

Exam Tips and Support

If you need any support before or during your exams you may find the links below useful. If you are ever unsure about who to contact, please contact us in the PG office.

economics.pgoffice@warwick.ac.uk

In your time at Warwick, we hope that assessment and exams don't dominate – you should be able to enjoy yourself and make the most of the many and varied opportunities available here – but exams are a thing, so here are a few pieces of advice that we hope is helpful and reassuring. If you need further help, please look at the sources listed at the end of this item or speak to us. Although what follows discusses exams, remember that you are not actually here to do exams! You are here to learn – learn economics and much more. You should, and we do, focus on your learning experience.

You will find that all assessments are different, and different people are suited to different types of tests. We know that everyone on our programmes is a very good student, but UK assessments are set at a level that generates a mark distribution where even the best students do not get 100%. Our Distinction level is 70%, and we expect only about one-quarter of students to get above that line, when averaged over the whole course. We expect the average mark, over all students on all courses, to be about 62-64%, with a bunching of grade point average marks around that level. Some people will do well on all modules; some people will have particular talents in one area but be relatively weak in others. This applies to subjects, and also to assessment types.

Some people are very good at “rote learning” whereas others are better at “innovative thinking”. Some are better at solving math problems, and others are better at writing essays. Your course has a range of assessment types, with the intention of allowing everyone to demonstrate their skills. A one-hour multiple choice test is very different to a two- or three-hour exam. If you do not do well in one test, there is almost always the opportunity to make it up elsewhere, so do not be disheartened. If you don't do as well as you thought you would or should, take a bit of time and then do a little reflection on why that might be. Once you have come up with possible answers, see if you can prepare for the next assessment in a way that will minimise identified issues. Equally, please do congratulate yourself but don't be complacent if you score well in one test – take a deep breath and prepare at least as well for other assessments – the experience is always a bit different, and maintaining high standards is hard.

Not all assessments are similar. For example, Micro and Macro mirror each other in terms of teaching time, but the questions they address and their approaches to those questions are very different, so naturally the tests and exams you will face on those modules will also differ, with different types and styles of question and expected answer. Both will be different from the somewhat more predictable maths-focussed pre-sessional course.