

First Year Group Project October 2020

'The Economics of Coronavirus'

One of the most important skills you will need to learn as an economist is how to explain economic concepts and the economic aspects of current affairs to non-experts. The first year project is designed to get you working in a team from your first week at Warwick and to start enhancing these skills.

The current global pandemic has had- and continues to have- enormous economic consequences for countries across the world. Your team will work together to decipher a set of clues which will lead you to work out which country has been assigned to you. Once you have worked out which country you are looking at, your team will investigate the consequences of Coronavirus (so far in the pandemic) on that country's economy. Your team will produce a 3-4 minute video in which you will communicate your findings to a non-expert audience. The best five videos will be posted on the departmental website and there will be a winning team.

We are living through extraordinary times. Your video will not only be interesting and insightful, and help build your skillset, but it will also be a living record of when you started university during a global pandemic. We encourage you to engage with the first year project- you will get out of it what you put in. This should be a hugely rewarding task and help you really engage with real world economics from the very start of your degree.

GUIDANCE FOR FIRST YEAR PROJECT

- Your team of six will meet for the first time on Thursday 1 October at 12:15. You will sent an email to your whole team. Amongst yourselves, please arrange to meet together online this morning: **PLEASE USE MS TEAMS to meet.**
- During your first meeting, your team will try to work out which country you are looking at. Each team has been emailed a set of clues related to the country you will be looking at. Using these clues, please work out which country the information relates to.
- Once you have worked out which country your clues relate to, please nominate **ONE** member of your team to email r.narayan.2@warwick.ac.uk with the ***name of the country (and your group number)***. In reply, your group will be emailed an information sheet about the country in question. It will include helpful links that you can start to research the effects of coronavirus on the country you are focussing on.

- As a group you should meet up online during weeks one and two- it is up to you how often you meet. If you have a team member who is not engaged please make an effort to contact them and include them. Please be mindful that others may be in different time zones if studying remotely and you should try to organise online meetings to accommodate this. You will not be assessed for the first year group project, however your participation is a compulsory element of your Personal Development Module. In order to gain the credits for this element of PDM you must show engagement with the project. This will be evident via your group's submission. This is a challenge, to get you to think critically and to get you to work with and meet your fellow economics students during your first weeks at Warwick.

YOUR TASK...

- Your task is to produce a **3-4 minute video** about your team's country. Your video should address (but not be limited to) the following:
 - The effect of coronavirus on GDP
 - The unemployment rate
 - Any relevant information on state-backed schemes to address the economic impact of COVID (eg. Stimulus payments)
- Your video does not need to be a sophisticated, edited and professionally produced piece! The easiest way to film your video is to hold an MS Teams meeting and record the meeting as a presentation (with slides if you wish). You may wish to be more creative or film something on your phones.
- The best videos will be critically engaging and informative.
- Given the current situation, **we would urge you to do everything for the First Year Project virtually.** However if you do choose to meet in person, please ensure that you **follow social distancing rules and wear face coverings/masks- your safety and the safety of your fellow students is the priority.**
- The deadline for video uploads is Friday of week 2: **Friday 16 October at 12noon.** You will be informed via email of where to submit your video.
- If you have any queries please email Rosie Narayan on r.narayan.2@warwick.ac.uk