

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### BCOM HONOURS AND POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

#### **What is the difference between the BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications?**

##### ***BCom (Honours in Economics)***

The purpose of the BCom Honours qualification is to expose degree graduates to, and familiarise them with, advanced contemporary Economics theories, concepts and practices and the applied competence. In addition, the learning programme prepares Honours students for research-based Postgraduate study.

##### ***Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics***

The Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics has been designed with the primary purpose of providing holders of the Advanced Diploma in Economics, certain categories of graduates, as well as practising economists in the private and public sector, with the opportunity to gain an improved understanding of micro- and macroeconomic theory, and to reflect critically on economic practices and applications. This includes "building intuition" and competence in the verification, development and application of economic models used to explain the behaviour of governments, consumers, businesses and markets, as well as the econometric tools to do so. In addition, students also conduct and report research under supervision with a view to developing research capacity in the methodology and techniques most relevant to the field of Economics. This qualification also offers a vertical articulation route to a course work or full research master's degree, subject to any additional admission or selection requirements that may be set for the master's degree.

### BCOM HONOURS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

#### **What are the entrance requirements for the BCom Honours in Economics qualification at Nelson Mandela University?**

Unless otherwise approved by the Head of the Department, the entrance requirement is a mark of 60% for each of the third-year degree-level Economics modules.

- At the Head of Department's discretion students registered for the Advanced Diploma in Economics who have performed exceptionally well in that qualification's modules may be considered for the BCom Honours in Economics qualification.

Final acceptance is also subject to the Department's capacity as, in terms of the University's approved enrolment plan, admissions into this programme are capped.

#### **If I did not obtain at least 60% for each of the third-year degree-level Economics modules what should I do?**

You may still apply to pursue postgraduate studies within the Department. The Head of Department will screen your application. A final recommendation regarding your application will then be made. One outcome of this screening process is that the Head of Department may recommend that you pursue the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics.

#### **Which modules are compulsory, and which are electives for the BCom Honours in Economics degree?**

The compulsory modules are:

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- Treatise
- Research Methods

There are seven elective modules from which students need to select four. The elective modules offered in any year will depend on both the availability of staff and student demand. A student may, with the approval of the Head of Department of Economics, replace two of the elective modules listed below with appropriate NQF Level 8 modules from another programme. The elective modules are:

- International Economics
- Public Sector Economics
- Development Economics
- Financial Economics
- Environmental Economics
- Econometrics
- Financial Econometrics (Please note that a student will not be allowed to proceed to Financial Econometrics without first having passed Econometrics.)

**Is the BCom Honours in Economics degree recognised by SAQA?**

Yes, the qualification has been accredited by SAQA. The SAQA ID is 105204.

### **POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

**What are the entrance requirements for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualification at Nelson Mandela University?**

An Advanced Diploma in Economics or an equivalent qualification in a cognate field of study with an aggregate pass of at least 60%.

Final acceptance is also subject to the Department's capacity as, in terms of the University's approved enrolment plan, admissions into this programme are capped.

**Which modules are compulsory, and which are electives for the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics?**

The compulsory modules are:

- Economics Survey Techniques
- Economics Field Work Project
- Applied Microeconomics
- Applied Macroeconomics

There are five elective modules from which students need to select two. The elective modules offered in any year will depend on both the availability of staff and student demand.

The elective modules are:

- Economics for a Developing World
- Economics of Money and Business
- International Trade and Finance
- Economics of Local, Provincial and Central Government
- Applied Econometrics

**Is the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics recognised by SAQA?**

Yes, the qualification has been accredited by SAQA. The SAQA ID is 93972.

**Can I articulate into a MCom degree after successfully completing my Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualification?**

Yes. Students who have obtained this Postgraduate Diploma can articulate vertically to a relevant coursework or full research Master's Degree, subject to any additional admission or selection requirements that may be set for the Master's Degree.

## BCOM HONOURS AND POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA QUESTIONS

### **What must I do if I wish to apply in August 2021 before all my final marks are available?**

The University has indicated that the first closing date for applications for academic admission for 2022 is 2 August 2021. As such, apply via <https://applyonline.mandela.ac.za/> with the marks that you have available to you by that date. The Head of Department will consider your application and, if you meet the required level of academic performance, you will be granted provisional acceptance to the programme. As soon as you have all your marks forward it to Postgraduate Admissions ([postgraduateadmission@mandela.ac.za](mailto:postgraduateadmission@mandela.ac.za)) and to Ms Sharon Tesselendorf ([Sharon.tesselendorf@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Sharon.tesselendorf@mandela.ac.za)) for final consideration.

International students should also contact [international@mandela.ac.za](mailto:international@mandela.ac.za) to ensure that all the necessary documentation has reached the Office for International Education. For example, international students must submit an evaluation from the South African Qualification Authority (SAQA) of your degree in order for your application to be considered.

### **When do lectures and/or tutorials take place for full-time and part-time students?**

Lectures and/or tutorials take place from Monday to Friday. Irrespective of whether you are registered as a full-time or a part-time student, lectures and/or tutorials take place during the day. As such, all BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics lectures and/or tutorials take place between 07:45 and 18:00. Class attendance is compulsory.

### **What is the language of learning and teaching at Nelson Mandela University?**

While Nelson Mandela University is committed to multilingualism, the language of learning and teaching at Nelson Mandela University is English. The University also strives to develop and promote the isiXhosa language and culture and to ensure the maintenance and strengthening of Afrikaans.

### **What support is available to differently abled students?**

Nelson Mandela University would like to ensure that differently abled students enjoy a successful student experience, thus the University strives to ensure that academic concessions, reasonable adjustments for general accessibility, test and examinations and other academic concessions, are made to meet such students' needs. Services currently available include assistive technologies, dedicated computer spaces equipped with assistive technologies, braille transcription support, adapted transport for those with mobility difficulties, and volunteer buddies amongst other.

As every case needs to be individually assessed, differently abled students are requested to register their special needs with the university's **Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS)** as soon as possible, preferably the year prior to application and registration. When meeting with UADS students are requested to have valid medical documentation and/or assessment reports from appropriate health professionals on hand.

For more information, please follow the link: <https://disability.mandela.ac.za/>

### **Are the BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications full-time or part-time qualifications?**

The aforementioned qualifications can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students register for all the modules and complete these modules within a year. Part-time students complete the qualification over two years.

### **May I apply for the BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications if I completed my undergraduate qualification at another university?**

Yes, if you meet the stated entrance criteria. You will need to provide a full academic record issued by the university you attended. A copy of your third year Economics modules' module outcomes should accompany your application. You must also include a certificate of conduct from the institution that you studied at previously.

**Do I need to have secured a supervisor before I apply for the BCom Honours in Economics or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications?**

No, you do not need to have secured a supervisor before applying for the BCom Honours in Economics or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications. It is, however, recommended that you consider this and contact potential supervisors as soon as possible. The Department's lecturers' areas of expertise can be found here: <https://economics.mandela.ac.za/Staff>. Information about our Postdoctoral Research Fellows can be found here: <https://economics.mandela.ac.za/Research/Post-Doctoral-Research-Fellows>.

**Do you have a mid-year intake for the BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications?**

No, there is only one intake per year.

**My admission letter states that I have been conditionally/provisionally accepted. What does that mean?**

This means that your admission will be final only once you have met the final requirements stated in your letter of admission. The requirements may include achieving a minimum percentage for your final year Economics modules, completing all outstanding undergraduate modules, etc.

**If I receive a letter of acceptance, will a place be reserved for me to register until the end of the registration period?**

If you are accepted to either the BCom Honours in Economics or the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics programme you need to register as soon as possible, once the University's registration period begins. The University follows a "first come, first serve" registration policy, which means that if the places in the programme are filled up before the end of the registration period, the registration for the programme is closed. Therefore, once your application has been approved and you have been finally accepted, you are urged to register at your earliest convenience.

**How much do the BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualifications cost?**

Before registering as a student, you need to determine whether or not you will have sufficient funds to finance your studies. In addition to the actual study programme/module fees, you should also budget for books, equipment, transport, accommodation and general living expenses which are excluded from your tuition fees. Estimated fees/costs can be [obtained on these pages](#).

**Are any bursaries available?**

The Department of Economics does not offer any bursaries. Students are encouraged to secure financial aid for their studies before registration. Please remember that the sooner you apply, the better. If you apply late, funding may not be available anymore. Please consult the Financial Aid website for financial assistance related to your studies: <https://finaid.mandela.ac.za/>.

**Is on-campus accommodation available to BCom Honours in Economics and Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics students?**

You may apply for residence/on-campus accommodation here: <http://webapps.mandela.ac.za/ResApplication/>. For more information regarding residence

accommodation, please click on the following link:  
<https://studenthousing.mandela.ac.za/Apply-for-admission>.

### **Can I transfer credits from a different university?**

A student may on grounds of having completed sufficiently similar modules at other accredited institutions, be granted credits in respect of modules with a cumulative credit value of not more than 50% of the total credit value of the relevant qualification or programme at the University. In order to apply for module exemption, download the module exemption form (<https://www.mandela.ac.za/www-new/media/Store/documents/StudyAtMandela/ModuleExemption/11-Request-for-module-credits.pdf>) and complete it. Note that there is a module exemption fee to be paid before the exemption can be processed. You must also attach copies of the relevant module outlines/syllabus and your academic record.

### **I previously studied at Nelson Mandela University, but could not complete my BCom Honours in Economics or Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Economics qualification at that time. How do I apply for exemption from those modules that I had passed?**

In order to apply for module exemption, download the module exemption form (<https://www.mandela.ac.za/www-new/media/Store/documents/StudyAtMandela/ModuleExemption/11-Request-for-module-credits.pdf>) and complete it. Note that there is a module exemption fee to be paid before the exemption can be processed. Please also attach your academic record.

### **What do I need to pass a module?**

The final mark awarded for each module shall be a percentage out of 100. A student passes a module if he/she/ze is awarded a final mark of 50% or above. In addition, all tests, tutorials individual assignments, group assignments and end-of-module assessments are compulsory.

## **2021 SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

### **When do lectures start?**

Lectures commence on Monday, 15 March 2021. Even if you have not registered by that date, please attend all your lectures.

### **What is the Economics Department's plans for the delivery of instruction during the first semester of 2021?**

The Department of Economics wishes to emphasise that our lectures and tutorials will be conducted in such a way that we do not compromise the safety of our students nor the quality of education that we deliver. Thus, at least during the first semester of 2021, the Department will continue to utilise Microsoft Teams for online lectures, while assessments will be conducted via the eLearning platform known as Moodle. Your lecturers will communicate with you using the University's email system and/or the Moodle and Teams sites. It is thus essential that you regularly check these platforms.

Please note that Moodle and Teams automatically record all students' activities including: your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, web conferencing, discussion text and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the lecturer to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty.

### **How will I know if the teaching situation changes again?**

If the government's public health guidance change, the University's Management will notify students and explain the implications.

### **How will I know when lectures take place?**

Follow the instructions on this website:

<http://forms.mandela.ac.za/timetable/timetablestud.asp>. Alternatively, email Ms Dederé Erasmus ([Dedre.Erasmus@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Dedre.Erasmus@mandela.ac.za)) (if you are pursuing the BCom Honours qualification) or Ms Elizabeth Moodley ([Elizabeth.Moodley@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Elizabeth.Moodley@mandela.ac.za)) (if you are pursuing the Postgraduate Diploma in Economics).

### **Will lectures be recorded?**

Lectures may be recorded by your instructor. These recordings are reserved for use by students enrolled in a particular module. These recordings may not be shared outside of the module in any form without the express permission of the lecturer and the HoD.

### **How will I be able to consult with my lecturer?**

In consideration of COVID-19, your lecturers will not be holding in-person consultation hours. Time has, however, been set aside when you can contact your lecturer directly, using the University's email system, or Microsoft Teams. Please observe etiquette in all communication, giving respect to lecturers, fellow students, administrative staff and the wider university community.

### **What hardware and software should I have available in order to learn online?**

Students must have access to the following hardware and software:

- Access to a desktop PC / laptop or a smartphone<sup>1</sup>. Any of the aforementioned devices capable of running a recently updated web browser (such as Firefox or Chrome) should be sufficient to access your module online. This includes support for streaming audio and video. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance.
- A stable Internet connection is highly recommended.
  - The University's Management has advised students who do not have access to a desktop PC / laptop or a smartphone with a reasonably stable Internet connection, or who will not be able to effectively learn online from home (remotely) for other justifiable reasons, to reside in *Gqeberha* (formerly known as Port Elizabeth) or George so that they can access the University's general and specialised computer labs and Wi-Fi on campus, even if all their modules are online. Please note that a permit request must be completed before students will be granted access to any campus. Permit requests can be submitted via this link: <https://webapps.mandela.ac.za/permitrequest/>
- Students need the necessary programmes on their devices and need to know how to login and access their modules in Moodle as well as use MS Teams for virtual sessions. Virtual tutorials are available to assist in this regard. It is recommended that you refer to the Faculty's Orientation app or access the resources via this link: <http://getdigiready.mandela.ac.za/>.
- A program to typeset problem sets and exam solutions.
  - Microsoft Office 365 is freely available to all registered Nelson Mandela University students.
  - Free alternatives to Microsoft Office include OpenOffice and LibreOffice.
- Access to high-quality scanning. There are numerous smartphone apps (e.g., Microsoft's Office Lens, Adobe Scan or CamScanner) that can be utilised for this purpose.
  - Please ensure that the photo / scan that you upload to the Moodle site is clear enough to be legible so that your lecturer can mark it. Take care that you don't crop

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<sup>1</sup> There are a range of options to purchase or loan a laptop, especially through NSFAS. ICT Services and Student Financial Aid can advise students. Lecturers will advise if a specific academic programme requires hi-spec laptops.

off sections, take the photo in poor lighting, cast a shadow over your work when taking the photo, or omit certain answers. The scan/photo does not have to be at the highest resolution settings of your phone's camera, but it must be legible and clear. It is suggested that you answer each question on a different page. Furthermore, number each page. Ensure that your student number appears on each page that you submit. When uploading your document to Moodle check they your answers appear in the correct order as this will help the person marking the paper.