

Graduate Economics Education in Ireland

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General Issues

- Creating environment for top quality research
- Generating better evaluation of government programmes
- Training students in technical rigours of modern economics
- Collaboration between government, academics and industry
- Scottish model
- Other Models
- Lessons for Ireland

Components of Modern Graduate Education

- International systems of postgraduate education are commonly very similar in design.
- They consist of a stage of taught courses (usually 1-2 years) where the student obtains a Masters degree. Followed by a stage of independent research (2-3 years) that lead to a PhD commendation.
- These stages are regularly supplemented with experience in workshops and research environments and a “Job Market” period.

National Programmes

- Many countries now offer collaborative graduate programs where different universities and research institutes work together to offer a stimulating educational environment.
- These programs are headquartered in one university and other institutions will offer certain modules, teaching assistance and policy/industry interaction.

Collaborative PhD programs

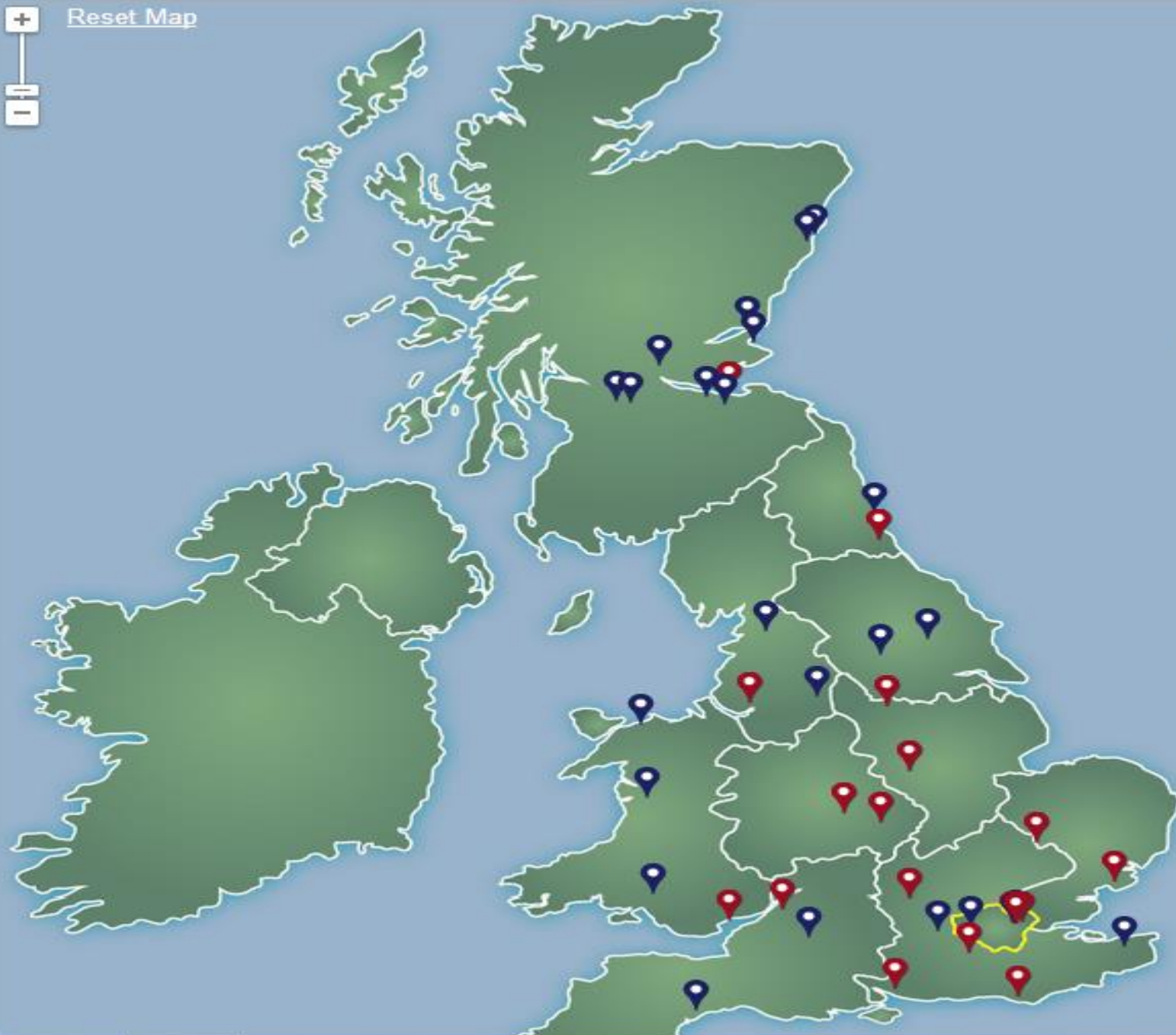
- The Scottish graduate program in Economics is an example of a collaboration between a number of universities to provide an enriching PhD environment.
- One question is how does this SGPE collaboration compare to other foreign institutions that work together to offer PhD programs.
- There are a number of these institutions in Germany and the Netherlands which provide a framework for comparison.

Doctoral Training Centres

- DTC's oversee a large number of PhD students in the UK and are the main way of distributing scholarships.
- The centres are funded by the ESRC.
- Some are large single institutions but others offer several multiple institution pathways.
- For example the Scottish Graduate Program offers 21 pathways in different academic disciplines.

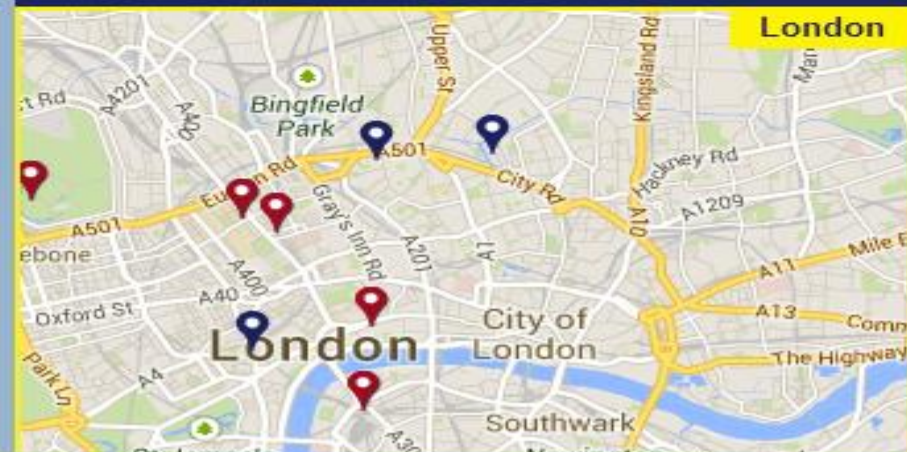


Reset Map



Doctoral Training Centres

- University of Birmingham
- South West Consortium
- University of Cambridge
- Wales Consortium
- North East Consortium
- Scottish Consortium
- University of Essex
- North West Consortium
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- White Rose Consortium
- University of Southampton
- South East Consortium
- University of Sussex
- University of Warwick
- Queen Mary and Goldsmiths
- Bloomsbury Consortium
- Kings College London
- London Business School
- University College London
- London School of Economics and Political Science



Doctoral Training Centres

University of Birmingham
South West Consortium (University of Bristol, University of Bath, University of Exeter)
University of Cambridge
Wales Consortium (Cardiff University, Aberystwyth University, Bangor University, Swansea University).
North East Consortium (Newcastle University, Durham University).
Scottish Consortium
University of Essex
North West Consortium (Liverpool University, Lancaster University, The University of Manchester).
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
White Rose Consortium (University of Sheffield, University of Leeds, University of York)
University of Southampton
South East Consortium (University of Surrey, Royal Holloway, University of London, University of Kent, University of Reading).
University of Sussex
University of Warwick
Queen Mary and Goldsmiths
Bloomsbury Consortium (Birkbeck College, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, School of Oriental and African Studies, Institute of Education).
Kings College London
London Business School

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ESRC Final Year Student Conference 2014

The Scottish Graduate School of Social Science are delighted to announce our collaboration with ESRC to deliver the annual Final Year Student Conference in 2014.

ESRC Studentships Available for 2014

Do you have what it takes for an ESRC studentship? Studentships are available across 24 pathways, and the SGS-DTC wants to hear from suitable candidates.

Scottish Graduate Program in Economics

- The SGPE program is a collaboration of 8 universities that provides structured training from Masters to PhD level.
- Students complete a one year MSc course in Edinburgh, which provides core Economic training and applied modules.
- The MSc is followed by three years of research (culminating in a thesis) at one of the member universities. Throughout this period students obtain further advanced training through a variety of mediums.

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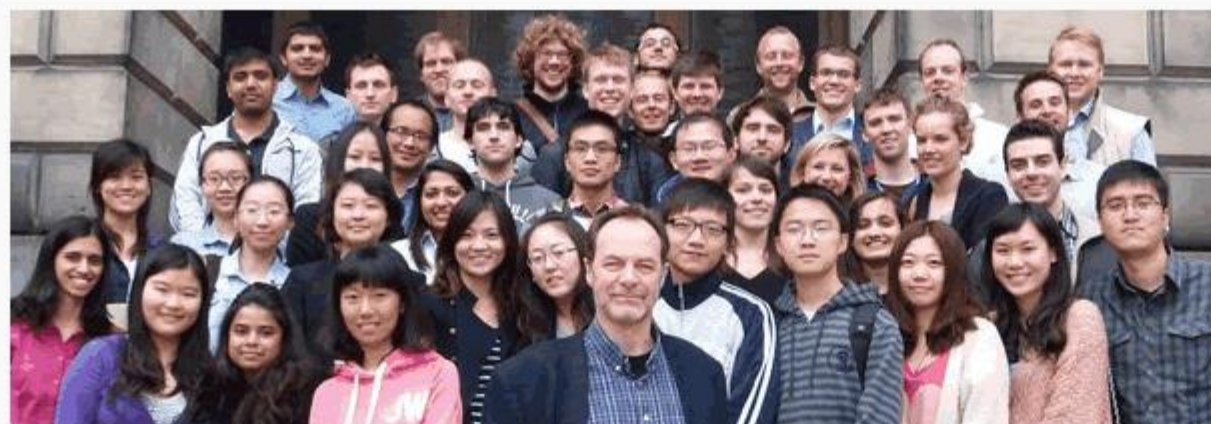
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Scottish Institute for Research in Economics

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The **Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (SIRE)** is the outcome of a substantial investment in **Economics Research** in Scotland (approximately £21 million over 5 years) by the Scottish Funding Council and ten participating universities. It builds on the distinguished tradition of Economics in Scotland, with eminent contributions from, among others, Adam Smith and David Hume, and the more recent history of successful collaboration in the **Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics**, founded in 1989.

SIRE pools key areas of strength within the Scottish Economics research base in three thematic programmes:

- **Behaviour, Incentives and Contracts**
- **Work and Well-being**
- **Macroeconomics, Financial Linkages and the Regions**

The SIRE Executive submits **annual reports** to the SFC outlining activities and developments.

The full set of Scottish Funding Council reports produced by SIRE is available from the '**About SIRE**' page.

Upcoming Events

Glasgow: Peyton Young (Oxford University) - 4/2

Strathclyde: Marius Brulhart – University of Lausanne - 12/2

Stirling: Karl Taylor University of Sheffield - 19/2

Strathclyde: Andrew Clausen, University of Edinburgh - 19/2

Stirling: Ian Walker University of Lancaster - 26/2



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Current development on SGPE program

- Developing on three main levels
- The development of a formal MRES, or related qualification, across the 8 institutions.
- An enhanced co-operation model where universities share PhD training modules.
- Individual universities also pursuing the option of providing a formal MRES as part of a PhD program.

UK Comparisons

Institution	Duration	Sequence
LSE	3-5 year	Two thirds of students direct entry to MRES. One third take the MsC first and then MRES options. (See Appendix)
UCL	4 years	MRES followed by three year PhD
Warwick	4 years	MsC followed by one year PhD coursework
York	3 or 4 Years	3 year following MsC or 1+3
Oxford	4 years	Usually admitted after 2-year MPhil. In “exceptional” circumstances, they will accept people from one-year programmes.
Cambridge	4 years	Usually admitted after 2-year MPhil.

European Comparisons

Institution	Duration	Sequence (below needs updating)
Tilburg	2-5 years	Usually admitted after 2-year Research Masters but there are PhD positions. (paid work)
LMU Munich	2-5 years	Admission granted after Masters in Economics.
Toulouse School of Economics	2-5 years	2-year Research Masters and 3 years PhD
Paris School of Economics	4 years	Admission after 1 year Masters Program
European University Institute Florence	4 years	Preference given to those who have a Masters, but not required.
CEMFI Madrid University	6 years	2 years Research Masters and 3-4 years PhD
Bocconi University Italy	4 years	2 years of Doctoral Courses

European Comparisons

- Similar to the UK universities, the majority of leading European institutions ask for two years of masters research before students begin their PhD.
- The two years of teaching is used to ensure that students develop all the skills they need to conduct independent research for their PhD thesis.
- It also gives students more time to develop their research ideas and take applied courses specific to their preferred topic.

European Collaborative PhDs

- These programs all either, provide two years of advanced learning before the student begins to focus on their PhD research, or has the pre-requisite of a two years masters program.
- Similar to SGPE's model, students in these programs complete a masters degree at one of the participating universities that includes instruction by staff from each university.
- After the student has completed the initial masters program, they relocate to one of the universities depending on their research topic and supervisor

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Structure</u>	<u>Requirements</u>	<u>Universities</u>
Ruhr Graduate School in Economics (RGS Econ)	3 Years	1 st year: Structured Lectures 2 nd /3 rd year: Some mandatory lectures-larger focus on research and thesis.	Requires Masters Degree equivalent to German “Diplom” Requires at least 2 years advanced coursework	Universities of Bochum, Dortmund, Duisberg-Essen. RWI Research Institute
Berlin Doctoral Program in Economics and Management Science (BDPEMS)	From Bachelors: 5 Years From Masters: 3-4 Years	1 st year: Compulsory Courses 2 nd Year: Elective Courses and Begin Research 3rd year onwards: Focus on producing research papers and dissertation	Requires Bachelors degree however students who already hold a Masters degree may be fast tracked.	Five Universities located in Berlin RTG & DIW Research groups.
Graduate School of Economics, Finance, and Management (GSEFM)	4 Years	1 st year: Core Courses 2 nd year: Courses chosen by student 3 rd year: Some workshops/Seminars & first research paper. 4 th year: Dissertation and Workshop attendance	Minimum requirement is a Bachelors degree with thorough coverage of quantitative methods.	Goethe University Frankfurt Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Technische Universität Darmstadt
Tinbergen Institute	5 Years 2 Year MPhil followed by 3 year PhD	1 st year: Core economic training 2 nd year: Specialisation and MPhil thesis 3 rd -5 th year: Move to one of the universities to complete PhD	Bachelors degree in economics, econometrics, maths or physics.	Erasmus University Rotterdam University of Amsterdam Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Policy & Industry Interaction

- A common component of graduate programs is providing students with the opportunity to interact with industry and policy makers. Some examples of interaction models are:
 - Placements
 - Industry-Academic Partnerships
 - Part-time Phd Models
 - Collaborative Studentships
 - Crucible Model
 - Knowledge Exchange Funding
 - Scotland heavy interaction between SGPE and Government Economics

The Dutch Hiring System

- The process by which PhD students in the UK and Holland are 'hired' is vastly different.
- The majority of PhD students in Holland are not actually students at all, they are members of staff hired and paid a full salary in order to conduct the research of a project leader.
- PhD Vacancies are advertised like normal jobs, on job boards or university websites.
- Although this is true for the large majority of PhD students in Holland, it is still possible to conduct one's own research if sufficient funding has been found.

Determinants of Research Success

- There is weak evidence to suggest that previous grades predict the success of students that move from taught courses to independent research.
- Simple subjective measures of “interest” in Economics.
- Programs need to ensure that intrinsically motivated students are not turned off.

General Issues for Graduate Economics Education

- The applicability and availability of scholarship funding.
- The required level of mathematical rigour.
- Gender and Economics
- The scope for independent critical thinking in the programs.
- Interdisciplinary PhDs

Ideas for Irish System

- Greater elements of national training collaborations
- Common MSc?
- Shared MSc Field
- Shared PhD Core
- National Masterclasses
- Creating PhD contract facilitating teaching and funding
- PhD internship scheme
- Common training between IGEES and Postgrad Economists
- Using Annual PhD Conference to Facilitate Linkages

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