

Improving economics teaching and learning for over 25 years

The Economics Network is the largest and longest-established academic organisation devoted to improving the teaching and learning of economics in universities, running training workshops, thematic symposia and Europe's premier international economics education conference.

Subscribing to the EN

The Economics Network is funded primarily through departmental subscriptions. Staff from subscribing departments gain **access to a number of benefits** across all of the Network's areas of activity, including free or discounted registrations for events, training workshops and conferences; departmental advice (for example on the National Student Survey, HEA fellowships & UKPSF); access to projects, an external examiners database and themed online support.



Training early-career economics academics

The Economics Network provides economics-specific training workshops that are offered for free or at significantly reduced rates to members of subscribing departments.

The workshops are facilitated by experienced economics lecturers and complement any generic-based institutional training delegates might receive (and in some institutions exempts attendees from parts of such training). They are fully aligned to the Professional Standards Framework (PSF 2023) and can help delegates who are working towards HEA Fellowship status either within their own institutions or by direct application.

The EN has its own Virtual Learning Environment and enrolment to a workshop comes with permanent access to all the online course materials.

Early Career workshops

The Early Careers Workshop is an annual two-day training event covering all aspects of excellence in economics teaching, including designing economics modules and assessment, engaging students, efficient planning and marking, using simulations and experiments in class and employing digital technologies effectively. It also includes sessions on voice and presence (with an RSC-trained actor), communicating economics to different audiences and making teaching work for your career. The workshop is designed for those in 'teaching and research' and 'teaching and scholarship' positions, and addresses the expectations, opportunities and challenges presented by both roles.

Example registration fees (2025): £130 for attendees from subscribing departments, £380 for attendees from non-subscribing departments.

Graduate Teaching Assistant workshops

Our workshops for graduate teaching assistants are one-day events aimed at developing core teaching practice for those who teach as part of their PhDs. The workshops cover relevant aspects of classroom practice in economics such as setting expectations, incentivising active learning in economics and efficient marking and feedback. Subscribing departments can host a workshop in their institution if there is sufficient local demand. We have also introduced an online GTA workshop on effective marking and feedback in May.

Registration fees (2025): free for attendees from subscribing departments, £50 for attendees from non-subscribing departments.

Themed events

The EN runs online events in response to the community's needs, addressing a new theme each year. We welcome suggestions for these events from subscribing departments and offer co-hosting opportunities. Events from recent years include:

- o Applying for Principal Fellowships and HEA National Teaching Fellowships
- Teaching and learning in a blended world
- Future-proofed assessment
- Teaching with data

Feedback

"The level of engagement was excellent. I had a lot of unanswered questions going into this workshop, however, I believe I am better equipped now to start my tutoring as a TA." — GTA workshop attendee

"I particularly valued the discussion on inclusive teaching in economics. I found these insights very valuable, and including really helpful practical suggestions that were directly relevant for teaching economics." — Early Career workshop attendee









Developments in Economics Education Conference



The Network runs Europe's premier international economics education conference. The Developments in Economics Education (DEE) conference is biennial and is hosted by a different subscribing university each time.

The DEE conference offers academics the opportunity to present and learn from new and innovative economics pedagogy. On the feedback forms for DEE2023, 100% of respondents said they would encourage a colleague to come to a future DEE conference.

Registrations for attendees from subscribing departments are offered at a significant discount.

Resources and publications

The Handbook for Economics Lecturers

We publish, and continually update, an online handbook currently with 26 chapters, each with research-based advice and practical tips. A separate individual handbook caters for GTAs. The handbook is a companion to our workshops, but can be used independently.



Teaching case studies and briefings

We have published more than 290 case studies of innovation in economics teaching, from classroom experiments to video production. Like the handbook, the case studies emphasise practical tips that lecturers can implement in their own practice. Case studies are published rapidly and provide an easy way to begin publishing pedagogical research.



EN resources

Academics can access a vast bank of resources, including worked examples, datasets and slides, that can be downloaded and used directly in the classroom. They cover topics including:

- Assessment and evaluation
- Communicating economics
- Curriculum and content
- Data analysis and visualisation
- Employability and entrepreneurship
- External examining
- Funding for research and innovation

- Games, experiments and simulations
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Maths support and teaching to non-specialists
- Plagiarism and integrity
- Student recruitment and retention
- Teaching using technology
- Transitions to and through university

Research projects



Academics from subscribing departments have the opportunity to take part in the Network's research projects. These have included surveys of employers, alumni and teaching staff as well as analysis of National Students Survey and UCAS data. Our most recent projects have looked at the role of teaching-track staff in HE economics and the effects of the pandemic on teaching and learning in economics.

Databases

External examiners

We run an online database of external examiners, showing their subject expertise and recent experience. Heads of departments at subscribing institutions can request access by emailing:

econ-network@bris.ac.uk.

Question bank

An archive of assessment questions submitted by the economics academic community, from which you can assemble, view and print exams or tests. It now has 726 multiple-choice and 577 essay questions, plus more than 100 problem sets.

Jobs for economists

We have a page listing job vacancies and other opportunities for economists both in the UK and abroad on our website. Listings from subscribing departments are more prominent and appear at the top of this page.

Subscribing departments have access to the external examiners and question bank databases and their job opportunities are displayed with more prominence on the website.

Bespoke support for departments

The Economics Network offers additional *ad hoc* support to subscribing departments, whether to find speakers for events, provide input on departmental away days/meetings, or advise on specific topics, including (but not limited to): improving NSS scores, internationalisation, employability, teaching and assessment quality or designing curricula.



Further information

In addition to the benefits listed above, departments' subscribing status is listed on the Economics Network website and they can use this in any promotion materials for their department, as an indication of commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

Subscription rates are annual and calculated based on full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers of staff. For the 2024/25 academic year, these are:

- o £250 for departments with under 10 FTE
- o £1,000 for departments with 10-19 FTE
- £2,000 for departments with 20-40 FTE
- \circ £3,000 for departments with over 40 FTE

We also offer a higher rate subscription (£5,000) - departments paying this rate have their institution's logo displayed on every page of the EN website. They will also be prioritised for hosting training workshops and other events and benefit from additional support, for example for departmental away days.

For further information on the Economics Network, its activities, or becoming a subscribing department, please contact Ashley Lait (ashley.lait@bristol.ac.uk).

www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk