

harvard university department of economics

harvard university department of economics is a prestigious institution known for its rigorous academic programs and influential research in the field of economics. Established in 1890, the department has a rich history of contributing to economic thought and policy on both national and global scales. This article will explore the key aspects of the Harvard University Department of Economics, including its academic programs, research opportunities, faculty, notable alumni, and its impact on the field of economics. By understanding these elements, prospective students and interested individuals can appreciate the department's role in shaping economic knowledge and practice.

- Introduction to Harvard University Department of Economics
- Academic Programs Offered
- Research Opportunities
- Faculty and Their Contributions
- Notable Alumni
- Impact on Economic Policy and Research
- Conclusion

Academic Programs Offered

The Harvard University Department of Economics provides a comprehensive range of academic

programs designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in the field of economics. The department offers undergraduate degrees, graduate programs, and joint degrees that cater to a variety of interests and career paths.

Undergraduate Programs

For undergraduate students, the department offers a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. This program emphasizes both theoretical foundations and practical applications of economic principles. Students engage with topics such as microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, and various specialized fields including labor economics and international trade.

Graduate Programs

Graduate students can pursue a Master's or Ph.D. in Economics. The Master's program is tailored for those seeking advanced knowledge and analytical skills, often focusing on empirical research methods. The Ph.D. program is highly competitive, preparing candidates for academic and research careers. It includes rigorous coursework, comprehensive exams, and a dissertation that contributes original research to the field.

Joint Degree Programs

Harvard also offers joint degree programs in collaboration with other departments, such as the Harvard Kennedy School and Harvard Law School. These programs allow students to combine their interests in economics with public policy, law, or business, creating a multidisciplinary approach to economic issues.

Research Opportunities

Research is a cornerstone of the Harvard University Department of Economics. The department encourages students and faculty to engage in innovative research that addresses critical economic challenges. Several centers and initiatives support this research, providing resources and collaboration opportunities.

Research Centers

The department hosts various research centers that focus on specific areas of economics. Notable centers include:

- The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) - A leading organization in economic research.
- The Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS) - Promotes empirical research across social sciences.
- The Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG) - Focuses on education-related economic research.

Collaboration and Funding

Students have access to numerous funding opportunities for their research projects, including grants and fellowships. Collaborative research projects with faculty members are common, allowing students to gain hands-on experience and contribute to impactful studies in economics.

Faculty and Their Contributions

The faculty at the Harvard University Department of Economics is comprised of some of the leading economists in the world. Their diverse expertise spans various fields such as development economics, labor economics, and behavioral economics.

Renowned Economists

Many faculty members have received prestigious awards, including the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. Their contributions to economic theory and applied research have significantly influenced public policy and economic practices globally.

Teaching and Mentorship

The faculty is dedicated to providing high-quality education and mentorship to students. They employ various teaching methods, including seminars, workshops, and hands-on projects, fostering an interactive learning environment.

Notable Alumni

Harvard's Department of Economics has produced a remarkable list of alumni who have made significant contributions to the field. These individuals have gone on to hold key positions in academia, government, and private sectors.

Influential Alumni

Some notable alumni include:

- Greg Mankiw - Former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and Professor at Harvard.

- Lawrence Summers - Former U.S. Treasury Secretary and President of Harvard University.
- Joseph Stiglitz - Nobel laureate and Professor at Columbia University.

Impact on Global Economics

These alumni have played critical roles in shaping economic policy and thought, both in the United States and internationally. Their work continues to influence contemporary economic discussions and practices.

Impact on Economic Policy and Research

The Harvard University Department of Economics has a profound impact on economic policy and research. The department's faculty and alumni are frequently consulted by government agencies, international organizations, and private sectors for their expertise.

Policy Contributions

Research conducted by Harvard economists often informs policy decisions on issues such as healthcare, education, and international trade. The department's commitment to empirical research ensures that policy recommendations are grounded in rigorous analysis.

Global Influence

Through its research and education programs, the department contributes to global economic discussions, addressing pressing challenges such as poverty, inequality, and sustainable development. Its influence extends beyond academia, impacting real-world economic conditions and policies.

Conclusion

The Harvard University Department of Economics stands as a leader in the field, offering a rich academic environment, extensive research opportunities, and a legacy of influential alumni. Its contribution to economic theory and policy continues to shape the landscape of economics globally. By cultivating a rigorous understanding of economic principles and encouraging innovative research, the department not only prepares students for successful careers but also plays a vital role in addressing critical economic issues facing society today.

Q: What undergraduate programs does Harvard University Department of Economics offer?

A: Harvard University Department of Economics offers a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, which includes a comprehensive curriculum covering microeconomics, macroeconomics, econometrics, and various specialized topics.

Q: How competitive is the Ph.D. program at Harvard's Economics Department?

A: The Ph.D. program at Harvard's Economics Department is highly competitive, focusing on rigorous coursework, comprehensive exams, and the completion of a dissertation that contributes original research to the field.

Q: What research centers are affiliated with the Harvard Department of Economics?

A: The department is affiliated with several renowned research centers, including the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), and the Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG).

Q: Who are some notable alumni from the Harvard University

Department of Economics?

A: Notable alumni include Greg Mankiw, Lawrence Summers, and Joseph Stiglitz, all of whom have made significant contributions to economics and policy-making.

Q: How does Harvard's Economics Department influence global economic policy?

A: The department influences global economic policy through its rigorous research that informs decision-making on critical issues, such as healthcare, education, and international trade.

Q: What types of funding opportunities are available for research at Harvard's Economics Department?

A: Students have access to various funding opportunities, including grants and fellowships, to support their research projects and initiatives within the department.

Q: What teaching methods are employed by faculty in the Economics Department?

A: Faculty members employ a range of teaching methods, including seminars, workshops, and hands-on projects, fostering an interactive and engaging learning environment for students.

Q: Can students collaborate with faculty on research projects?

A: Yes, students are encouraged to collaborate with faculty on research projects, providing valuable hands-on experience and the opportunity to contribute to impactful studies in economics.

Q: What is the focus of the undergraduate Economics program at Harvard?

A: The undergraduate Economics program at Harvard focuses on both theoretical foundations and practical applications, preparing students for various careers in economics and related fields.

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