

Fast Facts: Western Economics



Many leading North American economists are graduates of Western Economics.

Students from our undergraduate and graduate programs secure prestigious positions in government agencies, top international organizations and economics departments at leading universities throughout Canada, the United States and Asia.

- Western Economics is ranked among the **top five** programs in Canada (QS World University Rankings). Our programs attract leading students and faculty from around the world.
- The cornerstone of our undergraduate program features an **Honors Specialization in Economics**, as well as honors programs in **Economics, Politics and Philosophy** and **Global Economics**.
- The **combined honors degree** with the Richard Ivey School of Business allows students to graduate with both an honors social science degree and an honors degree in business administration in five years.
- Our research programs employ a **policy-based focus** that equips students with the ability to develop, shape and implement policy, and will enable them to assume leadership roles at a national and international level.
- Research centres include the **Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)**, the **Centre for the Study of International Economic Relations (CSIER)**, and the **CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity**.
- Research groups include **China Research and Policy Group** (officially launched in August 2010 in recognition of China's increasing influence in the global economy) and the **Political Economy Research Group (PERG)**.
- Key areas of strength include: **Economics of Education; Human Capital and Productivity; Economics of Behaviour;** and **Macroeconomics, Growth and Development**.

Master of Financial Economics (MFE)

The Department of Economics is currently developing an exciting, interdisciplinary Master of Financial Economics (MFE) program. The first incoming class is scheduled to begin in September 2013 (pending approval).

This three semester program will be a collaborative effort by the Department of Economics, the Ivey School of Business, the Department of Applied Mathematics, the Department of Statistical & Actuarial Sciences and the Faculty of Law.

Students will gain a broad knowledge base of economic concepts integrated with the technical skills needed to successfully manage today's increasingly complex financial markets.

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World-Renowned Researchers

Lance Lochner, PhD

*Director, CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity
Canada Research Chair in Human Capital and Productivity
Professor*

Professor Lance Lochner specializes in labour economics and analyses human capital formation over the human life cycle. By studying such areas as skill formation, earnings inequality and intergenerational mobility, his research is helping to guide education and labour market policies.

Lochner is **Director of The CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity**, which was created to study issues related to human capital and productivity under the following themes: (i) early childhood, primary and secondary schooling, (ii) post-secondary education, (iii) productivity and earnings, (iv) social benefits of human capital, (v) human capital policy and (vi) human capital, development and growth.

John Whalley, PhD

*Director, Centre for the Study of International Economic Relations (CSIER)
Distinguished Fellow, Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)
Coordinator, China Research and Policy Group
Fellow, Royal Canadian Society
Fellow, Econometric Society
Professor*

Professor Whalley is one of Canada's preeminent experts in the field of global economics. His area of focus includes issues related to globalization, the World Trade Organization, strategies for the developing world, global environmental issues, China, psychology and economics. In recognition of his outstanding research accomplishments, Whalley was awarded the 2012 Killam Prize.

As **Coordinator of the China Research and Policy Group**, Whalley works with partners from the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Waterloo and other research groups in universities and research institutions in China, U.K., Russia and India. This group is engaged in the "Western-CIGI-China-Ontario Project", which involves working with young postdoctoral fellows from China to explore five themes: (i) China's trade and investment, (ii) China's exchange rates, reserve management, and monetary policies, (iii) China and climate change, (iv) China's tax policies and (v) China and the South. This five year project is funded by a large grant from the Ontario Research Fund (ORF).



*Audra Bowlus, PhD
Chair, Economics*

“Our students discover the impact of evidence-based research from faculty who help shape public policy.”

