

masters in economic history

Masters in Economic History: Exploring the Past to Understand the Present and Future

masters in economic history programs offer a fascinating blend of economics, history, and social science, allowing students to explore how economic phenomena have evolved through time. For those curious about the forces shaping economies over centuries—ranging from the Industrial Revolution to globalization—this specialized degree provides a unique academic path. It not only deepens understanding of historical economic trends but also equips graduates with analytical tools applicable in various careers today.

What Is a Masters in Economic History?

Economic history sits at the crossroads of two vast disciplines: economics and history. A masters in economic history focuses on studying economies of the past, analyzing how resources were produced, distributed, and consumed, and understanding the social and political factors that influenced these processes. Unlike pure economics degrees, which often emphasize current market mechanisms and quantitative modeling, economic history provides a narrative context enriched by statistical and archival research.

Students pursuing this degree gain insight into vital questions such as why certain regions industrialized earlier, how colonialism impacted global trade patterns, or what caused economic crises like the Great Depression. These programs often involve rigorous training in quantitative methods, historiography, and economic theory, blending qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Core Curriculum and Skills Developed

A typical masters in economic history curriculum includes courses like:

- Historical economic data analysis
- Quantitative methods for historians
- The history of capitalism
- Globalization in historical perspective
- Economic development and institutions over time

Through these courses, students hone skills in statistical software, archival research, and economic modeling. They learn to interpret historical economic data sets and contextualize economic events within broader social and cultural frameworks. This dual approach fosters critical thinking, enabling graduates to assess how past economic structures inform present-day policies.

Why Choose a Masters in Economic History?

Many students are drawn to economic history because it offers a richer understanding of how

economies function beyond abstract models. By studying long-term trends and historical case studies, learners appreciate the complexity behind economic growth, technological change, and inequality.

Bridging Past and Present

Economic history is invaluable for anyone interested in public policy, international development, or economic consulting. Understanding historical patterns can help predict future shifts or avoid repeating past mistakes. For example, analyzing the economic causes and consequences of historical pandemics can yield lessons applicable to current global health crises.

Interdisciplinary Opportunities

This field naturally connects with disciplines like sociology, political science, and geography. A masters in economic history encourages interdisciplinary research, combining economic theory with cultural and political analysis. This broad perspective is appealing for students who want to explore multifaceted economic questions.

Career Paths After a Masters in Economic History

Graduates with a masters in economic history have diverse career options, often leveraging their unique skill set in both academic and non-academic roles.

Academic and Research Careers

Many continue toward PhDs, becoming university professors or researchers specializing in economic history or related fields. Their expertise supports historical research institutes, think tanks, and economic policy centers.

Government and Policy Analysis

Understanding the historical context of economic policies is crucial in government agencies and international organizations. Economic historians often work as policy analysts, advising on development strategies, trade regulations, or fiscal reforms.

Finance and Consulting

The analytical and quantitative skills gained are highly valued in financial institutions and consulting firms. Economic historians can analyze market trends through a historical lens, providing unique insights into economic cycles and investment risks.

Data Analysis and Archival Research

With increasing digitization of historical economic data, specialists in economic history are in demand for data curation, analysis, and interpretation roles. Cultural institutions, libraries, and digital archives also employ graduates to manage and make sense of economic records.

Choosing the Right Program: Tips for Prospective Students

Selecting the best masters in economic history program involves considering several factors:

- **Faculty Expertise:** Look for programs with professors actively publishing in economic history or related areas.
- **Research Resources:** Access to archives, databases, and historical economic data is essential for hands-on learning.
- **Curriculum Balance:** Ensure the program offers a good mix of quantitative methods and historical theory.
- **Career Support:** Check if the university provides networking opportunities, internships, or collaborations with economic research institutes.
- **Flexibility:** Some programs offer part-time or online options, which can be crucial for working professionals.

Program Formats and Duration

Most masters in economic history degrees are one to two years long, depending on full- or part-time enrollment. Some universities offer combined degrees or dual majors, integrating economic history with economics, international relations, or public policy.

The Growing Relevance of Economic History in Modern Times

In an era of rapid technological change and economic uncertainty, understanding historical economic patterns is more important than ever. Economic history provides context for current debates on inequality, globalization, and sustainability.

For example, studying the economic transformations during past technological revolutions can inform

how societies might adapt to automation and AI. Similarly, historical perspectives on trade wars or financial crises allow policymakers and business leaders to navigate complex global markets more wisely.

Economic History in the Digital Age

Advances in data science and digital humanities have revolutionized economic history research. Students and scholars now use sophisticated statistical tools to analyze massive historical datasets, uncovering trends that were previously hidden. This intersection of technology and history opens exciting new avenues for research and application.

Final Thoughts on Pursuing a Masters in Economic History

If you have a passion for understanding how economic systems develop and change over time, a masters in economic history offers a rewarding academic journey. It equips you with a rare combination of skills—historical analysis, economic theory, and quantitative methods—that can open doors in academia, policy, finance, and beyond.

Moreover, this degree challenges you to think critically about the forces shaping the world's economies, helping you become a more informed global citizen and professional. Whether your goal is research, teaching, or influencing economic decision-making, economic history provides a powerful lens through which to view the past, interpret the present, and anticipate the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Master's degree in Economic History?

A Master's degree in Economic History is a postgraduate program that explores the development and transformation of economies over time, combining economic theory with historical analysis to understand long-term economic trends and their impacts.

What career opportunities are available after completing a Master's in Economic History?

Graduates can pursue careers in academia, economic consulting, financial analysis, policy making, museums, cultural heritage organizations, and international institutions that require expertise in economic development and historical economic data.

Which skills are developed during a Master's in Economic

History program?

Students develop skills in quantitative analysis, historical research, economic theory, data interpretation, critical thinking, and effective communication, enabling them to analyze economic phenomena within historical contexts.

What are the typical admission requirements for a Master's in Economic History?

Admission usually requires a bachelor's degree in economics, history, or a related field, strong academic records, letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose, and sometimes GRE scores or proof of proficiency in quantitative methods.

How does studying Economic History at the master's level benefit understanding of modern economies?

Studying Economic History provides insights into the origins and evolution of economic systems, helps identify patterns and causes of economic crises, and informs policy decisions by understanding historical precedents and long-term economic dynamics.

Additional Resources

Masters in Economic History: An In-Depth Exploration of Opportunities and Academic Rigor

Masters in economic history programs offer a unique interdisciplinary approach, blending the analytical rigour of economics with the contextual depth of historical study. This academic pathway attracts students keen on understanding how past economic events, trends, and policies shape contemporary societies and future developments. As global economies become increasingly interconnected and complex, the demand for professionals equipped with nuanced historical economic insights continues to grow.

Understanding the Scope of a Masters in Economic History

Economic history as a discipline investigates the evolution of economies over time, focusing on the causes and consequences of economic phenomena within their historical contexts. A masters degree in this field equips students with analytical tools from both economics and history, fostering a comprehensive understanding of long-term economic patterns, institutional changes, and social transformations.

Unlike pure economics programs that may emphasize mathematical modeling or policy analysis, economic history programs incorporate qualitative research and archival work. This dual focus allows students to examine data trends alongside cultural, political, and technological factors influencing economic development.

Core Curriculum and Skill Development

Typical masters in economic history curricula combine courses in quantitative economics, historiography, and specialized economic history topics such as industrialization, financial crises, trade history, and labor markets. Students often engage with:

- Econometric methods tailored to historical data analysis
- Historical research techniques, including primary source evaluation
- Comparative economic systems and institutional economics
- Case studies on significant economic events like the Great Depression or the Industrial Revolution

This blend of skills enables graduates to critically assess how economic systems evolve and respond to external shocks or internal innovations.

Popular Specializations Within Economic History Masters

Students may choose to specialize in areas such as:

- Financial and banking history, exploring the evolution of monetary systems
- Development economics through a historical lens, analyzing growth trajectories of nations
- Labor history, focusing on workforce transformations and policy impacts
- Global trade history, investigating the rise and fall of trade empires and globalization phases

These specializations allow students to tailor their academic experience toward sectors that align with their career aspirations or research interests.

Career Prospects and Professional Applications

Graduates with a masters in economic history are well-positioned for diverse career paths. Their ability to interpret complex economic data within historical contexts is valuable across academia, government agencies, financial institutions, and international organizations.

Academic and Research Opportunities

Many graduates pursue doctoral studies to deepen their expertise and contribute original research to the field. Teaching and research positions at universities, think tanks, and historical research institutes are common trajectories.

Policy and Government Roles

Economic historians provide critical insights into policy formulation by analyzing historical precedents of economic decisions. Roles in central banks, ministries of finance, and international bodies such as the IMF or World Bank often seek candidates with expertise in economic history to design informed economic strategies.

Private Sector and Consultancy

Financial analysts, market researchers, and consultants benefit from a background in economic history to assess long-term market trends, risk factors, and economic cycles. Firms focusing on economic forecasting or historical market analysis value the unique perspective such graduates bring.

Evaluating Masters Programs in Economic History

Choosing the right program involves assessing factors such as faculty expertise, research resources, program flexibility, and alumni outcomes. Leading universities often provide access to extensive archival collections and data repositories, facilitating comprehensive research projects.

Comparing Program Formats: On-Campus vs. Online

While traditional on-campus programs offer immersive experiences and direct interaction with faculty, online masters in economic history are gaining traction, providing flexibility for working professionals. However, prospective students should consider the availability of research opportunities and networking platforms when opting for distance learning.

International Variations in Curriculum

Programs in Europe, particularly in the UK and Germany, tend to emphasize economic theory integration with historical inquiry, while US institutions might focus more on quantitative methods and policy applications. Understanding these differences can guide applicants to programs that best match their academic goals.

Advantages and Challenges of Pursuing a Masters in Economic History

Pros

- Interdisciplinary skillset combining quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Strong foundation for diverse career paths in academia, policy, and finance
- Development of critical thinking through historical context evaluation
- Access to unique historical datasets and archives

Cons

- Relatively niche field with fewer direct job listings compared to general economics
- Potential need for further specialization or doctoral studies for academic careers
- Demanding research requirements involving extensive archival work
- Varied program quality and focus, requiring careful selection

The Future of Economic History in a Digital Age

With the rise of big data analytics and digital humanities, economic history is undergoing a transformation. New methodologies allow for the digitization and computational analysis of vast historical datasets, expanding research possibilities. Masters programs increasingly incorporate data science tools, equipping students to handle “big historical data” and perform sophisticated econometric modeling.

Moreover, the globalized nature of current economic challenges has renewed interest in the lessons of economic history. Understanding past economic crises, trade disruptions, and institutional evolutions provides valuable frameworks for addressing today’s economic uncertainties.

As governments and corporations seek deeper insights into long-term economic trends, expertise in economic history is poised to become more relevant. This makes the masters in economic history not only an intellectually enriching pursuit but also a strategically advantageous one in the evolving job

market.

The journey through a masters in economic history is marked by rigorous academic inquiry and the development of a versatile skill set. Whether aiming for scholarly research, policy influence, or financial analysis, this degree offers a distinctive blend of historical perspective and economic acumen that few other disciplines provide.

Masters In Economic History

masters in economic history: Masters and Men Marie B. Rowlands, 1975

masters in economic history: Masters of Achievement Henry Woldmar Ruoff, 1911

masters in economic history: States and the Masters of Capital Quentin Bruneau, 2022-12-13 Winner, 2025 Francesco Guicciardini Prize for Best Book in Historical International Relations, Historical International Relations section, International Studies Association Today, states' ability to borrow private capital depends on stringent evaluations of their creditworthiness. While many presume that this has long been the case, Quentin Bruneau argues that it is a surprisingly recent phenomenon—the outcome of a pivotal shift in the social composition of financial markets. Investigating the financiers involved in lending capital to sovereigns over the past two centuries, Bruneau identifies profound changes in their identities, goals, and forms of knowledge. He shows how an old world made up of merchant banking families pursuing both profit and status gradually gave way to a new one dominated by large companies, such as joint stock banks and credit rating agencies, exclusively pursuing profit. Lacking the web of personal ties to sovereigns across the world that their established rivals possessed, these financial institutions began relying on a different form of knowledge created to describe and compare states through quantifiable data: statistics. Over the course of this epochal shift, which only came to an end a few decades ago, financial markets thus reconceptualized states. Instead of a set of individuals to be known in person, they became numbers on a page. Raising new questions about the history of sovereign lending, this book illuminates the nature of the relationship between states and financial markets today—and suggests that it may be on the cusp of another major transformation.

masters in economic history: The Sugar Masters Richard Follett, 2007-02-01 Focusing on the master-slave relationship in Louisiana's antebellum sugarcane country, The Sugar Masters explores how a modern, capitalist mind-set among planters meshed with old-style paternalistic attitudes to create one of the South's most insidiously oppressive labor systems. As author Richard Follett vividly demonstrates, the agricultural paradise of Louisiana's thriving sugarcane fields came at an unconscionable cost to slaves. Thanks to technological and business innovations, sugar planters stood as models of capitalist entrepreneurship by midcentury. But above all, labor management was the secret to their impressive success. Follett explains how in exchange for increased productivity and efficiency they offered their slaves a range of incentives, such as greater autonomy, improved accommodations, and even financial remuneration. These material gains, however, were only short term. According to Follett, many of Louisiana's sugar elite presented their incentives with a facade of paternal reciprocity that seemingly bound the slaves' interests to the apparent goodwill of the masters, but in fact, the owners sought to control every aspect of the slaves' lives, from reproduction to discretionary income. Slaves responded to this display of paternalism by trying to enhance their rights under bondage, but the constant bargaining process invariably led to compromises on their part, and the grueling production pace never relented. The only respite from their masters' demands lay in fashioning their own society, including outlets for religion, leisure, and

trade. Until recently, scholars have viewed planters as either paternalistic lords who eschewed marketplace values or as entrepreneurs driven to business success. Follett offers a new view of the sugar masters as embracing both the capitalist market and a social ideology based on hierarchy, honor, and paternalism. His stunning synthesis of empirical research, demographics study, and social and cultural history sets a new standard for this subject.

masters in economic history: Masters and Servants Scott P. Stephen, 2020-01-09

"[Stephen] offers fresh insight into the path a historic fur trading business took to become one of Canada's most recognizable retailers." —Literary Review of Canada In *Masters and Servants*, Scott P. Stephen reveals startling truths about Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) workers. Rather than dedicating themselves body and soul to the Company's interests, these men were hired like domestic servants, joining a "household" with its attendant norms of duty and loyalty. The household system produced a remarkably stable political-economic entity, connecting early North American resource extraction to larger trends in British imperialism. Through painstaking research, Stephen shines welcome light on the lives of these largely overlooked individuals. An essential book for labor historians, *Masters and Servants* will appeal to scholars of early modern Britain, the North American fur trade, Western social history, business history, and anyone intrigued by the reach of the HBC. "Blacksmiths, bookkeepers, loggers, tanners, coopers, cooks, sail-makers, interpreters, surveyors, clergy, the list goes on as Stephen marches us through the lives of the early Hudson's Bay worker." —The Ormsby Review "Overall, the book reflects the work of a historian comfortable with the hard work of archival research and with an eye for detail and insightful quotations. In many respects, it does for Hudson's Bay Company employees what Carolyn Podruchny's *Making the Voyageur World* did for employees of the Montreal-based fur trade companies in recreating their values, worldview, and distinctive work environment." —Michael Payne, *Prairie History*

masters in economic history: Masters and Journeymen C.R. Dobson, 2024-10-21 *Masters and Journeymen* (1980) examines eighteenth-century trade unionism through nearly four hundred labour disputes in Britain between 1717 and 1800. It uses a series of primary materials - rule books, minutes and written agreements - to identify the elements of an 'industrial relations system' half a century before the Industrial Revolution. There are detailed accounts of several strikes in London and the provinces and much new documentation. The book concludes with a reinterpretation of the role of the state in eighteenth-century labour relations and throws new light on the origins of the Combination Acts.

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other social science departments (such as departments of politics). Along the way the reader will learn about the worldwide student movement seeking greater pluralism in economics, encounter some dramatic case studies in intellectual suppression, gain a fuller sense of the nature of contemporary economics and explore the relationship between economics and other social sciences. This book is of interest to any social scientist, particularly those with interests in economics and politics.

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masters in economic history: Economic and Financial Modeling with Mathematica® Hal R. Varian, 2013-11-21 Mathematica is a computer program (software) for doing symbolic, numeric and graphical analysis of mathematical problems. In the hands of economists, financial analysts and other professionals in econometrics and the quantitative sector of economic and financial modeling, it can be an invaluable tool for modeling and simulation on a large number of issues and problems, besides easily grinding out numbers, doing statistical estimations and rendering graphical plots and visuals. Mathematica enables these individuals to do all of this in a unified environment. This book's main use is that of an applications handbook. Modeling in Economics and Finance with Mathematica is a compilation of contributed papers prepared by experienced, hands on users of the Mathematica program. They come from a broad spectrum of Mathematica devotees in the econometric and financial/investment community on both the professional and academic fronts. Each paper provides a set of tools and examples of Mathematica in action. These tools will also be made accessible to users via a DOS-based floppy disk which will contain Mathematica Notebooks and Packages, and be packaged with the book.

masters in economic history: *Slavery, Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution* Maxine Berg, Pat Hudson, 2023-05-25 The role of slavery in driving Britain's economic development is often debated, but seldom given a central place. In their remarkable new book, Maxine Berg and Pat Hudson 'follow the money' to document in revealing detail the role of slavery in the making of Britain's industrial revolution. Slavery was not just a source of wealth for a narrow circle of slave owners who built grand country houses and filled them with luxuries. The forces set in motion by the slave and plantation trades seeped into almost every aspect of the economy and society. In textile mills, iron and copper smelting, steam power, and financial institutions, slavery played a crucial part. Things we might think far removed from the taint of slavery, such as eighteenth-century fashions for indigo-patterned cloth, sweet tea, snuff boxes, mahogany furniture, ceramics and silverware, were intimately connected. Even London's role as a centre for global finance was partly determined by the slave trade as insurance, financial trading and mortgage markets were developed in the City to promote distant and risky investments in enslaved people. The result is a bold and unflinching account of how Britain became a global superpower, and how the legacy of slavery persists. Acknowledging Britain's role in slavery is not just about toppling statues and renaming streets. We urgently need to come to terms with slavery's inextricable links with Western capitalism, and the ways in which many of us continue to benefit from slavery to this day.

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masters in economic history: *The Printing Art* Henry Lewis Johnson, 1913

masters in economic history: Master and Servant Law Christopher Frank, 2016-05-06 In recent years, social and legal historians have called into question the degree to which the labour that fuelled and sustained industrialization in England was actually 'free'. The corpus of statutes known as master and servant law has been a focal point of interest: throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, at the behest of employers, mine owners, and manufacturers, Parliament regularly supplemented and updated the provisions of these statutes with new legislation which contained increasingly harsh sanctions for workers who left work, performed it poorly, or committed acts of misbehaviour. The statutes were characterized by a double standard of sanctions, which treated workers' breach of contract as a criminal offence, but offered only civil remedies for the broken promises of employers. Surprisingly little scholarship has looked into resistance to the Master and Servant laws. This book examines the tactics, rhetoric and consequences of a sustained legal and political campaign by English and Welsh trade unions, Chartists, and a few radical solicitors against the penal sanctions of employment law during the mid-nineteenth century. By bringing together historical narratives that are all too frequently examined in isolation, Christopher Frank is able to draw new conclusions about the development of the English legal system, trade unionism and popular politics of the period. The author demonstrates how the use of imprisonment for breach of a labour contract under master and servant law, and its enforcement by local magistrates, played a significant role in shaping labour markets, disciplining workers and combating industrial action in many regions of England and Wales, and further into the British Empire. By combining social and legal history the book reveals the complex relationship between parliamentary legislation, its interpretation by the high courts, and its enforcement by local officials. This work marks an important contribution to legal

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masters in economic history: Guilds, Price Formation and Market Structures in Byzantium George C. Maniatis, 2024-12-11 The essays reproduced in this volume analyze the guild system in Byzantium and the West, and investigate for the first time the process of price formation in Byzantium. Innovative approaches are devised to fathom the conceptual basis, institutional parameters, market organization and structures, and market dynamics which shaped price determination. Correlatively, it is persuasively established that the Byzantine guilds, unlike their counterparts in the West, did not fix prices through concerted action as they did not command the requisite market power or institutional support. Fundamentally, these studies argue that the Byzantine economy was market-oriented as the state was quite circumspect in its interventions and pursued market-based policies within a regulatory framework aimed to thwart unfair business practices, protect the consumer, curb the concentration of economic power, and prevent the emergence of monopolistic market structures. The competitive process and market mechanism were buttressed by a panoply of legal and other institutional arrangements aimed to frustrate anti-competitive practices and ensure correct business conduct --- to maintain a level playing field. Even in guild-organized sectors, the authorities did not interfere with the firms' decision-making process relying on the dynamic interaction of market forces and letting the market mechanism take

hold. The long-standing notion of a command and control economy is indefensible.

masters in economic history: Printing Art , 1913

masters in economic history: *Government, Imperialism and Nationalism in China* Chihyun Chang, 2013-08-06 The Chinese Maritime Customs Service, which was led by British staff, is often seen as one of the key agents of Western imperialism in China, the customs revenue being one of the major sources of Chinese government income but a source much of which was pledged to Western banks as the collateral for, and interests payments on, massive loans. This book, however, based on extensive original research, considers the lower level staff of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, and shows how the Chinese government, struggling to master Western expertise in many areas, pursued a deliberate policy of encouraging lower level staff to learn from their Western superiors with a view to eventually supplanting them, a policy which was successfully carried out. The book thereby demonstrates that Chinese engagement with Western imperialists was in fact an essential part of Chinese national state-building, and that what looked like a key branch of Chinese government delegated to foreigners was in fact very much under Chinese government control.

masters in economic history: *Conflict and Cooperation* A. Allan Schmid, 2008-04-15 Allan Schmid's innovative text, *Conflict and Cooperation: Institutional and Behavioral Economics*, investigates the rules of the game, how institutions--both formal and informal--affect these rules, and how these rules are changed to serve competing interests. This text addresses both formal and informal institutions and the impact of alternative institutions, as well as institutional change and evolution. With its broad applications and numerous practice and discussion questions, this book will be appealing not only to students of economics, but also to those studying sociology, law, and political science. Addresses formal and informal institutions, the impact of alternative institutions, and institutional change and evolution. Presents a framework open to changing preferences, bounded rationality, and evolution. Explains how to form empirically testable hypotheses using experiments, case studies, and econometrics. Includes numerous practice and discussion questions.

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