



OILLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

Coláiste an Ghnó, an Bheartais Phóibí agus an Dlí
College of Business, Public Policy and Law

MSc Fintech (Economics and Financial Technology)

J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics

Academic Booklet 26/27

A Guide for MSc Fintech Students



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1. Introduction & Welcome

Dear class of 2026/27,

As Programme Director for the MSc Fintech (Economics & Financial Technology) Programme at the Discipline of Economics at University of Galway I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year and to the programme. I, along with all of the teaching and support staff involved in the programme, are very much looking forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

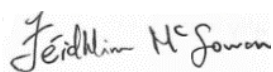
The MSc Fintech programme is designed with dedicated modules to deepen your understanding of the forces driving the growth of Fintech. The programme provides both a rigorous foundation in the economic foundations of Fintech and the necessary quantitative and technical skills used in this sector. Graduates with these skills are highly valued by Fintech start-ups, payments and platform operators, investment banks and other financial institutions, by public institutions and regulators and by multinational corporations. Furthermore, the Financial Services industry, which is a part of Internationally Traded Services, has been identified by the Irish Government as one of the key sectors for the delivery of high value-added jobs in Ireland and a crucial sector in the further development of Ireland's knowledge-based economy. I hope that your experience of the programme will be both positive and rewarding.

In terms of the mode of delivery, students are expected to attend in-person on campus for all aspects of their programmes, with attendance monitored throughout the academic year. For those students who experience short term illnesses, including Covid, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow students to keep up with their work – e.g. through the provision of lecture notes or and/or lecture presentations, but there should be no expectation on the part of students that online lecture recordings will be made available. Your programme director is hosting a programme orientation session on **Monday 7th September from 14.00-16.00** in room CA110 in Aras Cairnes View **campus map**.

The contents of this handbook provide a first point of reference for general information about the programme and about the university more generally. If you have any questions or concerns, I would point you in the first instance to the various links and resources that are provided here in this handbook. There are many supports available to you from the university, and you should feel free to avail of these as required. Please also feel free to contact me, and/or Charmain Byrne (who provides excellent admin support for the programme), directly if you wish, and we will do our best to help and support you in any way we can.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming you to the programme at orientation and I would like to wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Best wishes,



Dr. Féidhlim McGowan

Lecturer in Economics, University of Galway

Programme Director MSc Fintech

e: feidhlim.mcgowan@universityofgalway.ie

a: Room 238, Aras Cairnes, North Campus, University of Galway.

2. Useful Contacts

On a day-to-day basis, your principal contact in courses will naturally be with your lecturers and tutors. You will generally be able to clarify most issues which arise with them, as the year proceeds.

Economics location and contact information

From time to time, particularly when you are required to submit assignments, you may need to call into the Economics offices. These are located on the first floor of the older part of the Cairnes Building, to the north of the main campus. This older part is informally known as “St. Anthony’s” (officially it’s part of the Cairnes Building). Some teaching rooms are located there also.

See link to campus map: www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps

For general enquiries on your academic studies, you are welcome to contact:



Programme Director:

Féidhlim McGowan

Room 238, Aras Cairnes, North Campus, University of Galway

feidhlim.mcgowan@universityofgalway.ie



Head of Economics:

Professor Alan Aheane

Room CA236, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

alan.ahearne@universityofgalway.ie



Economics Administrative Staff (Professional Support Services):

Charmain Byrne

Room 201, First Floor, Cairnes Building (St. Anthony’s)

Charmain Byrne: Phone 091-492501 (or internal ext. 2501):

charmain.byrne@universityofgalway.ie

Contact details for individual staff members are on the economics web site:

www.universityofgalway.ie/economics

A general contact email for economics enquiries is: economics@universityofgalway.ie

3. Academic Term Dates

The first semester of the 2026-27 academic year begins on Monday 7th September 2026.

Academic Year 2026-2027	
Orientation 1st years	Monday, 31st August to Friday 4th September *
Start of teaching all years	Monday 7th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 27th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 30th November to Friday 4th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 7th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 18th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 19th December
2027	
Start of Teaching	Monday 11th January 2027
Easter	Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March
End of Teaching	Friday 2nd April (12 weeks of teaching)
Field Trips	Monday 5th to Friday 9th April
Study Week	Monday 12th to Friday 16th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Monday 19th April
Semester 2 Exams End	Thursday 6th May
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 3rd August to Friday 13 August (9 days of exams)
Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 26th March to Easter Monday 29th March 2027
	Bank Holidays: Monday 26th October 2026 / Monday 2nd February 2027 / Wednesday 17th March 2027
	Monday 3rd May 2027 / Monday 7th June 2027 / Monday 2nd August 2027

* Updated 23rd March 2026

* Approved AC Standing 29th September 2022

4. About University of Galway

Founded in 1845, we've been inspiring students for over 175 years. University of Galway has earned international recognition as a research-led university with a commitment to top quality teaching. Galway ranks among the top 1% of universities in the world. Our prestigious history spans almost two centuries. Our spectacular location boasts the unique landscape and culture of the west of Ireland. Our global network connects us to partners around the world. Our researchers are shaping the future. Our students are shaping themselves. Visit www.universityofgalway.ie to learn more about the University of Galway.

4.1 Economics at University of Galway

The MSc Fintech (Economics & Financial Technology) is hosted by the Discipline of Economics at University of Galway, part of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, one of three Schools in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law at University of Galway.

Economics at University of Galway is recognised nationally and internationally for its record in teaching, research and scholarship. The Discipline seeks to provide a flourishing and diverse academic environment which integrates teaching and research, theory and empirical applications, in a policy-oriented and interdisciplinary way. The primary teaching commitments of the Discipline include the economics components of the Bachelor of Arts, Commerce, and Financial Mathematics and Economics degrees at undergraduate level. At postgraduate level, the Discipline offers master's programmes in Global Environmental Economics, Health Economics, International Finance and Fintech (Economics and Financial Technology). The Discipline also has a vibrant PhD programme with over 20 students currently registered and a number of post-doctoral researchers working on externally funded research projects. In terms of its research profile, the Discipline has recognized international expertise in areas including: Environmental, Marine, Agricultural, and Climate Change Economics; Health Economics; Ageing; International Finance and Macroeconomics; Economic Theory; and Irish Economic History. Discipline staff also advise government departments in Ireland and internationally across a range of topics related to these research areas.

Throughout the programme, you will mainly be engaged with academic staff of the Economics discipline. You can find staff profiles and contact details at this link (see also the profiles of core staff teaching on the programme towards the end of this document).

<https://economics.universityofgalway.ie/people/>

4.2 Economics events

Economics at University of Galway strongly encourages economics students' wide and deep engagement in their studies. One avenue to do that is through attending our many economics events on campus, such as conferences, workshops, and the regular seminars given by academic staff, researchers and PhD students from economics at University of Galway, and by external visitors. As a class you will be notified of and invited to attend relevant events in Economics.

4.3 Class representatives

It has proved very valuable at times to have good class representatives (at least one or perhaps two, depending on numbers in the class) to raise issues and help communication amongst the class, so I hope some of you will consider putting your names forward for this role, which is not onerous. The class representatives are the first point of contact for raising issues and providing feedback to the programme director.

5. MSc Fintech (Economics & Financial Technology)

– Course Outline

5.1 Course Outline

***Note:** The following information is intended to give an overview of the programme, and a flavour of the main themes of each module. Full details of module content, assessments, reading lists etc. will be provided by individual lecturers in the form of module outlines at the beginning of each semester*

The MSc Fintech is specifically designed with dedicated modules to equip students with a broad base of skills to make an immediate contribution to the rapidly evolving FinTech landscape. You will study a combination of theoretical and applied subjects, across topics such as economic theory, econometrics, finance, technology, and data science. The programme is delivered by experts across economics, business and data science, and has been designed in consultation with industry experts to maximise career potential.

It provides an emphasis on current issues in the Fintech industry and on recent developments in the areas of payments platforms, AI and investment. Students gain a deeper understanding of both the benefits and risks of Fintech innovation from the consumer perspective and business perspective, and the implications for regulation of this sector. There is a strong focus on necessary technical skills for analysing data; to this end, students receive hands-on training of computer-based machine learning and simulation models for decision making using Stata and Python.

The Fintech sector is one of the fastest growing parts of the financial sector in the Irish economy. Over the past decade, employment in the industry has increased rapidly, and media reports continue to highlight an acute shortage of high-skilled graduates to fill job vacancies in the sector. Moreover, Fintech has been identified by the Irish government as one of the outstanding avenues for the delivery of high value-added jobs in Ireland and a crucial sector in the further development of Ireland's knowledge-based economy.

Programme objectives

The first two programme outcomes are School-wide and adopted across all programmes in the J.E. Cairnes School of Business & Economics:

1. Identify, analyse, and solve business, public policy and societal problems within a global context.
2. Make a positive societal impact through critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration.

The three programme-specific learning outcomes are:

Upon completion of this programme students will have acquired industry-standard skills and in-depth knowledge to:

3. Understand and appraise the fundamental theoretical and practical reasons for applying technology to enhance financial services
4. Develop strong quantitative, problem-solving and analytical skills used in financial services, economics and other cognate professions.
5. Develop an understanding of how Fintech firms operate and what the economic costs and benefits of these technological innovations

5.2 Programme Structure

The MSc Fintech (Economics & Financial Technology) programme consists of 90 ECTS. Students complete a combination of modules (worth 5 or 10 ECTS each) taking 35 ECTS in each semester and a yearlong project (20 ECTS) to fulfil the 90 ECTS requirement. Students also complete a preparatory course in Mathematics for Economists over the first 4 weeks in Semester 1. The course structure outline is presented as follows:

Semester	Module	Module Code	ECTS
1 (Core)	<i>Mathematics for Economists</i>	<i>Preparatory</i>	
	<i>Financial Technology and Economics</i>	<i>EC5147</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>Financial Econometrics</i>	<i>EC5128</i>	<i>10</i>
	<i>Applied Portfolio Management</i>	<i>EC5104</i>	<i>10</i>

1 (Electives)	<i>Cybersecurity Risk Management</i>	MS5125	10
	<i>Information Technology Law</i>	LW383	5
	<i>Intermediate Corporate Finance</i>	AY5108	5
	<i>Microeconomic Theory</i>	EC501	10
	<i>Macroeconomic Theory & Policy</i>	EC5109	10
	<i>Strategic Management</i>	MG571	5
	<i>AI for Business</i>	MS5137	5
2 (Core)	<i>Contemporary Issues in Fintech</i>	EC5149	5
	<i>Financial Data Analytics</i>	EC5127	10
	<i>International Finance</i>	EC563	10
2 (Electives)	<i>Web Design & Development</i>	MS801	5
	<i>Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance</i>	EC5153	10
	<i>Advanced Corporate Finance</i>	AY5109	5
	<i>Derivatives and Risk Management</i>	EC5119	10
	<i>Digital Metrics & Analytics</i>	MK5144	5
	<i>Economics and the Global Economy</i>	EC5124	10
	<i>Green and Sustainable Finance</i>	EC5137	10
	<i>Applied Econometrics</i>	EC5121	10
Summer (Year)	<i>Fintech(Economics and Financial Technology) Project</i>	EC5150	20
Total			90

Mathematics for Economists (preparatory course) – strongly recommended for all

Overview: *This course in Mathematics for Economists aims to give students the necessary mathematical skills to successfully complete the more quantitative and technical modules in economics offered under the various Master's degree programmes in economics at University Of Galway. It provides a thorough revision of a range of mathematical concepts commonly used in economic analysis.*

COURSE DELIVERY: *This short course will run on Thursday mornings for the first four weeks of semester (11th September to 2nd October).*

5.3 EC5150 Fintech (Economics & Financial Technology) Project

Full detailed guidance on the Project requirements and expectations will be provided separately, including information sessions in semester 2.

The Project provides an opportunity for independent and original work. The aim of the Project is to enable the student to critically evaluate research in economics; to demonstrate independent research and to apply theoretical knowledge acquired; to demonstrate critical thinking skills and to produce a well written minor dissertation of not less than 8,000 words in length that contributes to existing knowledge. This module involves a series of discussions and meetings with supervisors, submission of research proposals, progress reporting to supervisors within agreed timeframes, and delivery of a final Project report.

Deadline: Generally the end of July. You will be required to submit an electronic copy to the Programme Director and to your Supervisor. No hard copy of the dissertation is required. Details in relation to formatting requirements, marking schemes and general approaches to writing a dissertation will be provided in a separate guidance document.

Length: The dissertation should be not less than 8,000 words.

- An academic supervisor from University of Galway will be assigned to supervise the research project and grade your final submission.
- The research topic will be agreed by the supervisor and the student. In some cases, supervisors may propose topics, or invite students to join existing research projects. In other cases, students may propose their own topics based on their Fintech interests
- The research will involve applying the theories and techniques introduced in the taught modules of the Fintech MSc to an applied research question.
- In most cases, the research should involve an applied research question related to some aspect of Fintech – and typically data analysis using econometric or other statistical techniques. However, there are a range of acceptable formats for the dissertation, provided the approach you wish to take is agreed with your supervisor.

- The objective of the project is to provide training and experience in conducting independent research. The result of this research should represent a contribution to knowledge and (ideally) a publication-quality academic output.

6. Module Descriptions – taught modules

Semester 1 Core modules

EC5147 Financial Technology and Economics

New technologies are changing the nature and delivery of money and financial services in the economy. This module will first consider the economic functions of money, financial markets and financial institutions, and then explore how a range of new technologies are changing the provision of these functions in the economy. The technologies considered include: internet/mobile, digital platforms, data analytics, predictive and generative AI, robotics and blockchain. The particular challenges associated with regulating the Fintech economy will be considered. Looking beyond the microeconomics of financial technologies, the module will consider their macroeconomic implications, including the prospects and implications of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs).

EC5104 Applied Portfolio Analysis

Successful portfolio management requires the development of a broad array of quantitative and qualitative skills, involving an analysis of both the investment instruments available in the capital market and the objectives and constraints of the ultimate investor. In addition, we will explore the linkages between portfolio management and modern risk management. This involves some interaction with the Semester 2 module EC5119 Derivatives & Risk Management.

EC5128 Financial Econometrics

This module aims to provide students with an accessible introduction to current models and techniques in financial time series econometrics. It is designed to cover the tools needed for working with real-world financial data to carry out empirical/econometric research in international finance. Students will also be given the opportunity to apply these tools in a financial econometrics research project. The project together

with the course lab sessions will also provide students with hands on experience in using econometric software to analyse financial time series data sets.

Semester 1 Elective modules

AY5108 Intermediate Corporate Finance

The objectives of this module are to facilitate students in developing and applying a comprehensive understanding of the role of corporate finance in investment and financing decision-making, especially the analysis of complex structured and unstructured decision situations in a strategic context. The module explores the role of finance theory and corporate finance tools and techniques in supporting the strategic capital investment and financing decision-making processes in an organisation.

EC5109 Macroeconomics Theory and Policy

The course provides a rigorous introduction to Macroeconomic models from the perspective of the interaction between the real and the financial sphere of the economy. The module introduces an analytical framework to analyse issues and challenges for macroeconomic policies in both the closed and open economy contexts. The module also aims to enable students with the critical practical skills of analysing macroeconomic time series data and estimating financial and business cycles for policy analysis.

EC501 Microeconomic Theory

This course consists in 24 hours of lectures on microeconomic theory at a relatively advanced level. We will cover some of the core topics in microeconomics; namely, consumer choice and demand, expected utility theory, producer theory, markets and partial equilibrium, general equilibrium and welfare economics, social choice theory, and an introduction to game theory. There are two student groups, postgraduate International Finance students and postgraduate Global Environmental Economics students. Postgraduate microeconomics is mathematically more demanding than undergraduate microeconomics, and you should be aware of this. However, I will provide some excellent readings on Canvas that will help you understand the mathematics used in the course.

MS5125 Cybersecurity Risk Management

The objective of this module is to provide the base knowledge and understanding of core cybersecurity concepts needed for cybersecurity risk management in organisations. The module is structurally aligned with the curriculum of the internationally-recognised CompTIA Security+ professional certification.

LW383 Information Technology Law

The objective of this course is to examine how computers and information and communications technology impact on the law and its administration, and how the law itself has developed new rules to deal with issues raised by these technologies.

MG571 Strategic Management

This module provides rigorous exposure to the concepts, theories, and techniques on which strategic management in the business sector is based. It explores the application of strategic management concepts, theories and techniques in a wide range of business settings, It examines the design, implementation, and maintenance of strategic planning systems and strategic thinking.

MS5137 AI for Business

Semester 2 Core modules

EC5149 Contemporary Issues in Fintech

Fintech is experiencing rapid growth and with this growth comes a host of policy issues. This module critically examines a number of these issues. Topics covered include the rise of cryptocurrencies and their benefits and costs; the potential for digital currencies backed by Central Banks; digital banking; consumer protection issues regarding investment advice from AI-assisted technologies; security breaches; frameworks for regulation of Fintech; digital identities, data ownership and retention issues.

EC5127 Financial Data Analytics aims to introduce students to financial data analytics and empirical methods used in finance. The module focuses on quantitative and analytical techniques that are used in asset valuation, portfolio management, derivative valuation, risk management and financial decision making. Different financial models such as the Markowitz model (Modern Portfolio Theory), the capital

asset pricing model (CAPM) and the Black-Scholes model are explained and employed. In addition, students are introduced to machine learning techniques in finance. Overall, the module has an applied focus and students will get hands-on experience with financial data analytics based on real financial data. Students will also be introduced to computer programming in Python, where these financial analytic techniques are implemented.

Semester 2 Elective modules

AY5109 Advanced Corporate Finance

The objectives of this module are to facilitate students in developing and applying a comprehensive understanding of the role of corporate finance in strategic financial decision-making contexts, in particular in financing and valuation decisions giving detailed consideration to risk. The module focuses on decision-making under conditions of uncertainty and requires consideration of theoretical and real-world conditions in financial decision-making in a strategic context. The module explores the role of finance theory and corporate finance tools and techniques in supporting strategic investment, financing and related decision-making processes in an organization.

EC5119 Derivatives and Risk Management

Explores a range of issues related to derivatives markets and risk management. We begin by exploring the basic features of futures, swaps and options with an emphasis on economic intuition and understanding, although important quantitative techniques are developed. We use the insights developed in these topics to examine some well-known examples of derivatives mishaps and recent applications of derivatives, including credit derivatives and weather derivatives.

EC5137 Green and Sustainable Finance

Transforming the global economy to make it more sustainable requires large investments, especially for enabling a green and low-carbon transition. The aim of this module is to introduce students to the important role of financial markets in the transition to a climate-neutral, green, competitive and inclusive economy. The module explores the requirements to mobilise financial markets to align with environmental and climate targets and focuses on the different financial products and instruments that can power the

transition. Overall, the module will consider how to embed green and sustainable finance principles and practice into financial decision-making.

EC5124 Economics and the Global Economy aims to increase students' knowledge and understanding of economics and economic issues in the global economy. The topics are the scope of economics, global economic issues, methodology and economic models, role of economic policy and policymakers, economic performance: measurement and analysis, and the economic and business environment.

EC563 International Finance aims to introduce students to the core issues in international macroeconomics and finance. Topics covered include theories of current account determination, international capital market integration, determinants of the real exchange rate, and dynamic open-economy macroeconomic models.

EC5121 Applied Econometrics

This module consists of two main parts: (i) regression analysis of limited dependent variables (LDVs) and (ii) identification and causal inference. The first part (Weeks 1-5) will discuss the different types of dependent variables routinely considered in applied micro econometric analysis using non-experimental (observational) data and the lectures will, in turn, examine a number of different LDV regression models. These include models of binary, ordered, multinomial, and count variables, along with a discussion of other common LDVs. Since economists place a particularly strong emphasis on understanding the causal mechanisms that drive statistical relationships, the second part of the module (Weeks 6-10) will focus on identification and causal inference. Without a clear view on causation, inferring meaningful results can be challenging. Lectures for this part will examine instrumental variables, panel data methods, the potential outcomes framework, matching, difference-in-differences, and regression discontinuity.

On completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Estimate and interpret a range of LDV models
- Use at least one LDV model for analysis/evaluation
- Present results and findings from an LDV econometric analysis in written form
- Discuss the importance of identification in applied econometrics
- Describe the main approaches to causal inference using observational data
- Interpret results from quasi-experimental analyses
- Present results and findings from an empirical project to an audience of your peers
- Critically evaluate the analysis of your peers

MS801 Web Design & Development

The objective of this module is to provide students with applied skills in web development and multimedia object development. Topics may include: Web development concepts and techniques; HTML; CSS; CSS page design; web development for multiple devices and mobile web development. Multimedia development tools will include Dreamweaver, Fireworks and Photoshop.

MK5144 Digital Metrics and Analytics

This module equips students with advanced competencies in data-driven digital marketing. Students will develop the analytical skills needed to evaluate how organisations leverage customer data, analytics, and artificial intelligence to optimise marketing strategies and enhance user experience. Through applied learning, students will analyse contemporary analytical tools and methodologies, enabling them to make evidence-based recommendations for dynamic digital marketing contexts.

EC5153 Applied Behavioural Economics and Finance

Behavioural economics brings psychological insights to bear on economic phenomena. In this module we examine applications of behavioural economics to policy issues in the domains of finance, the environment, and health behaviours. For instance, how do we help people save adequately for retirement while respecting individual freedoms? How can households learn to effectively reduce their carbon footprint, at minimum financial cost? In health, how can behavioural evidence help design effective policies to encourage healthy diets, regular exercise, and demand for preventative healthcare? Students study some of the pillars of behavioural economics – e.g. prospect theory, social norms, present bias, bounded rationality, limited attention and limited understanding, overoptimism and information-avoidance – and assess their relevance to policy problems. The module also critically assesses methodology, as we consider the pros and cons of various methods used to generate behavioural evidence for policy. We focus on laboratory experiments and randomised controlled trials in the field. Students learn to assess each method and how to decide which is most suitable for a given policy problem.

7. Canvas (on-line learning platform)

Canvas is the web-based learning environment used at the University of Galway. There is a Canvas page for each module, including course content, and information on class projects, assignments and assessments. *All students are required to familiarize themselves with Canvas and to log on regularly to keep up to date with the requirements of each module.* Canvas will not only be used to contain and circulate key module materials (lecture notes, announcements, assignments, etc.). In most modules, submission of assignments will also be facilitated through Canvas, via Turnitin Assignments. Turnitin generates a 'Similarity Report' which identifies unoriginal submitted material. For a quick guide to Canvas, please see the following link: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/information-solutions-services/services-for-students/canvas/>

8. On-campus Facilities & Services

Services available to students can be accessed when you click on the University of Galway Students portal: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/students/> . Here we have tried to group some of those that you may find particularly useful during the course of your studies.

Before you embark on your studies at University of Galway, you will first need to register. Registration for the 2025/2026 academic year opens on August 19th and closes on September 30th (for courses) and September 30th (for modules). Please be aware these dates may change, and can be checked at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/quick-links/registration-dates/#tab2>

Information on how to register and further help are available here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/registration/how-to-register/>

Module registration/change of mind for Semester 2 will become available early 2026 (usually closing on or around 1st of February – but as above, please double check these dates on the registration office website)

8.1 Student ID Card

The name and spelling of your name AND date of birth on your birth cert/passport/driver licence is what will appear on your University of Galway student ID card. Your Student ID Card will be your official identification card for the duration of your programme at University of Galway and for all college related matters only.

The main form of distribution of Student ID Cards for postgraduates and undergraduates will be for the students to call in person to the Registration Helpdesk in Áras Uí Chathail on the 1st Floor, on allocated dates / date ranges (as outlined below). The Registration Desk will be open from 09:00 - 17:00, Monday to Friday during the card collection dates.

Áras Ui Chathail, University of Galway, University Rd Gaillimh - Google Maps

If a student is unable to collect his/her Student ID Card, they can contact Registration via email registration@universityofgalway.ie or 091 494949 and arrange for an alternate means of distribution e.g. send in the post to home address.

8.2 Library Facilities

All registered students of this programme are automatically entitled to use the library. ID cards are issued to new students at registration. This ID card enables the user to enter the library and entitles him/ her to borrow material. Please remember that without an ID card you may not borrow and at any time you may be asked to produce it for security reasons. ID cards are not transferable, and users are responsible for all material borrowed on their card. Students are encouraged to avail of the many facilities offered by the James Hardiman Library at times which are convenient to their study programme. The library charges **fin**es for overdue material solely to secure its prompt return so that others may avail of it. Further details may be found at <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/>

8.3 Computer Facilities

PCs are available for students in PC suites around the campus. PCs are available on a "first come first served" (open access) basis for at least an hour each day. These open access hours are advertised on the

door of each suite and on the notice board in the suite at the start of term. PCs are also available at times when they are not booked for classes. Should you have any difficulties using the PCs or you wish to report a hardware fault please contact the User Support Centre, Room 118, Computer Services (ext 3325). If necessary, the User Support Centre staff will make an appointment for a technical advisory session for you. Detailed information regarding use of University of Galway computer facilities is available at: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/cs/>

8.4 Academic Skills Hub

The Academic Skills Hub aims to support all University of Galway students to develop the key skills required for academic success. The Academic Skills Hub:

- Provides brief introductions to, and top tips on, **eight key academic skills**, as well as some information to help you get started
- Offers advice and resources for **studying in the online learning environment**
- Links to a range of **additional sources of support** for students, including Library resources and academic skills workshops

Further details and resources are available at <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academic-skills/>

8.5 Academic Writing Centre

The mission of the Academic Writing Centre is to help students to become better writers. They provide free one-on-one tutorials on essay writing and also support student writing through workshops, modules, and competitions.

They offer help in the following areas:

- Brainstorming your essay topic and outline
- Structuring an argument
- Developing your dissertation
- Improving sentence structure and punctuation

- Avoiding plagiarism
- Using secondary sources
- Editing and proofreading techniques

More information on the Academic Writing Centre here: <https://library.nuigalway.ie/awc/>

8.6 The Students Union (SU)

The Students Union provides information for First Year students which is useful for anyone who is new to University of Galway: <https://su.nuigalway.ie/help-advice/firstyear/> or call into the Students' Union at Áras na Mac Léinn. Check out the University's student services page:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-services/> The Students Union is very useful with regard to welfare and helping with academic performance. They usually run an excellent study skills workshop during the year.

8.7 Student Health Unit

The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical care to full-time registered students in a confidential, professional and courteous manner. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service. The unit is operating on a very strict '**BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY**' basis to ensure that optimal infection prevention and control measures can be maintained at all times. Students must be registered for the current academic year in order to avail of this service. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE STUDENT HEALTH UNIT FACILITY WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING THE PRACTICE.**

The Health Unit is located upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn (beside the Students Union Office). Tel: 091-492604. https://www.universityofgalway.ie/health_unit/

8.8 Counselling

You may meet some challenges during university life. Counselling can be an important resource for you. If you would like to set up an appointment please

email: counselling@universityofgalway.ie or phone 091 492484.

They are located at No. 5 Distillery Road (on the right hand side in a two storey house). The website is: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/counsellors/>

8.9 Business Student Advisor

Our Student Advisor, Teresa Lydon, is a support for students throughout their time at university. Students may seek advice or guidance on a variety of matters including academic, personal, professional or financial at various stages of their education. On speaking with our Student Advisor, a student may be referred to an individual staff member or another support service for further advice, relevant to the nature of the query. Teresa is available to students by email and telephone during the mornings of Monday to Friday. It is a confidential service.

You can make an appointment by emailing businessstudentadvisor@universityofgalway.ie

Teresa's contact number is 086 0836646.

Further details: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/businessstudentadvisor/>

8.10 Disability Office

Bernie McGee, Disability Officer, Room 216, Áras Uí-Cathail Tel. 353 (0) 91 492813

E-mail: disabilityservice@universityofgalway.ie

8.11 Postgraduate Admissions

Please see [Frequently Asked Question](#) section as your question may already have been answered there prior to presenting a query.

E-mail: postgradadmissions@universityofgalway.ie

T : +353 91 495 999

8.12 Fees Office

E-mail: fees@universityofgalway.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/fees

8.13 Accommodation Office

Accommodation advisory service: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/student-life/accommodation/>

8.14 Parking

University Of Galway enjoys a central location in Galway City and with this, comes parking restrictions. A system to manage parking was agreed with the staff and students' union as follows:

- There are different types of spaces on campus, including spaces for:
 - staff permit holders only,
 - student permit holders only,
 - shared use (staff student permit holders) and
 - visitor/non-permit holder pay-and-display (P&D) spaces.
- You need a permit to park in University Of Galway, or you can buy a ticket from P&D machines. Please note, that P&D tickets ONLY apply to spaces marked in blue adjacent to the meters - P&D tickets do not allow you to park anywhere else. Permit holders can use P&D spaces, but you must buy a ticket.
- Your permit/P&D ticket allows you to park in specific places and you must familiarize yourself with the zones, and which permit applies to what carpark.
- There are also 'reserved' spaces and loading bays - do not park in these.
- You may use the universally accessible parking spaces if you have correctly procured and display an IWA 'blue badge' permit.
- If you park in the wrong place, or outside of a parking space, you may be clamped. If you don't display your permit, you may also be clamped. Clamp release fee is €60 and €80 after 6pm.
- You can get your student parking permit for a charge at the Parking and Information Office, Arts/Science Concourse. There are application forms on this site.

Allow plenty of time on your first visit to campus with your car. If you have any doubts whatsoever, check the website (below) or telephone/drop into the parking office on the concourse!

How to get a Student Parking Permit

Full details available at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/service-helpdesk/parking-get-to-around/>

If you park in a "Pay and Display" space, you must display a valid Pay & Display ticket and park only in spaces marked "Pay and Display". In accepting a student parking permit, you are deemed to have read and understood this Student Parking web page and the following rules and regulations. Please note that abuse of the parking management system may result in a disciplinary procedure.

8.15 Health & Safety

Emergency Information: [Emergency Information - University of Galway](#)

Emergency contacts (further details): <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/contacts-emergency/>

University of Galway Safety Statement

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/media/healthsafety/Safety-Statement-2022-with-Presidents-Signature.pdf>

****Students are strongly encouraged to consult the University of Galway website for information on college policies**.**

9. University of Galway Campus Map

Please see the Campus map below for the locations of all the main University services and teaching buildings. The Economics discipline is located in the older part of the Cairnes building (marked 35 on the map), known as St Anthony's. You can expect your main location for on campus activity related to the programme to be in the Cairnes building, but other venues around the university campus may also be used, depending on class size, room capacities and availability etc. Full details of lecture times and venues will be provided prior to the start of each semester.

Some of the main room numbers for lectures are coded as follows:

- AM -- the Arts Millennium Building on the main campus
- AC -- The Arts/Sciences Concourse
- CA -- Cairnes Building (including the "St Anthony's" part of it)
- ENG -- the Engineering Building (by the river, near Cairnes)
- IT -- the Information Technology Building on the main campus
- MRI -- Marine Research Institute
- UC -- Áras Uí Chathail, on the main campus, (near Áras na mac Léinn)

There are also various other campus maps online at:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps/>

An tÁras Spóirt	46
Sports Pavilion	
.....	
Teach Maryville	45
Maryville House	

An Campas Thuaidh North Campus	
An Daingean A Dangan A	43
Cúrsa Saoil Lifecourse	41
Baile na Coiribe Corrib Village	39
Baile an Chiorbhuí Goldcrest Village	38
Eolaíochtaí Bithleighis Biomedical Sciences	40
Institiúid na hEolaíochta Sonraí Data Science Institute	44
Naíolann na hOllscoile University Crèche	37
Páircéil agus Taisteal Park and Ride	42

An tIonad Nuálaíochta agus Gnó	32
Business and Innovation Centre	
An tIonad Taighde agus Nuálaíochta	31
Research and Innovation Centre	

An tIonad Taighde don Chothú Sláinte Health Promotion Research Centre	36
Áras Cairnes Cairnes Building	35
Áras Innealtóireachta Alice Perry Alice Perry Engineering Building	34
Áras Mhaighé Seola Moyola Building	33
An Clin Teiripe Uirlabhra agus Teanga Speech and Language Therapy Clinic	33

10 Bóthar an Chaisleáin Nua 10 Newcastle Road	47
14 Bóthar na hOllscoile 14 University Road	49
14 Bóthar na Drioglaíne (An Oifig Slándála) 14 Distillery Road (Security)	27
An Chearnóg Quadrangle	1
An Foirgneamh Anatamaíochta Anatomy Building	18
An Foirgneamh IT IT Building	23
An tIonad Spóirt Sports Centre	30
Áras Dán na Milaoise Arts Millennium Building	24
Áras de Brún	17
Áras Mhairéad (Ma) Ní Éimhín	16
Másháirtín Uí Ráin Martin Ryan Building	7

Áras na Bítheolaíochta Daonna Human Biology Building	11
Áras na Gaeilge	15
Áras na Mac Léinn	8
Áras Oirbsean Orbisen Building	22
Áras Uí Argadáin Hardiman Building	20
Áras Uí Chathail	10
Aula Maxima	1
Beár na Mac Léinn - Sult College Bar - Sult	8
Bloc E Block E	13
Bloc F Block F	19
Bloc S Block S	12
Bloc T Block T	28
Bóthar na Drioglainne Distillery Road	26
Ceoláras Emily Anderson The Emily Anderson Concert Hall	1
Comhailtas na Mac Léinn Students' Union	8
Deasc Eolais na Mac Léinn (SID) Student Information Desk (SID)	10
Foirgneamh na nDán / na hEolaíochta Arts / Science Building	21
Fortheach Institiúid Uí Ríain Ryan Institute Annexe	3
Halla Bailey Allen Bailey Allen Hall	8

Institiúid na hEolaíochta Cliniúla Clinical Science Institute	51
Ionad na hÉireann do Chearta an Duine Irish Centre for Human Rights	4
Ionad na Seirbhísí Poist Mail Services Centre	9
Ionad Iú Dhoonchadh - An Draíocht, an Amharclannaíocht agus na Taibhléirí O'Donoghue Centre - Drama, Theatre and Performance	8
Institiúid Lambe Lambe Institute	50
Oldeachas Education	14
Oldeachas Education	52
Réamhdhéantán Cois Abhan Riverside Terrapin	29
Réamhdhéantán Scoil Huston The Huston School Bubble	5
Scoil Scannán agus Meán Digiteach Huston Huston School of Film and Digital Media	6
Séipéal Naomh Columbán The Chapel of St Columbanus	48
Síceolaíocht Psychology	25
Teach an Gheata Gate Lodge	2

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10. Meet the Lecturers

The following economics staff teach on the core modules of the MSc Fintech (Economics and Financial Technology) programme and are also the main members of staff normally allocated to supervise student dissertations on the programme.

Cian Twomey



Before joining the University of Galway, Cian worked in the Department of Economics at University College, Cork and previously in fund management with Bank of Ireland Asset Management, Dublin. Cian is currently a lecturer in economics within the JE Cairnes School of Business & Economics where he delivers a wide range of modules across the discipline of financial economics. For the past three years, Cian has also been Chairperson of St. Columba's Credit Union in Galway.



Zongyuan Li

Zongyuan is Lecturer in Financial Economics and Technology at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. His research focuses on banking and real estate finance, with particular emphasis on the impact of government regulation and the strategies firms use to bypass these regulations. He has published papers in several economics and finance journals, including Journal of Financial Research, International Review of Financial Analysis and Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, Zongyuan's work has been presented at several leading academic institutions, such as the People's Bank of China, Columbia University, and Baruch College. He holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration (specializing in Finance) from University of Macau, an MSc in Finance from ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, and a bachelor's degree in medicine from Xi'an Jiaotong University. Before joining the University of Galway in 2024, Zongyuan taught at Wenzhou-Kean University and Dalian Maritime University, and served as a part-time CFA lecturer at Golden Education Institute.



Luke McGrath

Luke is a lecturer in Environmental Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics and Programme Director for the MSc Global Environmental Economics & Policy. Luke's research interests lie in environmental-economic accounting, the economics of sustainable development and regional development. Luke has published in leading field journals across environmental economics (Ecological Economics), environmental science (Journal of Environmental Management), development economics (Review of Income & Wealth) and economic history (European Review of Economic History). Luke is a former Irish Research Council scholar, the recipient of the Labhrás ó Nualláin prize and the title of University Scholar from the University of Galway and a finalist for the Miriam Hederman O'Brien prize awarded by the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. Prior to his academic career, Luke served as an economist for over five years in the civil and public service with the Irish Government Economic Evaluation Service (IGEES) and the Western Development Commission (WDC).



Gerard Turley

After working for a time as a foreign exchange trader and economist, Gerard Turley joined the academic world at NUI Galway in 1990 and since then has lectured in Ireland, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the United States where in 2009 he taught at the University of California, Berkeley. As for his educational qualifications, a B.A. and a M.A. from NUI Galway (or University College Galway as it was then) was later followed by a PhD from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK. He teaches economics to both undergraduate students and postgraduates of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. He has worked on numerous international projects, funded by the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EC EuropeAid, Adam Smith Institute, UK Department for International Development and the George Soros' Open Society Foundations. His research interests include local public finance and funding of local governments, intergovernmental fiscal relations and transition economics. He co-manages the www.localauthorityfinances.com website.



John McHale

John McHale is Established Professor and Head of Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, University of Galway. He previously served as Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law and also as Director of the Whitaker Institute for Innovation and Societal Change. Prior to joining the University of Galway, John held positions as Assistant Professor of Economics and Associate Professor of Economics at Harvard University, and as Associate Professor of Managerial Economics and Toller Family Research Fellow at the Queen's University, Ontario. He holds Ph.D and A.M degrees from Harvard University, and first-class B.Comm. and M.Econ.Sc. degrees from the National University of Ireland. His published work has appeared in journals such as the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of Urban Economics, the Journal of Economic Geography and Research Policy. Professor McHale was Chair of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council from its inception in 2011 to 2016 and he has been an independent member of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Pensions Board. He served as President of the Irish Economic Association from 2016 to 2018.



Ashley Piggins

Ashley teaches economics in the J. E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Bristol, having previously studied in Cambridge and London. His Erdős number is 3. Ashley is an "Old Blue" having represented Cambridge University in tennis in the 1990s. His research lies at the intersection of economics, political science and philosophy. He is interested in welfare economics, social choice theory, game theory, philosophy of economics and electoral systems (particularly the U.S. Electoral College). Ashley has published papers in the Journal of Economic Theory, Economic Theory, Journal of Mathematical Economics, Social Choice and Welfare, Mathematical Social Sciences, Economics and Philosophy, Economics Letters, Journal of Logic and Computation, PS: Political Science and Politics, and Electoral Studies. Ashley has given invited research seminars at Université de Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris School of Economics, University of Bath, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, Trinity College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast, Université de Caen, Universidad de Murcia, Universität Osnabrück, University of St. Andrews, University of East Anglia, University Of Galway, Maynooth, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, London School of Economics, CORE, Université Catholique de Louvain,

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Durham University, Universidad Zaragoza and Union College. He has taught at the University of Nottingham, University of Bristol, Queen's University Belfast and Trinity College Dublin. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).



John Cullinan

I am Professor in Economics at the JE Cairnes School of Business and Economics at the University of Galway. I hold a primary degree in Actuarial and Financial Studies and an MA in Economics from University College Dublin (UCD), an MSc in Econometrics and Mathematical Economics from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in Economics from University of Galway. I was a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley in 2008 and a Visiting Researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015. I previously held lecturing positions at the University of Limerick, Maynooth University, and UCD, and have worked at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London and with Indecon Economic Consultants' Public Policy Division.

My research focuses on the causes and consequences of socioeconomic and geographic inequalities in the areas of health, disability, and education. It generally involves the application of econometric and spatial modelling techniques. I am currently Associate Editor of **The Economic and Social Review**, Secretary of the **Irish Economic Association**, and Director of the **Centre for Economic Research on Inclusivity and Sustainability**.



Féidhlim McGowan

Féidhlim is a lecturer in Economics at the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics, and Programme Director for the MSc Fintech (Economics and Financial Technology). Féidhlim's primary research area is behavioural economics, particularly using experiments to understand people's decision processes in the domains of personal finance, active travel and sustainability. Féidhlim has published eleven peer-reviewed articles across journals in economics and finance (Journal of Cultural Economics, Resource and Energy Economics, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance), public and consumer policy (Behavioural Public Policy, Journal of Consumer Policy, Journal of Behavioural Public Administration) and in psychology journals (Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied, Psychology & Health). Recently he has developed a research interest in how behavioural insights can help craft solutions to the climate crisis (Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change).

Before joining the University of Galway in 2023, Féidhlim was an IRC Postdoctoral Fellow based at the ESRI's Behavioural Research Unit. His postdoctoral research consisted of experimental investigations into the perceived effectiveness and fairness of different carbon tax designs. He completed his IRC-funded PhD at Trinity College Dublin (TCD), where he was a Foundation Scholar. He also holds an LL.M (European and International Business Law) from TCD and an MSc (Behavioural Economics) from the University of Nottingham.



Alan Ahearne

Alan Ahearne is Professor of Economics at the University of Galway. Alan served as Economic Adviser to Taoiseach Micheál Martin from July 2020 to December 2024. He served as a non-executive director of the Central Bank of Ireland from 2011 to 2020, and chaired the Banks Risk Committee and Budget and Remuneration Committee. He served as Chair of the Joint Department of Finance ESRI Research Programme on the Macroeconomy, Taxation and Banking, and was a member of the External Advisory Group to Ireland's Parliamentary Budget Office.

He has served as adviser to the IMF, Consultant to the U.K. Department for International Development, and as a Research Fellow at the think tank Bruegel in Brussels. He holds an honorary appointment at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. Alan served as Economic Adviser to Ireland's Minister for Finance Brian Lenihan from 2009 to 2011. In this role, he advised the Minister on economic, budgetary and financial policy in responding to the economic and financial crisis. He served during 2018/19 as a member of the Independent Review Group set up by the Department of Health to examine the removal of private practice from public acute hospitals.

Alan obtained his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh in 1998 and subsequently joined the Federal Reserve Board in Washington DC, where he worked for seven years as a Senior Economist. At the Fed, he advised Alan Greenspan, Ben Bernanke and other Fed Governors on developments in the global economy. He was the principal economist at the Fed covering the Japanese and Chinese economies.



Karyn Morrissey

Karyn arrived at the University of Galway, her alma mater in September 2024 after working as an academic in the UK and Denmark for nearly 20 years. An economist and econometrician by training, and using her skills in Big Data and large-scale population modelling, the main focus of Karyn's research has become the economic drivers of, and socioeconomic and health impacts of climate change, particularly in our oceans and coastal environments. Here Karyn has linked her work on health and marine and coastal economics to understand the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the marine environment on society, and the changes needed to make human-marine interactions more sustainable.

Regarding climate action specifically, Karyn believes that to stimulate action on climate change, research must shift from scientific and technical perspectives to understanding the social and political elements that will motivate the society to undertake the urgent action that is required to mitigate and adapt the very real effects of Climate Change.

To this end, she is one of the co-authors of the Lancet Commissions Countdown on Climate Change and Human Health since 2016, where she has developed a set of indicators to understand the adaption preparedness, needs and barriers of cities in regard to the health-related impacts of climate change.

Karyn is particularly interested in the science-community-policy interface and has worked local, national and international bodies through her career, as well as community engagement groups. Her commitment to engagement is further highlighted with her contribution to approx. 500 policy documents, particularly in the areas of climate change across 50 countries.

*This handbook is issued for the **guidance** of students only. Course content and course options may change and students are advised to verify information in this handbook with the Programme Director and, where appropriate, module coordinators.*

The information provided is intended for those who are joining the MSc Fintech full-time, in 2026.

The information provided here is correct and up-to-date, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of writing (17th July 2026), but is subject to change, particularly with respect to public health guidance and university policies.



University of Galway,
University Road,
Galway, Ireland

T +353 91492612

economics@universityofgalway.ie

www.universityofgalway.ie/economics