



Economic Graduate Stream

Frequently Asked Questions

What work does an economic graduate undertake and get exposure to?

Our economics graduates are involved in conducting evidence-based research and analysis across a range of areas which supports our Ministers and other stakeholders and enables them to make informed decisions.

Economics graduates may undertake labour market research and analysis to monitor and brief on developments in the Australian labour market overall and at an industry, occupation, and regional level; consider how movements in the labour market (including the pipeline of potential workers who are graduating from the higher education and vocational education and training (VET) sectors or arriving as migrants) will impact current, emerging and future jobs and skills needs; analyse labour market outcomes for particular higher education and VET qualifications; analyse wage growth in the context of productivity growth and the level of inflation with particular attention being paid to those on low wages; and examine the various forms of work including casual employment and the impact of these working arrangements on individuals and the economy more broadly.

Economics graduates may utilise economic research, data and evidence to underpin policy and delivery and provide advice on interpreting economic trends, statistical analysis, and modelling on the Australian labour market.

Economics graduates may also be involved with providing policy advice and developing policy proposals to increase employment outcomes for identified cohorts, including young workers, the long-term unemployed, those with a disability, and mature aged workers.

How many placements does an economic graduate undertake?

Economics graduates will complete two five-month work placements during the graduate program. Our economics graduates are engaged across the whole department with placement opportunities available in a range of policy, program delivery and technical areas.

How are economic graduates supported within their placement?

Economics graduates are given real responsibility with support and training from their supervisor and their team provided from the start. Economics graduates will also receive regular ongoing feedback, mentoring and guidance to support their career development.

What is the career progression after the graduate program?

Our economics graduates have a strong track record of promotion and career progression, with many previous graduates going on to senior positions in the department and other agencies such as the Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia.

What learning and development do economic graduates undertake?

Economics graduates are provided with ongoing and relevant on-the-job training and development experiences to support the development of their skills. Economics graduates may also undertake learning and development opportunities that are relevant to their business area. Additionally, all graduates in our Graduate Program will undertake a structured learning and development program.

What does a typical day in the life of an economic graduate look like?

Our economics graduates will be guided through a broad range of work opportunities, including ministerial briefings, policy advice and economic modelling scenarios.

“Depending on the day and the project I was working on, it looked quite different. Typically, I would start the morning by checking in with my supervisor to discuss the project I was working on and the progress I intended to make on it over the upcoming day. As a labour market analyst, I worked with a wide range of data, including most commonly data produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, to summarise current and emerging labour market conditions for ministerial briefings and policy advice, amongst other purposes.

In addition to the normal day to day work, graduates are also given the option to work with one another on a number of graduate committees related to the graduate fundraising committee.” – Jack, Labour Market Analyst (2021 Economics Graduate).

What does the department look for in an economic graduate?

We are looking for graduates who are enthusiastic, energetic and have a strong background in economics, econometrics or other relevant fields such as finance, commerce, mathematics, statistics, data science or engineering. We are seeking candidates who have a strong work ethic, strong written and oral communication skills, and well-developed interpersonal skills.

In addition to the eligibility criteria for graduates in the generalist stream, we are looking for graduates who have:

- Tertiary qualifications in economics, econometrics, or another relevant field of study such as finance, commerce, mathematics, statistics, data science or engineering.
- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex concepts to non-technical audiences.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to actively engage with co-workers and stakeholders.
- Enthusiasm and a fresh-thinking attitude that is open to learning and innovation. Candidates from these fields may be required to demonstrate their aptitude and understanding of economic concepts in their applications and assessment.

Scan the QR code for more information.

