



Academic Skills

for MSc Economics/EIFE/BES



WARWICK

The Warwick University logo, which consists of a stylized black triangle pointing downwards, is positioned above the word "WARWICK" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Outline

- Study skills for economics MSc
 - Using lectures, seminars and problem sets to pass exams
- Academic support in the Department
- Plagiarism and how to avoid it
- The UK grading system
- Academic writing hints and tips, referencing
- Research and the dissertation
- University resources
- Feedback between us

MSc students – great Academic Skills?

- Been away from study for a while?
- First time studying in the UK?
- Decide late an MSc was for you?
- Currently unsure if an MSc is for you?
- Pre-sessional very different from your undergrad?
 - Pace
 - Maths focus
 - Problem oriented approach

Studying for MSc Econ

- This is a subject to study actively
- You've got to get messy
- Especially with maths!
- No one came up with a proof by working neatly line to line
- No one gets to understand a proof/derivation by working neatly line to line

Studying for MSc Econ

- You are trying to understand methods
- And how to answer our questions using these methods

- Best approach is to **try the questions**
- **Wrong attempts are informative**
- **Learning answers is uninformative**

- Start with a blank piece of paper
- Use the questions to guide you through the lecture material and readings

Studying for MSc Econ

- You are here to try and answer questions
- You are not here to learn old answers
- Exams contain new questions
- **More so than U.G.**
- You are here to answer questions
- You are not here to produce revision notes

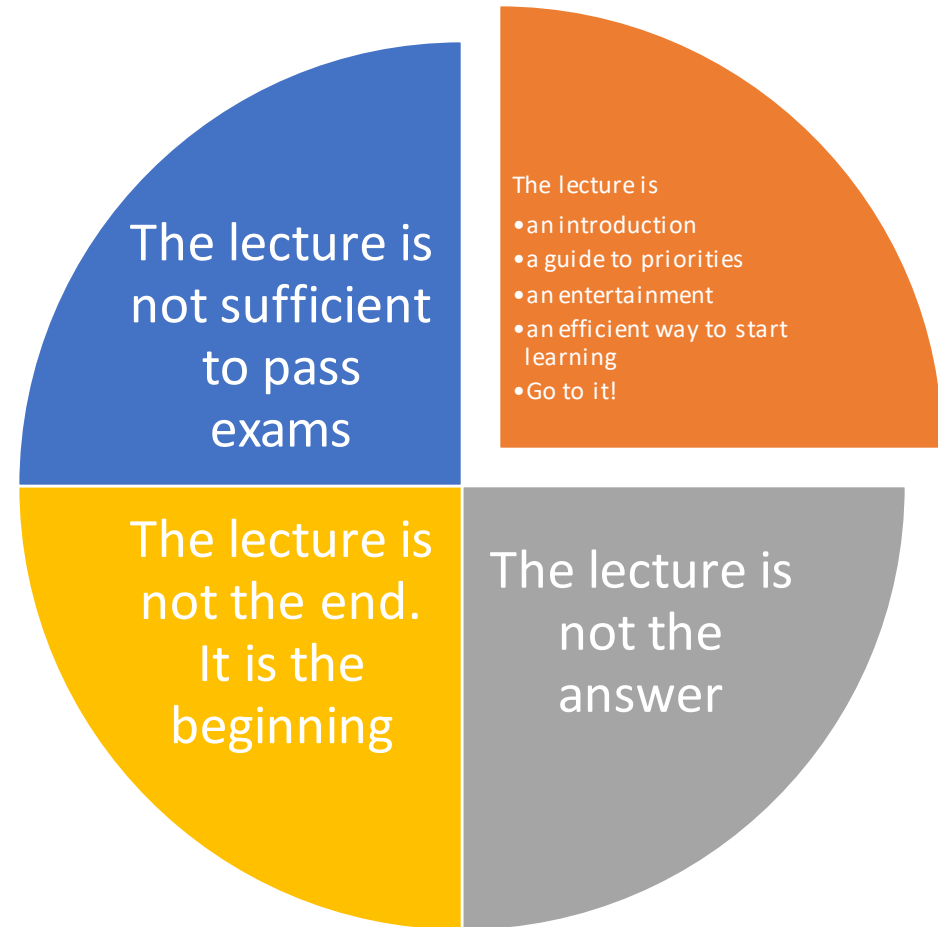
Studying for MSc Econ

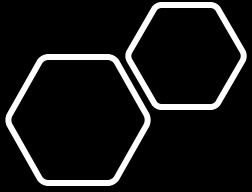
- Do you go to the Seminar
- Yes
- Do you think this is good and productive of you?
- Have you attempted the questions?
(and got most wrong/incomplete)
- No...
- May as well not bother
- Yes...
- Great, You are studying effectively for MSc Econ/EIFE/BES

Studying for MSc Econ

- There is no expectation you present correct work in seminars
 - Or in discussions with academics
- The British system is based on trying and getting it wrong
- You need tools not answers
- **Independence is the key to your future**

Using lectures,
seminars and
problems sets
to pass exams





Using lectures, seminars and problems sets to pass exams

- Problem set is the key
- Problem set is how to address lecture notes and readings
- Try the problem from scratch
- Re-try with notes
- Attend the seminar with incomplete and wrong answers
- Re-try following the seminars
- Do you understand where you went wrong?
- Yes: good. No: seek further help

Academic Support in the Department



Seminar tutor office hours



Lecturer office hours



Support sessions for pre-sessional Maths and Stats

Lecturer Office Hours

Follow up meeting with Alex Karalis to discuss low marks

Additional Maths and Stats test: check your progress



Nick Jackson's maths office hours

www.warwick.ac.uk/economics/current/shared/msc_academic_support

Plagiarism offences

- Do the training and read the policy at Academic Integrity
- https://warwick.ac.uk/students/supportservices/academic_integrity
- Penalties range from 0 on the question to 0 on the assessment
 - For first offences; and rise from there
- There is no excuse for this
- We catch people using software, judgement, experience

Plagiarism: Policy and penalties

- An extremely serious offence
- Large penalties
 - Low or Zero marks for the submitted work
 - Breach of University Regulations and disciplinary proceedings
- An attempt to pass off some one else's ideas/effort as your own
 - Self-plagiarism is an offence
 - Must submit new work for credit
- Ignorance is not an excuse
- <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/current/msc/handbook/assessment#suspected-cheating>

Plagiarism: examples

- Reproducing ideas from another published work without citing the source
- Reproducing words from another published work without quotation marks and a citation of the source
- Copying another student's work and pretending it is yours, with or without their permission
- Including sections from a piece of work that you have submitted previously at any institution
- Downloading part or all of a document or ready-made essay from an internet website and pretending it is your own work
- Contract cheating
- Use of AI outside of the expectations of the assessment. E.g. Chat GPT wrote your essay
 - Tend to generate low marks
 - Investigation by Viva exam is increasingly common esp for the Dissertation module

Plagiarism: Turnitin

5eb381b8-8d5f-43e9-9495-d3d06e05be19

ORIGINALITY REPORT

60%	39%	9%	49%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

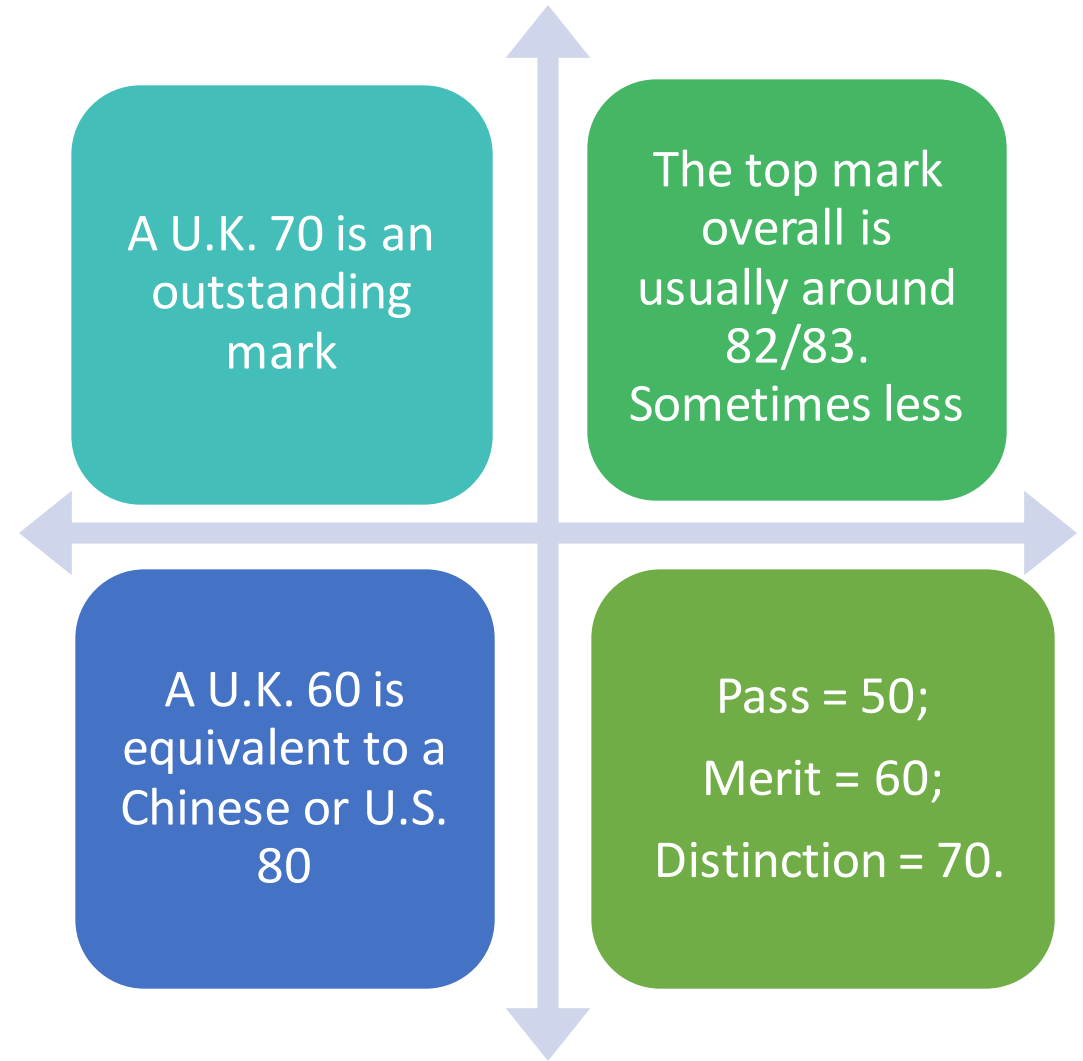
PRIMARY SOURCES

1	www.bbc.co.uk Internet Source	22%
2	jamaicantillidie.blogspot.co.uk Internet Source	13%
3	Submitted to University of Warwick Student Paper	8%
4	Coelho, P.R.. "The profitability of imperialism: The British experience in the West Indies 1768-1772", Explorations in Economic History, 1973:21 Publication	6%
5	Submitted to Florida State University Student Paper	3%
6	Submitted to University of Stellenbosch, South Africa Student Paper	3%
7	Submitted to University of New Haven Student Paper	3%

Plagiarism: If in doubt

- Take the course: PlagiarWISE (19/20)
- Run by the library
- It's a Moodle course
- Google it...

The UK grading system (MSc)



Academic Writing

- A big topic for some, comfortable for others
- Asynchronous material already available EC959 Moodle
 - Developing questions and titles, as well as writing up your findings
 - Live sessions depending on demand and timetable constraints
- **Everyone should contribute to writing in the Metrics project**

Academic writing

- Read journal articles and look at how they work
 - Abstract
 - Introduction (literature review)
 - Methods/Techniques/Model
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Conclusion is basically the abstract
- Don't try to write like professors in text books
- Keep your style simple. Convey information. Don't make normative judgements (about the importance of your work or results)

Referencing

- Pick a referencing style
- Stick to it
- It is essential the reader can find the article (source) based on your reference
- Citations are in-line: Author (DATE)
- Footnotes are minimal if they exist
- All citations in the Bibliography. Nothing else is in the bibliography
- Use software : endonote, bibtex etc.

Research and the dissertation

- You will forget everything I say now by the time you need it
- It's good to be thinking of areas, questions now
- Lectures should inspire some questions. You will have others
- Optional modules are a very productive place to find questions
- There is an EC959 methods course: more on specialist applied metrics
- Dissertation discussions/ briefings EIFE
- From an article of interest
 - Track the bibliography backwards
 - Track the citations forwards in EconLit/IDEAs/GoogleScholar

University Resources

- Postgraduate Hub
- Library
- Student Opportunity: MSc Skills
 - <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/skills>
 - Example courses
 - Master Your Dissertation, Communicate Clearly ...
 - Each contains up to 20 online modules you can take/review
 - In person sessions in the Summer

Feedback between us: Staff Student Liaison Committee SSLC

So, tell me more...

Student-Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs) are made up of elected student representatives known as Course Reps, plus members of staff. Course Reps are elected every Autumn through Warwick Students' Union.

They're a key link between students and staff, and a strong mechanism for getting involved in your academic life at Warwick.

Through regular meetings, they influence positive changes connected with teaching, learning and student support on issues such as:

- Course feedback
- Academic support
- Learning resources
- Assessment structure

Find out who your rep is at warwicksu.com/sslc

If you have any questions, contact sslc@warwicksu.com or

Shingai Dzumbira
POSTGRADUATE OFFICER
postgrads@warwicksu.com

Megan Clarke
EDUCATION OFFICER
education@warwicksu.com



Are you a potential SSLC member?



MAKE YOUR MARK.

**Autumn 2023
Elections**

Nominate Yourself now!

**Nominations close:
06/10/23 - 12pm Noon**

Vote for your SSLC reps

- Voting opens Monday 9th October
- warwicksu.com/elections
- An effective SSLC is a big step towards a successful year for all