



In-demand graduates

Health economists are in demand all over the world. Their skills are sought by national and international health agencies, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and development organisations such as the World Health Organisation and World Bank.

Health economics graduate joins the World Bank

Inez Mikkelsen-Lopez graduated with a Master of Health Economics (Advanced) after completing a Bachelor of Economics degree at UQ. She is now part of the Junior Professional Associates Program at the World Bank in Washington DC in the United States.

The program is a two year internship and will rotate Ms Mikkelsen-Lopez through the different sections within the health, nutrition and population (HPN) division of the Bank. The HPN division deals with HIV, health financing, millennium development goals, and other health areas.

“Health economics is a new and evolving area where there appears to be a small supply of health economists and a large demand.”

“This large demand is due to the ever-growing health costs faced by most government institutions, therefore many policy-makers have realised the important role of economics for health planning and health economists can help them get more out of health systems.”

More information

This brochure is a guide only.
For more information and specific details on entry requirements, visit:
www.uq.edu.au/economics/health or
email health@economics.uq.edu.au

School of Economics

The School of Economics is one of the largest schools of economics in Australia and provides an excellent scholarly environment. Courses in economics have been offered at The University of Queensland (UQ) since 1912 with a separate department established in 1947.

The School has been ranked in the top 5% of economics schools and research bodies internationally. The School offers the widest range of courses and has the largest PhD program in the field of economics in Australia.

With an outward-looking perspective, the School welcomes the best and brightest students and academic staff from Australia and around the world to play a part in enhancing the quality of the experience of studying economics at UQ, to challenge conventional economic thought with rigorous debate, to ensure the continued vigour of the discipline and to advance research into key issues facing us in Australia and globally.

School of Population Health

Since its inception in 2001, The School of Population Health has established itself as a hub for cutting-edge research that, by influencing health care reform both in Australia and abroad, can improve the lives of people around the world.

The School has an international reputation for research and teaching excellence in epidemiology, biostatistics, tropical and international health, nutrition, burden of disease and cost-effectiveness research.

Collaborations with other institutions contribute enormously to the School's research and teaching programs and are key to its ability to improve population health outcomes in Queensland, Australia and abroad. The School enjoys strong external partnerships, particularly with Queensland Health and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, and is working on projects with partners in many countries.

School of Medicine

Founded in 1936, the School provides the majority of medical training places in the state of Queensland. It offers bachelor, graduate coursework and research higher degree programs and undertakes an important research role in a variety of disciplines across a multitude of divisions and sites that make up the School.

The enthusiasm and dedication of UQ medical educators and practitioners keeps the School at the forefront of worldwide trends in medical education and research, with ongoing evaluation of educational programs and an emphasis on critical appraisal and current best practice.

The University of Queensland

The 2008 Good Universities Guide awarded UQ the best ratings of any university in Queensland, and one of the very best in the country. UQ is also a founding member of the Group of Eight (Go8). This elite group of Australian universities collectively enrolls a third of all university students and conducts 70% of all university research in Australia. Go8 graduates boast a full-time employment rate almost 5% above that of other Australian universities.

UQ is one of only three Australian members of *Universitas 21* – a select international network of comprehensive, research-intensive universities committed to world-best quality and practice.



Health Economics

Good health is a fundamental right of every global citizen.



Health Economics

Expenditure on health care accounts for around 10% of the world's economic output and is seen as a universal priority for communities and governments. While different countries experience varying levels of economic prosperity and health infrastructure, all face similar challenges regarding the effective use of resources and investment in the health sector.

In developed countries, as populations age and healthcare costs spiral, and in rapidly developing countries with large populations and poor, under-resourced infrastructure, the link between economics and health is increasingly strong.

Health economics is concerned with how resources are allocated and used in different health systems. It asks the question:

What is the most effective and equitable way to finance the increasing health services needs of individuals and communities?

The answers guide government, business and development agencies at local, national, regional and international levels as they develop health policy, prioritise spending and measure outcomes.



Multidisciplinary approach

UQ's Schools of Economics, Population Health and Medicine have combined expertise to offer graduate health economics programs that provide highly-specialised training in all aspects of this growing field. Designed for people intending to work in the health sector, the programs aim to develop the students' knowledge of the complex economic issues in health sector policy-setting and administration, and foster the analytical skills required to critically appraise the economic impacts of decisions made in health care.

Students are taught by many globally-renowned experts including those involved in the following UQ and UQ-affiliated research centres:

- Centre for Burden of Disease and Cost-Effectiveness
- Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health
- Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine
- Centre for Efficiency and Productivity Analysis

Key areas covered in health economics at UQ include:

- analytical techniques, including advanced applied econometrics
- public health economics
- pharmacoeconomics
- cost-effectiveness analysis
- disease modelling
- health finance
- epidemiology
- business and economic decision techniques
- burden of disease analysis
- health and economic development

Programs offered

Graduate Certificate in Health Economics

1 semester (full-time equivalent), 8 units

Minimum entry requirement: Bachelor degree in any area of study*

Graduate Diploma in Health Economics

2 semesters (full-time equivalent), 16 units

Minimum entry requirement: Bachelor degree in any area of study*

Master of Health Economics

3 semesters (full-time equivalent), 24 units

Minimum entry requirement: Bachelor degree in any area of study; or Graduate Diploma in Health Economics *

Master of Health Economics (Advanced)

4 semesters (full-time equivalent), 32 units

Minimum entry requirement: Bachelor degree in any area of study; or Graduate Diploma in Health Economics *

* All programs have a minimum GPA requirement.

Commencement

Full-time students:

GCHEcon – semester 1† or 2

GDipHEcon – semester 1** or 2

MHEcon and MHEcon (Adv) – semester 1 or 2

† Semester 1 (full-time) commencement may be possible, depending upon prior academic background

** Full-time students seeking first semester commencement are required to have completed a course equivalent to Intermediate Microeconomics in their Bachelor's degree program.

Part-time students of any health economics program may commence in either semester.

Courses

Students choose from a diverse range of courses including those covering micro and macroeconomics, epidemiology, econometrics, decision-making techniques, competition and regulation policy, benefit/cost analysis, ethics, burden of disease methods and systematic reviews of evidence. Full details of courses can be found at www.uq.edu.au/economics/healthcourses.

Pathway to a research career

Particularly designed for those interested in a research career, the Master of Health Economics (Advanced) incorporates an economic project and a thesis, providing an ideal pathway to enter the PhD program.

Accessible

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and there is no requirement for previous study in health or economics. Students with undergraduate qualifications in any discipline are eligible to apply.

