA (continued)

• Job markets at smaller schools are often local or there is a local advantage
  - Local networks
    • Concentration of local graduates
      • Calgary: TransCanada, NEB, AESO, MSA are examples
    • Professional Network (e.g. Economics Society of Calgary)
    • Professor networks
  
• Opportunities to develop expertise
  - Choice of program related to career interests
  - Explosion of customized programs with a professional emphasis
  - Clusters of courses
  - Research interest and Department Focus
  
• Opportunities to research and write, write, write, write

• FUNDING
Top Ten List: 1-5

1. Best for you is not the best in the rankings

2. Academic position best possible graduate school
   - MA first
   - Oxford to Stanford, UofA to Davis, UofC to LSE and Iowa

3. Why US?
   - Great Ph.D. programs, but UBC and UofT top 30
   - Specialized programs

4. Portfolio of applications

5. Math 271 and Math 335
   - Ph.D. program or MA at a school with strong Ph.D. program [UBC]
Top Ten List: 6-10

6. No honours requirement at many schools
7. Courses offered and faculty during your year of study
8. Attrition rates
9. Differentiate yourself
   • Verbal GRE
10. Dare to dream
Financial Payoff

• Average salaries:
  - BA in Economics: $78,000 (W) and $105,000 (M)
  - MA in Economics: $93,000 (W) and $127,000 (M)

  • Stats Can (2016) Mean estimated earnings 25 to 54 year olds, full year full time in 2010, from 2011 National Household Survey. Sample size approx. 100,000 men or women. Figures are in 2018 dollars and age adjusted, i.e., average age for level of education (BA) and sex.

• Recent Calgary MA graduates $70,000-80,000, BA $45,000-55,000

• International economic consulting firm
  - Salary difference: $20,000-$25,000 to start
  - Career advancement and salary limited by BA relative to MA
Preparing for grad school

- Think carefully about grad school
- Need a GPA > 3.00
- Taking difficult courses is as important as good grades
- Not all grades are created equal
  - Math and Statistics
  - Honours econometrics, micro and macro theory
- Serious term papers (more the better)
- Make your mark with professors
  - Differentiate yourself
Preparing a grad school application

• Integrated package

• Why you would make a contribution to the Department during the program and be a credit to the program afterwards?

• Making the case
  - Transcript
  - Statement of purpose
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Resume/CV
Statement of purpose

• Why do you want to go to grad school?
  - Career interests and objective
  - Why the particular school to which you are applying?

• Research interests and fit with the school
  - Not a contract, base it on a term paper

• Test of your communication ability
  - Clarity, format, and logic MATTER
  - Grammar, spelling, and punctuation MATTER
Letters of recommendation

- Highlight attributes
  - Not useful: “Grade in my course was an A.”

- Personal attributes
  - Ranking in the class, industriousness, responsibility, communication ability, preparation, etc.

- Evidence based on experience
  - Extracurricular and leadership
    - SIRE, SUE, PASS, Chess Champion of Alberta, Varsity Sports, Volunteer
  - Research
    - Research assistant and term papers

- Courses
  - Highlight key courses and performance
Letter of recommendation process

• Provide relevant information
  - CV/Resume
  - Statement of Purpose
  - Transcript

• Make sure letters highlight what makes you an attractive candidate

• Two or three letters

• Provide clear directions and deadlines
  - Month in advance at least
After applying

• Assess offers and negotiate
  - Seek advice of faculty members
  - Don’t be a jerk

• Make a choice
  - Inform promptly those rejected
  - Accept only one offer!
Contacts

- Raj Lakhan
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- Merrit Penny
  - Graduate Program Advisor (econgrad@ucalgary.ca)
- Dr. Stefan Staubli
  - Graduate Program Director (sstaubli@ucalgary.ca)
- Dr. Jeffrey Church
  - Undergraduate Program Director (jrchurch@ucalgary.ca)
Closed-door caucus-style student panel

- Moderator: Raj Lakhan, Academic Program Specialist
- Jacob Graham (Zoom), MA 2021, University of British Columbia
- Reid Fortier, MA Student, University of Calgary
- Anju Hollis, MA 2022, University of Toronto
- Stephen Classen (Zoom), MA 2022, University of Calgary
- Jordan Schmike (Zoom), MA Student, University of Toronto