

ECONOMIST

ECONOMICS is concerned with the question of how materialistic needs of people can best be satisfied with the aid of available resources. These resources are labour, capital, technology, entrepreneurship and all resources derived from nature. Economists occupy themselves with the problems of what is to be produced, how to produce it and for whom.

Economists can do work (research, forecasting, advising etc.) on a wide range of interesting topics in economics such as inflation, participation in international trade, promotion of economic growth and development, income redistribution, taxation, monetary and fiscal policy problems and many other economic aspects of immense importance to individuals and society.

A thorough knowledge of economical theory and economic policy is necessary, as well as a vision within the framework of specific environmental factors.

Economists must have a broad interest in social and economic matters and display a creative, thorough, analytical approach in problem solving. They must communicate easily and effectively.

The nature of the business economist's work depends on the organisation where he is employed. For example, he may do research on economic aspects which concerns the financial position of the organisation and be the financial advisor for top management.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Mathematics.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

Economics
Business Economics
Accounting

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For admission to a BCom or BEcon Degree, a Senior Certificate (matric exemption) and a good pass in Mathematics is usually required. Students are advised to contact the university of their choice concerning entry requirements since these differ from university to university.

TRAINING

UNIVERSITY

The following degrees with Economics, Business Economics, Banking or Statistics as major subjects can be acquired after three years' full-time study:

BCom
BEcon
BEconSc

Some universities also offer a BA degree with Economics as a major subject.

Specialized courses such as BSc (Agriculture) and BSc (Animal Science) have Agricultural Economics and Economics as major subjects.

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

A four-year BTech: Economic Management Analysis degree.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A BCom or BEcon degree, with Economics, Econometrics and Banking as major subjects, offer good prospects in a wide range of careers in the civil service, trade and industry and financial institutions. Almost all institutions make use of the service of an economist. Many economists nowadays are self-employed as consultants to either the private or the public sector or both or he may do research or lecturing at a university or university of technology. They give advice to people and do contract work on problems related to economics.

The BTech: Economic Management Analysis degree offers good prospects as consultant, financial analyst, entrepreneur and economist.



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Central University of
Technology, Free State

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UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL

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University of Fort Hare
Together in Excellence

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