

BOSTON COLLEGE GRADUATE ADMISSION INFORMATION FOR PhD PROGRAM IN ECONOMICS

We hope this information will help you when you are trying to make plans for your future studies.

The admissions process works in this way, as the application deadline of January 2nd nears, the Admissions Committee in the Department begins to review all applications. We receive about 500 applications, accept up to 10% and end up with an incoming class of about 10-15 students. Applications are reviewed as in a pool, i.e., decisions are made by taking all the applications for that year and comparing them. Each candidate's application is reviewed in its entirety. All material is examined and considered: transcripts, recommendation letters, statement of purpose and GRE scores (the GRE is required, general test only; the subject test is not required). Applications without GRE scores will be considered incomplete and decisions for acceptance will not be made without GRE scores. We accept only original score reports for the GRE & TOEFL** or reported directly to us electronically from ETS. Please remember to enter the Boston College School Code 3083 to ensure GSAS receives your score report.

A strong training in mathematics is essential to be successful in our program. The minimum recommended courses are: three calculus courses, courses in linear and matrix algebra, a course in real analysis, and, a "real" statistics course taught in a Math Department and not as a social science course. The committee has found that achieving a score of at least 166 in the quantitative exam in the GRE is beneficial for success in the program (the accepted applicants' average score is 166) and this is considered of prime importance in the evaluation of applications.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences requires students who speak a native language other than English to provide evidence of English proficiency through the TOEFL and IELTS. A score of 100 or higher on the TOEFL iBT test or 7.0 or higher on the IELTS test is required. TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid from exams taken a maximum of two years prior to application deadline of January 2nd. Remember to enter the Boston College School Code 3083 when taking the TOEFL exam to ensure GSAS receives your score report. If submitting the IELTS score report, please send results to the GSAS Admissions Office or designate GSAS as your score report recipient.**

If you are presently employed, we recommend requesting letters from one or preferably two professors with whom you've studied in the past, particularly a math professor. Work experience is given no formal weight in evaluating an applicant's chance for admission. Recommendation letters from employers tend to be flattering but uninformative.

Chances for acceptance depend on the quality of the applicant pool for any given year. Accepted students are offered funding for five years consisting of a stipend and tuition remission. Continued funding year to year is dependent upon students achieving certain

academic benchmarks for each year in the program. There are no forms to fill out and there is no special aid program for international students. Please see:

There is a financial consideration involved for international students. Each year there is a specific amount of funds which an international student must certify that he/she has to be able to live in this area of the United States; the amounts granted in the awards of assistantships and/or tuition remission sometimes do not equal this requirement. Students are required to make up the difference with funds from their own resources. Please see: <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/graduate/admission/international-applicants.html>

If you are accepted into the program, the visa process cannot be initiated until the financial requirement has been satisfied. The Office of International Students and Scholars (Tel. 617-552-8005; e-mail: bcis@bc.edu) make all decisions on the issuance of visas. Please communicate directly with them concerning visa matters.

Some important things to note:

- Only complete applications will be considered.
- Please understand that we cannot advise you on your chances of admission, that depends entirely on the applicant pool which changes from year to year.
- We accept students for entry in September only, not January.
- There is no on-campus housing for graduate students. The Boston College Housing Office of Residential Life provides information for off-campus housing, please see: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/reslife/aboutus.html/>
- Please contact the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/gsas/admission/> for the on-line application. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences collects all admission materials; please contact them at: gsasinfo@bc.edu if you have any questions regarding your application materials.

Thank you for your interest in Boston College and we wish you the best of luck with your plans for the future. You can find additional information about the Ph.D. program from the following link: <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/departments/economics/graduate.html>

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****Hard copy supporting materials for the admission application such as official transcripts, official copies of the GRE, TOEFL, IELTS and recommendation letters may be mailed to the following address:**

Boston College
The Graduate School at the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences
Gasson Hall 108
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467