



FRESHONOMICS

SUPPLY, DEMAND & SURVIVING FIRST YEAR

A first-year field guide to Economics at Warwick

2026–27 EDITION

STUDENT-LED • PRACTICAL

Congratulations!

Dear Economist,

Hello, freshers! This guide gives you an overview of your Economics course, plus practical life-at-university information and some advice from current students on how to make the most of your degree.

Congratulations on making it to Warwick: now you're here, and a new chapter begins.

First year gives you time to find your feet; to work out how you study best, make new friends, try new things and settle into university life. Your marks don't count towards your final degree classification, so there is space to experiment and learn from mistakes. But keep one eye on your grades: what you learn and the habits you develop in first year provide the foundations for Years 2 and 3.

Good luck!

How to Read This Guide

Checklists

- Practical to-dos — tick them off as you go.

Tips

- Advice from students who've already done first year.

Fun Facts

- Bonus context — good trivia, not exam material.

Links

- Points you to the official page for more info.

23

SECTIONS

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CHARTS & GRAPHS

1

STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

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GUIDE, MADE YOURS

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Krishna Nirmal Jain. With thanks to Carolyn Andrews, Robin Naylor and Tom Martin for feedback.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

This is a student-led guide intended to summarise and package key information, kept current on a best-efforts basis.



For formal guidance, rules and regulations, visit the Department's landing page

We welcome your feedback — email economics.sslc@warwick.ac.uk.



Turn the page. Your first year starts now.

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"You don't need to read this guide cover to cover tonight. Skim it once, then come back to each section as it becomes relevant."

One more thing: boxed lines in quotation marks throughout this guide are mantras from the students who wrote it, not verbatim quotes — Section 19 (Things I Wish I Knew) collects the latter, attributed to the guide's twelve student contributors.

TIP

This document is a real Word file, not just a PDF — every checkbox, link and heading works, and you're welcome to type notes directly into it as your own copy.

Welcome to Warwick Economics

Start here — a quick orientation before everything else.

Congratulations on making it to Warwick! This guide gives you an overview of your Economics course, practical life-at-university information, and advice from current students on how to make the most of your degree.

First year gives you time to find your feet: to work out how you study best, make new friends, try new things and settle into university life. Your marks don't count towards your final degree classification, so there's space to experiment and learn from mistakes — but the habits you build now provide the foundations for Years 2 and 3.

Who to Email

- ☐ Undergraduate Office (economics.ugoffice@warwick.ac.uk) — course structure, registration, general queries.
- ☐ economics.sslc@warwick.ac.uk — feedback or suggestions on this guide, or on the student experience.
- ☐ Your Personal Tutor — academic and pastoral support (you'll meet them in your first two weeks).

 [Department of Economics Undergraduate Handbook](#)

Fun Fact

Warwick's Economics Department is consistently ranked among the top in the UK and the world — but rankings aside, it's genuinely known for being one of the friendliest, most community-driven departments on campus. Use that. (Source: The Good University Guide 2026, ranking Warwick Economics 1st in the UK for the fourth year running.)

Top 5

UK ECONOMICS DEPT

2,800+

WES SOCIETY MEMBERS

What's Inside

Settling In

- First days
- Toolkit
- Campus map
- Wellbeing

Academics

- How your degree works
- How to study
- Problem sets

Life & Money

- Living costs
- Food
- Things to do

Looking Ahead

- Careers
- Study abroad
- Timeline & glossary

02

Your First Days: Checklist

- ☐ Set up your Warwick email, Microsoft Authenticator and Wi-Fi (Eduroam, or Warwick Guest as a fallback) via MyWarwick.
- ☐ Check your timetable and module registration information — also viewable in the MyWarwick app.
- ☐ Find your main teaching buildings before your first class.
- ☐ Meet your Personal Tutor and save their details — you'll find them listed on Tabula.
- ☐ Open Moodle, Tabula and myAdvantage.
- ☐ Join your course and society communities, but do not join every group chat you see.
- ☐ Go to the Societies Fair and try at least two activities.
- ☐ Find the Library, Students' Union, Health Centre and Wellbeing & Student Support — start at the Wellbeing Portal.
- ☐ Work out where you will buy groceries, toiletries and basic homeware (IKEA and Argos are popular for the essentials) and how you'll get to campus.
- ☐ Pack any regular medications, plus copies of prescriptions if you'll need repeats in Coventry.
- ☐ Create one simple weekly calendar before the first full teaching week.

International Students

- ☐ Bring your BRP (if issued) or have your eVisa ready to show — check the current requirements on the official UK government portal before you travel.
- ☐ Register with a GP / the Health Centre as soon as you arrive.
- ☐ Keep digital and paper copies of your visa, CAS letter and enrolment confirmation.

TIP

Don't try to do everything on this list in one day. Spread it across your first week — Wi-Fi and email on day one, the rest as you go. Nobody arrives fully sorted.

Fun Fact

'Fresher' as UK university slang dates back to at least the 19th century, borrowed from 'freshman' — and every single person you'll meet this week was one too, no matter how settled they now look. (Source: Merriam-Webster, 'How Sophomores and Freshmen Got Their Names')

Seven systems you will live in during first year. Bookmark them now.

Getting Online

Eduroam is the standard Wi-Fi network, using your university email and ITS password, and works across most European universities too. If Eduroam is playing up, Warwick Guest is a reliable fallback.

 [Register for your university Outlook](#)

Tool / Place	What You Use It For	First-Year Habit
Outlook + Authenticator (via MyWarwick)	University email, calendar, secure login	Check email daily; keep two-factor authentication working
Moodle	Module content, activities, problem sets and announcements	Check each module weekly
Tabula	Submissions, feedback, marks and your Personal Tutor's details	Check deadlines and feedback
eVision	University administration and module registration	Use it for official admin tasks
my.WBS	Sign-up for IB-coded (WBS) optional modules	Only if you've chosen a WBS module
myAdvantage	Careers vacancies, appointments, events and resources	Create your profile early
MyWarwick app	Timetable, campus map and quick links, all in one app	Handy for checking your day on the go

Tip

Set up two-factor authentication once, properly, in your first week — Microsoft Authenticator on your phone, not just SMS codes. Losing access mid-term because of a broken 2FA setup is a genuinely common and avoidable panic.

04

Campus Map & Key Spots

A handful of places worth knowing in your first week.



[Warwick Interactive Map](#)

Place	Why It Matters
Library	5 floors — the upper floors are quieter for focused work.
Junction (Rootes Building)	Home of E-sports; some Term 3 exams are also held here.
Social Sciences Building	Undergraduate Office and the Common Room.
Senate House	Replacement Student ID cards or key fobs, and Wellbeing & Student Support.
Warwick Arts Centre	Cinema, plays and music concerts.
University Interchange	Bus stop for Coventry and Leamington Spa.
Oculus	Where many Economics lectures take place.
Sports & Wellness Hub	230-station gym, 25m pool, sauna, climbing wall and more.
SU Atrium	Nightclub, pub, bar and a cafe.
Rootes Building	Group study space, cafe and hall.

TIP

The MyWarwick app has an offline-friendly campus map built in — handy for your first few days before the layout clicks.

290

HECTARES OF CAMPUS

5

LIBRARY FLOORS

230

GYM STATIONS

Fun Fact

Warwick's campus actually straddles the border between Coventry and Warwickshire — so depending on which building you're in, you might technically be in a different county to your flatmate.

05

Academic Support & Wellbeing

Brief wellbeing consultations are typically available weekdays, 10am–3pm, booked through the Wellbeing Portal. Wellbeing & Student Support is based in Senate House, and can point you towards specialist services including CAPS (Counselling and Psychotherapy Services) and disability support.

 [Wellbeing Portal](#)

The Department also runs its own pastoral support directly within Economics, including daily drop-in sessions — you can reach the Economics pastoral team at economics.pastoral@warwick.ac.uk.

 [Academic & Pastoral Support Drop-in Sessions](#)

 [Maths & Stats Drop-in Sessions](#)

If You Need Help With...

If You Need Help With...	Start With...
Course structure, module choices or progression	Undergraduate Office / Department of Economics
Personal Tutor advice or references	Personal Tutor (details on Tabula) / relevant tutor
A problem affecting your studies	Departmental pastoral support and mitigating circumstances guidance
Maths or statistics	Module teaching team and the Department's academic support resources
Disability / reasonable adjustments	Disability Services / Disability Adviser
Stress, anxiety, homesickness or general wellbeing	Wellbeing & Student Support via the Wellbeing Portal
Emotional or psychological support	Wellbeing & Student Support; CAPS may follow initial support
Physical illness or a repeat prescription	The on-campus Health Centre
Money / funding concerns	Student Funding Support and Students' Union Advice
Widening participation support	WP Student Network / WP team — see Section 06 (Widening Participation)

IMPORTANT

If you are in immediate danger or need urgent medical help, use the University's emergency guidance or appropriate emergency services rather than waiting for a routine appointment.

Everyday Habits That Actually Help

- ☐ Keep a rough sleep schedule and eat regularly — both make everything else feel easier.
- ☐ Get outside once a day, even briefly — plenty of green space on campus.
- ☐ Reach out early — support is free, confidential, and there before a small problem grows.

Widening Participation

Extra support if you're the first in your family to go to university, or from an under-represented background.

Widening Participation (WP) support exists for students who may face extra barriers to higher education — for example if you're the first in your family to go to university, from a low-income household, a care leaver, estranged from your family, or from an area with low progression to higher education. If any of this applies to you, it's worth knowing what's available.

[Widening Participation at Warwick](#)

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Some of the criteria include (this can vary by programme):

- First in your family to attend university
- From a less advantaged socio-economic background
- With experience of care or estrangement
- From a neighbourhood with low progression to higher education

WP Support & Opportunities

Opportunity	What It Is
WP Student Network	A student-led community for WP students, running events and activities throughout the year.
Warwick Scholars	For students who took part in Warwick's outreach programmes (Access, Pathways to Professions, Realising Opportunities) or are care leavers, estranged or sanctuary scholars — exclusive activities and opportunities.
WP Student Advisory Group	A forum where WP students advocate for their experiences and work with University leadership on belonging and wellbeing.
WP Ambassador / Mentor	Paid, part-time roles supporting the WP team's work in local schools, on campus and online.
Relevant societies	Ask the WP team, or check the Students' Union society list, for groups supporting care-experienced, estranged and first-generation students.

- ☐ Check whether you're eligible for Warwick Scholars or other WP support.
- ☐ Join the WP Student Network if it's relevant to you.

- Look out for WP Ambassador and mentoring opportunities via myAdvantage and the WP team.

TIP

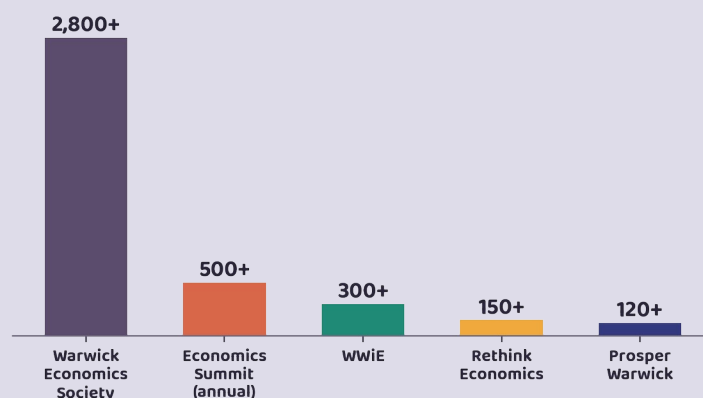
None of this is means-tested guesswork — the WP team can tell you directly whether you qualify, so it's worth a quick email even if you're not sure.



Societies are one of the fastest ways to meet people outside your course. You don't need to join ten — start with two or three that genuinely interest you and show up consistently.

Society	What They Do
Warwick Economics Society	The largest academic student-run society at Warwick, with 2,800+ members across 100+ disciplines.
Warwick Economics Summit	Europe's largest student-run academic conference, bringing 500+ students together each year.
Warwick Women in Economics (WWiE)	Building a more diverse, inclusive Economics community — open to everyone.
Rethink Economics Warwick	A student-led initiative promoting pluralist economics and real-world application.
Prosper Warwick	Helping prospective Black professionals access and thrive in competitive careers.

Members / attendees (approx.)



TIP

Ask about becoming a Fresher Representative ('Frep') for a society you like — it's a low-commitment way onto a committee, and societies value the fresh perspective.

Fun Fact

Warwick has over 280 student societies in total — from the expected (Economics, Finance, Debating) to the wonderfully specific (Quidditch, Cheese Society, and a society for almost every country and cuisine).

Time Management

University is different from school or college: nobody chases you for assignments, and it's tempting to either overwork or under-work. Get this right early and the rest of the year is much easier.

- ☐ Block lectures / classes first.
- ☐ Schedule 2–3 focused study blocks for each demanding module.
- ☐ Reserve one catch-up block each week.
- ☐ Keep at least one genuinely free evening.
- ☐ Review deadlines every Sunday.
- ☐ Batch admin tasks and applications rather than checking them constantly.
- ☐ Say no when your calendar is full.

"A full calendar is not the same as a productive week."

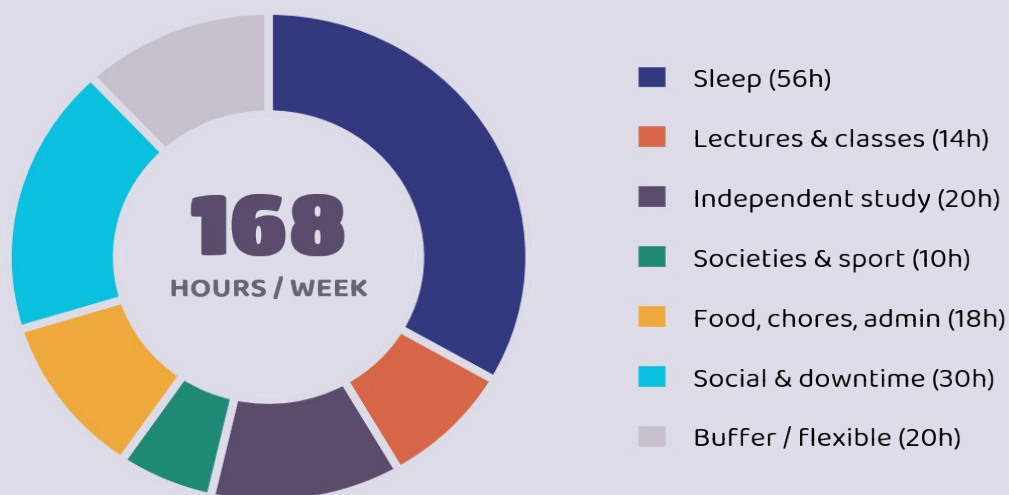


Figure — a rough 168-hour week. The exact split is yours to set, but sketching it out once makes 'do I actually have time for this?' a much easier question to answer.

TIP

Do not compare your timetable with somebody else's. Different modules, commuting, health, work and societies make 'the perfect week' different for everyone.

Fun Fact

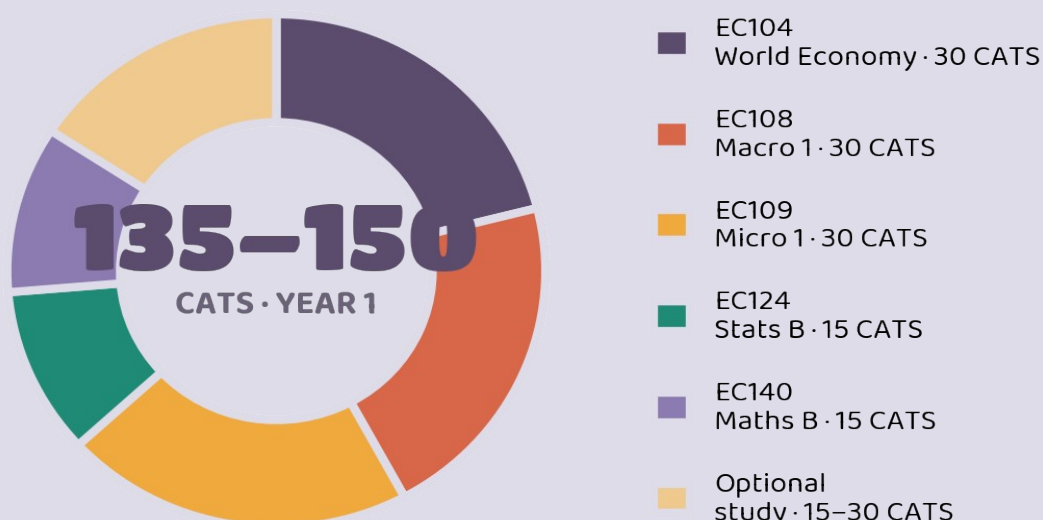
Studies on student time-use consistently find the same thing: the students who feel busiest usually aren't the ones doing the most hours of work — they're the ones without a plan for their unstructured time.

See also: [How to Study Economics](#) for how to actually use your study blocks once you have scheduled them.

How Your Degree Works

A module normally combines lectures with Support and Feedback classes. Lectures introduce core material; smaller classes are where you practise, discuss and apply it. This section walks through the standard BSc Economics (L100) structure — if you're on BSc Economics and Management (E&M) or BSc Economics, Politics and International Studies (EPAIS), the same principles apply but your CATS breakdown differs; see the course links below.

For BSc Economics (L100), the current handbook lists a first-year load of 135–150 CATS: 120 CATS of required core modules plus 15–30 CATS of optional study. Always confirm against your own year-of-entry regulations. One CATS point represents 10 hours of learning time, split between contact time and independent study (Undergraduate Handbook) — so treat CATS as a rough workload guide, not just a credit number. Group work is also part of the deal: many modules expect you to coordinate meetings, divide tasks and work to shared deadlines, which is its own skill worth practising early.



Core Area in the Current L100 Regulations	CATS
EC104 The World Economy: History and Theory	30
EC108 Macroeconomics 1	30
EC109 Microeconomics 1	30
EC124 Statistical Techniques B	15
EC140 Mathematical Techniques B	15
Optional study	15–30

 [BSc Economics and Management \(E&M\)](#)

 [BSc Economics, Politics and International Studies \(EPAIS\)](#)

TIP

For the full list and prerequisites of optional modules, see the Department's Year 1 Modules page rather than relying on any one summary.

How to Study Economics

1 • Before the Lecture

Spend a few minutes previewing the slides. Write down unfamiliar notation and one question you want answered. The aim is recognition, not mastery.

2 • During the Lecture

Don't copy every word from the slides. Annotate structure, examples and anything the lecturer emphasises. If you're confused, mark the exact step — note it, don't stall.

3 • Within 24 Hours

Close your notes and try to reconstruct the key model, proof or argument from memory, then check your work. Far more useful than rereading.

4 • Before the Class

Attempt problem sets yourself first. Even incomplete attempts reveal exactly where your understanding breaks.

5 • After the Class

Correct mistakes, keep an 'error log', and revisit difficult material with spaced repetition (Day 1, Day 3, Day 7) rather than cramming near exams.

IF MATHS FEELS RUSTY

If you didn't study Economics (or much maths) before Warwick, you're not behind — the Department runs self-taught Transitioning to Economics and Refresher Mathematics for Economics resources before term starts.

 [Transitioning to Economics \(Moodle\)](#)

 [Refresher Mathematics for Economics \(Moodle\)](#)

Fun Fact

This is called the 'testing effect', and decades of cognitive science back it up: actively recalling information (like reconstructing a model from memory) builds far stronger long-term retention than passively re-reading it — even though re-reading feels more productive in the moment.

See also: [Time Management](#) for how to actually block out time for the study routine below.

Problem Sets & Assessments

Problem sets force you from recognition to application — don't wait until you feel ready to attempt them.

- ☐ Attempt the question without notes first.
- ☐ Identify the exact step where you get stuck.
- ☐ Use lecture notes, the textbook or examples to repair that gap.
- ☐ Redo the question from scratch.
- ☐ Add the mistake and the correct method to your error log.

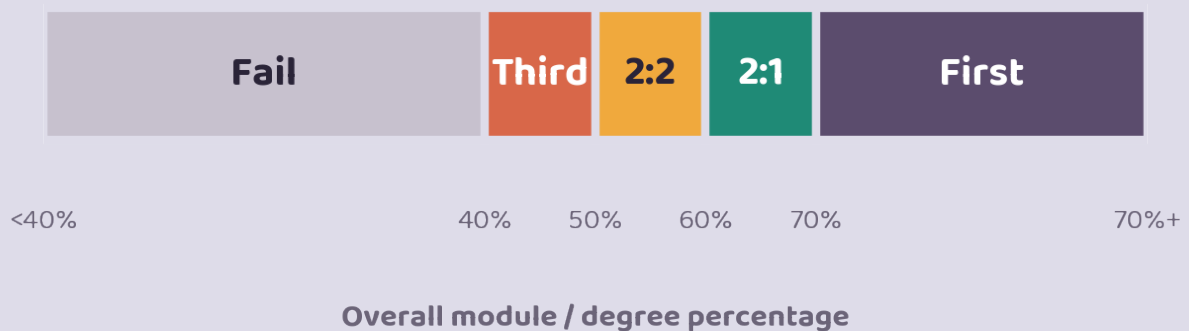


Figure — UK undergraduate marking bands. Most students aim for a 2:1 or above. Seeing the full scale here gives you a benchmark for how individual seminar and assessment marks translate into your overall degree classification.

Online vs. In-Person Assessments

Some modules assess online (often open-book, so keep a searchable document of your own notes ready) and others assess in person — always check the specific format for each module rather than assuming.

Whatever the format, follow the Department's guidance on generative AI in assessments — it varies by module and by task, so check it before you rely on a tool to help with any piece of work.

 [Generative AI in Assessments — Department Guidance](#)

TIP

Start problem sets the day they're released, even for ten minutes. The gap between 'I understand the lecture' and 'I can actually do this' is exactly what problem sets are for — better to find it early.

Fun Fact

A 2:1 (60%+) is the standard minimum requirement quoted by most graduate schemes and Master's programmes — which is exactly why it's worth building good habits from Term 1, even though first year doesn't count towards your final classification.

What to Pack

Important	Study Equipment	General Living	Regular Medication
• Passport and essential immigration documents • Driving licence — if you have one • Credit / debit card	• Stationery • Casio FX83/FX85 calculator (non-programmable, exam-approved)	• Towels & toiletries • Bedding, duvet, pillow • Coat hangers, clothes drying rack	• Any repeat medications • A copy of your prescriptions

Year 1 Accommodation

On Campus	Good to Know
Cryfield Townhouses, Heronbank, Rootes, Sherbourne, Westwood	Available From Year 1; first-year allocation runs by ballot, later years first-come-first-served.
Contract length	Most rooms run a 44-week (full year) or 35-week (Easter clear-out required) contract — check which applies to yours.
Storage over summer	International students often use paid storage (e.g. Love Space, Pack & Send, Storage Society) — budget roughly £400 for a summer.

Off Campus (From Year 2)

Most students move off campus after first year, into Coventry or Leamington Spa. Start looking around late October on Rightmove, Zoopla, OpenRent or SU housing resources — the good places go fast.

Area (23/24 prices, for reference)	Rent Per Week
Coventry (Canley / Cannon Park, private landlord)	£104–270/wk
Leamington Spa (private landlord)	£125–250/wk
Purpose-built student blocks (Coventry / Leamington)	£129–270/wk

TIP

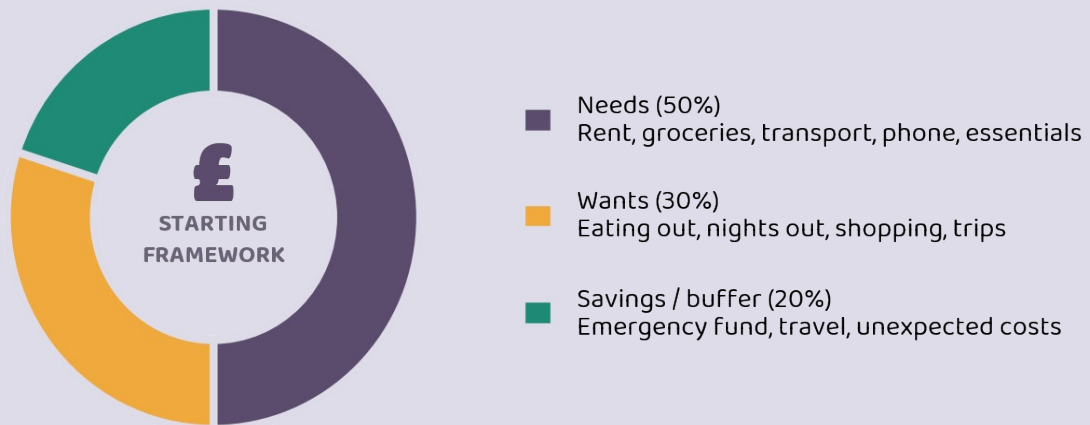
Moving to a new routine, new food and a new climate is a lot on your body — eat properly, sleep properly, and see the Health Centre early if a cold or cough lingers instead of pushing through it.

Choosing an Off-Campus House (Year 2 Onwards)

- ☐ Check what's actually included — bills, Wi-Fi, a TV licence if you'll need one.
- ☐ Visit in person before signing anything if you possibly can.
- ☐ Read the contract for deposit protection scheme details before you sign.
- ☐ Agree with housemates early on how bills will be split and paid.

"Your flat is not your friend group for the whole three years — it's just the easiest place to start making one."

The 50/30/20 rule is a useful starting framework, not a law — rework the percentages around your own rent and essentials.



What Things Actually Cost

- ☐ Track your fixed monthly costs first.
- ☐ Set a weekly allowance for flexible spending.
- ☐ Meal-prep where you can — and check Too Good To Go / Olio for discounted food nearby.
- ☐ Check subscriptions every month and cancel what you don't use.
- ☐ If money is becoming a serious problem, ask for funding or advice early, not as a last resort.

TIP

The SU General Federation Fee is £16/yr (needed for most non-sports societies); a Warwick Sport Club Pass is £53.63 plus an £18 SU Sports Fee. Fitness Worx (Cannon Park) or PureGym are cheaper gym alternatives.

Food & Hangouts on Campus

Grocery Shopping

Co-op on campus covers the basics; Cannon Park (Tesco, Iceland, Seoul Plaza) and Coventry city centre (M&S, Sainsbury's) have more choice. Online delivery slots are worth booking ahead in Week 1.

Cooking on Campus

Most kitchens have an induction hob, oven, cupboard space and a fridge / freezer — agree storage with flatmates early.

 [BBC Good Food: student recipes](#)

Eating Out on Campus

Spot	Where
Benugo Bar & Kitchen	Warwick Arts Centre
Panda Mami	Warwick Arts Centre
The Dirty Duck	2nd Floor, Students' Union
Café Library	Ground Floor, Library
Food trucks (Wednesdays)	The Piazza

TIP

Wednesday food trucks on the Piazza are a genuinely good, cheap lunch rotation — worth building into your week.

Fun Fact

Too Good To Go and Olio both regularly list surplus food from campus outlets and Cannon Park stores at a fraction of the price — a few pounds for what would otherwise be thrown out at closing time.

Two Meals Worth Learning First

- ☐ Stir-fry with rice — endlessly adaptable to whatever's in the fridge.
- ☐ A simple soup — the easiest way to use up a bag of vegetables before it turns.

Things to Do: Cov, Leam & Kenilworth

Coventry

- FarGo Village (indie shops, food festivals)
- Coventry Cathedral
- SideQuest gaming arcade
- TeamSport go-karting, Tenpin bowling
- The Aviary rooftop bar

Leamington Spa

- The Neighbourhood & Kelsey's for a night out
- Gails & The Muse for coffee/brunch
- A nicer high street for a change of scene

Kenilworth

- Home to Kenilworth Castle
- A genuinely good half-day trip for green space and history without leaving the local area

TIP

If the on-campus gym feels pricey, PureGym has locations in both Coventry and Leamington Spa with flexible, cheaper memberships and no peak-time queues.

Fun Fact

Coventry was the UK City of Culture in 2021, and Coventry Cathedral is actually two buildings in one — the ruins of the medieval cathedral, bombed in WWII, standing right next to the modern one built beside it.

- ☐ Regular buses run from the University Interchange to both Coventry and Leamington Spa — check current routes and times on the operator's app before you travel.
- ☐ A student bus pass is usually the cheapest way to travel regularly — worth setting up in your first week.

Careers: Getting Started

You don't need a fixed career plan in Week 1. First year is for testing possibilities — finance, consulting, research, public policy, tech, law, entrepreneurship — before you narrow down.

Spring Weeks are short (2 days–2 weeks), often paid or bursary-supported insight programmes many finance / consulting firms run for first-years; they're worth researching in Term 1. If you want to talk it through, Warwick's Careers & Student Opportunity team (bookable via myAdvantage) can advise on how to approach Spring Week applications.

- ☐ Create a myAdvantage profile.
- ☐ Attend one careers or employer event before Christmas.
- ☐ Make a one-page CV and keep updating it.
- ☐ Speak to older students and alumni — LinkedIn is the easiest way in.
- ☐ Apply selectively to opportunities that genuinely interest you, and keep a record of deadlines.

 [Warwick Careers & Student Opportunity](#)

Year 1 is for sampling all of these — not choosing one



TIP

Not into finance or consulting? Plenty of Economics graduates go into law (via a conversion course), the public sector, start-ups, data roles, journalism or policy. Use first year to sample a few.

Fun Fact

An Economics degree is one of the most versatile on the market precisely because it teaches a transferable way of thinking — modelling trade-offs, reading data critically, and structuring an argument — that employers value well outside finance.

Academic Opportunities

WISE

The Warwick Internship Scheme for Economists connects you to projects led by the Department's own academic staff — from research support to outreach — building data, communication and project-management skills.

SSLC

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee is your formal channel for feeding back on the academic experience, with elected Chair, Deputy Chair and rep roles.

PPD

A compulsory, non-credit, self-guided module that appears on your transcript rather than your degree classification — you pass by earning 50+ credits across the year.

CAGE Summer School

A competitive, fully-funded 3-day residential for students interested in economic research, hosted by Warwick's CAGE research centre.

 [WISE Internships](#)

 [PPD Requirements \(official\)](#)

TIP

Keep an eye out for the Economics Student Ambassador (paid) and Economics Student Mentor (voluntary) schemes — both are great ways to get involved early and build your CV.

Fun Fact

CAGE (the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy) is one of the UK's leading economics research centres and is based right here at Warwick — its work regularly feeds into national policy debates.

Why Bother in Year 1?

None of these are compulsory, and you don't need to do all of them. But applying to just one — WISE, an SSLC rep role, or a mentoring scheme — is a genuinely strong, specific thing to talk about in a future application, precisely because most first-years don't.

Study Abroad

A year abroad is taken after second year (making your final year a 4th year of study), and it's a genuinely popular route for Economics students who want a change of scene and a CV boost.

You'll usually need to be on track for a 2:1 by the end of second year, and you apply in Term 1 of second year with a ranked list of partner universities.

15%

OF NORMAL TUITION FEE

2:1

TYPICAL REQUIREMENT

Yr 4

FINAL YEAR ON RETURN

[Study Abroad: partner universities](#)

TIP

This guide covers Year 1, so treat Study Abroad as something to note now and revisit properly in second year — the Year 2 guide goes into the application process, funding and partner universities in depth.

Fun Fact

Because your tuition fee typically drops to around 15% while abroad, a year abroad is often one of the cheapest years of your entire degree per week lived — even before accounting for exchange scholarships and grants.

Getting Ahead of It

- ☐ Keep your grades on track from Term 1 — the requirement is checked at the end of second year, but good habits start now.
- ☐ Start noting down which partner universities interest you as you come across them this year.
- ☐ Talk to any second- or third-years you meet who are on, or have done, a year abroad.

Things I Wish I Knew

Twelve students contributed to this guide. Here's what they'd tell you if you asked.

"You are not behind because somebody else has already joined a society committee, secured an internship or figured out their career."

"Your first few weeks are not a referendum on whether you belong at Warwick."

"Do the problem set before you feel ready."

"Ask questions earlier than you think you need to."

"You can have a great university experience without maximising every opportunity."

"Protect your friendships, sleep and health. They are not obstacles to success."

"Try things. Some will work, some will not. Both outcomes teach you something."

"The best guide is one you actually annotate — write in the margins, highlight what applies to you, ignore the rest."

"In ten years, nobody remembers your first-year exam grades. Almost everybody remembers the people they met and the things they tried."



First-Year Timeline

Your first year at a glance. Each term runs 10 weeks.



Period	Your Priorities
Before arrival	Complete enrolment; set up accounts; read induction info; plan essentials.
Week 0 / Welcome	Societies Fair, Economics welcome events (including a trading game), induction talks.
Weeks 1-3	Lectures start Week 1, seminars Week 2-3. Meet your Personal Tutor. Establish a routine.
Week 6	Reading week for some courses (not core EC modules) — a natural point to catch up.
Term 2	Homesickness is common early in Term 2 — that's normal. Economics Summit and the Society Ball both happen this term.
Easter	Build an exam plan; identify weak topics; practise under timed conditions.
Term 3 / exams	Revision lectures first, then first-year exams typically mid-May to early June.
After exams	Reflect on what worked; save useful notes; enjoy the break.

Fun Fact

Warwick runs on a three-term system rather than semesters — so unlike many universities, your first-year exams sit almost entirely in Term 3, giving you a genuinely long runway (not an excuse) to prepare.

TIP

Print or save this timeline somewhere visible. Knowing roughly what's coming — a reading week, the Summit, the exam period — makes each term far less unpredictable.

Glossary

Every term used earlier in this guide, in plain English.

Term	Meaning
CATS	Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme points used to measure module credit.
Core module	A module you are required to take under your degree regulations.
Optional module	A module you can choose subject to your course rules and restrictions.
Support and Feedback class	A smaller teaching session used to discuss, practise and apply material — also called a seminar.
Personal Tutor	A named academic contact for academic and pastoral guidance; details are on Tabula.
Mitigating circumstances	A formal process for exceptional circumstances that significantly affect study or assessment.
SSLC	Student-Staff Liaison Committee: the formal route for student voice in the Department.
PPD	Personal and Professional Development: the compulsory first-year skills-development module (formerly called the PDM).
myAdvantage	Warwick's careers and skills portal.
Frep	Fresher Representative — a first-year role on a society's committee.
Spring Week	A short (2 day–2 week) insight programme many finance / consulting firms run for first-years.
URSS	Undergraduate Research Support Scheme — funds a self-designed summer research project.
Cohort	The group of students who started their course in the same year as you.
Transcript	Your official academic record, showing modules taken and marks achieved.
WISE	Warwick Internship Scheme for Economists — Department-run internships on projects led by Economics academic staff.

 **University jargon buster (official)**

Fun Fact

'Tabula' is Latin for 'tablet' or 'writing board' — a fittingly old-fashioned name for the system where all your very modern feedback, marks and deadlines live.

Official Links & Source of Truth

For formal rules, deadlines, module restrictions, assessment requirements and progression, always use the current official Warwick pages for your year of entry.

 [Department of Economics Undergraduate Handbook](#)

 [Year 1 EC Modules](#)

 [Wellbeing & Student Support](#)

 [Warwick Careers / Student Opportunity](#)

 [myAdvantage](#)

 [Students' Union](#)

 [Warwick Sport](#)

 [Library](#)

 [Moodle](#)

 [Tabula](#)

 [Warwick Interactive Campus Map](#)

 [Student Funding Support](#)

 [Students' Union Advice Centre](#)

EDITORIAL NOTE

This guide is student-led and updated when possible. Official University and Department guidance takes precedence wherever policies, dates, fees or course regulations change — and we mean that.

Tip

Bookmark this page specifically — it's the one page in this whole guide worth returning to every term, since it's the fastest route to the actual, current, official source for anything that matters.



You do not need to make first year perfect. You need to make it yours.

Work hard enough to build a strong academic foundation. Join things because they interest you. Meet people outside your immediate circle. Ask for help when you need it — early is always better than late.

Three years sounds long when you arrive. It is not. Enjoy the people, the mistakes, the unexpected opportunities and the ordinary days in between.

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STUDENT CONTRIBUTORS

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FIRST YEAR, MADE YOURS

Did You Know?

The word 'economics' comes from the Greek *oikonomia* — literally 'household management'. You're not just learning a subject; you're learning the oldest management problem there is: how to allocate scarce things well.

This guide was written by students, for students, and it will keep being rewritten by whoever comes next. If something here helped you, was wrong, or is missing, tell the SSLC — the next fresher's copy of this guide is only as good as the feedback this one gets.

"WELCOME TO WARWICK ECONOMICS. NOW GO MAKE THE MOST OF IT."