

A PhD degree at the Department of Microeconomics, FES UW

Would you like to accomplish more and continue your academic adventure? Are you interested in obtaining a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw (FES UW)? Here you will find information on how studying at the Doctoral Schools looks, and what you stand to gain by choosing the Department of Microeconomics.

We are looking for ambitious and hardworking individuals who are fluent in English and keen on carrying out research projects. If you see yourself as having a future in science and research or are looking for a unique way to gain an edge in the job market, then a PhD at FES is worth considering.

Why choose a doctoral programme?

The doctoral programme allows you to acquire specialised knowledge and practical skills in the area that interests you most. It will enable you to make significant contributions to the development of your chosen field. This contribution can be significant in academic circles, and moreover, in Poland and in the rest of the world. When selecting your area of inquiry, you will be assisted by experienced researchers and lecturers (both from the University of Warsaw and from foreign partner universities) whose work and achievements may inspire, motivate, and guide you. Doing a doctorate does not mean that you have to tie your future to a university. It enables you to enter the scientific or business job market (in scientific institutions, consulting, advising in Poland and abroad), with a strong initial advantage over graduates of bachelor's or master's studies.

What is doctoral study like?

You can pursue your PhD at FES as part of the [Doctoral School in Social Sciences \(SDNS\)](#) or the [Interdisciplinary Doctoral School \(MSD\)](#). The doctoral programme takes four years, and the process of preparing a doctoral dissertation follows an Individual Research Plan (IPB), which doctoral candidates develop in cooperation with their supervisors at the end of the first year of study. Among other things, the Individual Research Plan describes the subject of the research, the rationale for its importance, and the timetable for its completion. You have at least one year to work out your research plans for your doctorate more precisely.

There is an [Economics and Finance programme](#) within the Doctoral School of Social Sciences. If your research interests go beyond economics, you might consider studying at the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School. Within this school, doctoral candidates prepare dissertations which combine elements of at least two disciplines of their choice (e.g., economics and computer science; economics and law). Implementing one's own interdisciplinary programme requires a great deal of independence, as it involves creating an individual study plan. The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School also includes the ["Quantitative Psychology and Economics" programme](#), which is based on cooperation with the Faculty of Economic Sciences, the Faculty of Psychology, and the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics, and Mechanics.

The doctoral schools offer a range of classes and courses to choose from. These include methodology classes, specialised classes, seminars, language classes, teaching practice, and workshops for researchers. While working on your PhD, you will also have the opportunity to study and carry out research at foreign institutions (renowned universities and research centres).

Preparing a dissertation involves designing the research, collecting data, analysing it, and writing scientific articles, either independently or in collaboration with other researchers. Well-written articles (based on valid, interesting, and sound research) may be published in international journals. That ensures that your scientific work, early on in your career, will get noticed and have an "impact". During your studies, you will also gain teaching experience (a minimum of 30 teaching hours is required). Depending

on the purpose of undertaking your doctoral training, you are free to intensify or minimise your research or teaching activities. Your obligations as a doctoral student do not have to interfere with your full-time work outside the university; if you wish, they can become your main occupation as well as your main source of income.

It is worth considering that research work is highly independent and flexible. It is up to you how much you work and when, how your career will develop, and whether you take advantage of opportunities like travel, internships, working abroad, etc.

What about the finances?

Contrary to popular opinion, being a doctoral candidate does not mean "being poor". Everything depends on your entrepreneurship and diligence. Independent consultants, specialists, and research project managers can be sure of having very good salaries.

Apart from the basic stipend (approx. 2,400 PLN gross/month for the first two years, and 3,700 PLN for the following two), and the remuneration for teaching students (120 PLN gross per academic hour), there are many other opportunities. You may apply for grants and scholarships to carry out your research from Polish and foreign institutions, e.g., the Foundation for Polish Science or the National Science Centre (for instance, additional scholarships of 1,500 PLN net/month, and up to 210,000 PLN for research activities). There are many sources of funding which may be used for taking part in summer and winter schools, scientific conferences, workshops, or independent research trips. Trips abroad are possible through the National Academic Exchange Agency or the Polish-American Fulbright Commission, among others. You can also seek employment in other researchers' projects at the Department, or more generally at FES, and receive remuneration for work as part of the project (up to 4,500 PLN net/month). Carrying out your own research does not exclude the opportunity to join additional projects, where you can learn a lot while working under the supervision of an experienced manager.

FES makes every effort to provide doctoral candidates and staff with suitable working conditions, including books, equipment, laptops, and other teaching aids. At the Department of Microeconomics, we also have a pleasant and fully-equipped room, which is a friendly place to work and meet.

How much do assistant professors and professors earn? No less. The salaries at FES differ, of course, and depend on one's entrepreneurship, effectiveness in obtaining grants, and diligence. FES researchers often make six-digit salaries -- and the first digit is not necessarily a 1. After completing your PhD, you can also find employment (even if only temporarily, as part of post-doc programmes) at foreign universities. Considering the nature of the work (for example, independence), we think it is a dream job!

How do I choose a department and a supervisor?

The choice of supervisor is crucial. It is a good idea to shop around beforehand, to find out about the interests and scholarly activities of potential supervisors. Consider the following:

- Do your interests coincide with the topics or methods dealt with by the potential supervisor? To assess this, it is best to look at his/her publications from recent years (e.g., using Google Scholar) and...talk (or write) to them!
- Is the potential supervisor active in his/her scientific field? Does he/she cooperate with partners from abroad? Find a supervisor who will make it easier for you to get started, for instance by involving you in their own projects, research, and publications.

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If you are able to identify your research interests, you can narrow down your potential candidates to members of a particular department. Departments are units within the Faculty, which bring together scholars conducting research in a particular area of economics. If you have found us, we can guess that you are interested in research concerning microeconomics.

What is microeconomics for?

Microeconomics is a very broad field, which deals with the study of individual decisions of market players, such as consumers or companies. Within the Department of Microeconomics, we conduct research at an international level in numerous areas, which are summarised in the graphic shown here.



Why choose the Department of Microeconomics?

FES is one of the most scientifically active institutions in Poland. For many years, it has been given the top rankings in classifications of domestic majors in economics (first place in the "Economics" group, according to ["Perspektywy"](#) magazine, first place among Polish universities in the "Economics and Econometrics" category, according to the [Quacquarelli Symonds](#) ranking for 2021). The University of Warsaw itself is one of the two Polish universities ranked highest in the Shanghai List and in the Webometric Ranking of World Universities.

The activity of the Department of Microeconomics accounts for nearly 50% of the scientific output of FES UW, in terms of publications in international scientific journals. Our members are internationally recognised and renowned researchers who lead important projects with international reach. Much of the research conducted by members of our Department has an impact on shaping national and/or global public policies. The best indicator of the quality of our Department is the number of publications, as well as the prestige of the journals in which they appear (important journals have a high [impact factor](#), a high number of citations (e.g., in [Google Scholar](#)), and a high number of points in the [list of the Ministry of Education and Science](#)).

If your research interests coincide with those of the members of our Department, or if you would like one of us to advise you and show you available opportunities, email us or catch us in the hallway at FES! Feel free to contact selected members of the Department directly.

If you are interested in research, you can apply to FES in advance, even during your undergraduate or graduate studies. You may be able to get involved in our research projects as an assistant, or we may be able to help you get started with your own research ideas!

Details on the formalities for recruitment to doctoral schools can be found [here](#).

You are welcome to join us!