

# Graduate Connection

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September 2021

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## Graduate Student Handbook

The Department's *Graduate Student Handbook* containing the Department's policies and degree requirements is reissued each summer. Find it under [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) on our website.

### Welcome to our First-Year Students!

Welcome. We hope that your years with us are productive and fulfilling. Please take the opportunity to meet other graduate students and the faculty. A good way of doing this is at the TGIF event held most Fridays at 5:00PM in the light court (room 3322).

This newsletter is published three times a year about September 1, December 1, and March 1. It contains department news, descriptions of field courses available in the following quarter, listings of special events, and reminders of various administrative deadlines.

## News

### Faculty Changes

We are welcoming a large number of new faculty this year.

Econometrician, and alum, **Federico Bugni** has joined us from Duke University. He is in room 3423.

**Walker Hanlon** joins us from NYU. He has wide ranging interests in economic history and other fields. He is in 3323.

**Sidonia McKenzie** joins the teaching-track faculty following her PhD at Kansas State University. Her research interests are in labor economics and macroeconomics. You can find her in room 3485.

**Silvia Vannutelli** is an applied microeconomist who has just completed her PhD at Boston University. She will be in room 3445.

**Elisa Jácome** has research interests in labor economics and public economics. She just completed her PhD at Princeton University and will join the department in September 2022 after a postdoctoral year at Stanford University.

During the summer several faculty members moved offices:

- Ivan Canay to 3353
- Yingni Guo to 3363
- Robert Porter to 3337
- William Rogerson to 3351
- Scott Ogawa to 3373
- Burt Weisbrod to 3463

On leave this year away from Evanston are **Mar Reguant** and **Marti Mestieri** in Barcelona, **Vivek Bhattacharya** at Princeton University and **Piotr Dworzak** at Stanford University.

### Staff Changes

**Christy Andersen** has moved to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. We are recruiting for her successor and hope to have some good news shortly.

### Start of Year Reception

Our start-of-year reception for faculty, staff and graduate students has a new time and location. It is on

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Friday afternoon October 1 from 4PM to 6PM in White Auditorium on the second floor of our building. Our traditional awards will be handed out. See details in the "Events" section.

### *Visitors and Postdocs*

Faculty visitors this year include theorist **Christoph Carnehl** from Bocconi University who is here for the year. Macroeconomist and public finance theorist **Carlos da Costa** from FGV EPGE Brazilian School of Economics and Finance in Rio de Janeiro is also here for the year.

Visiting us for the Fall Quarter is **Sebastian Fleitas** from the University of Leuven who has wide ranging interests including the economics of healthcare.

We have two postdocs who are here for the entire academic year. Economic historian **Sebastian Ottinger**, who got his PhD from UCLA, is a postdoc in the Center for Economic History. Development economist **Sarah Deschênes** who received her PhD from the Paris School of Economics is with us for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

Look for updates on visitors in Winter and Spring Quarters in the December and March editions of the *Graduate Connection*.

### *Graduate Studies Committee*

The Graduate Studies Committee is a forum for feedback from graduate students to the faculty on the graduate curriculum, programming, and administrative processes. It meets each quarter.

There are three student representatives:

- A 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- A 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year

Nominations for the coming year, including self-nominations are due at [this link](#) by September 10. If

necessary, online elections are on September 13-17.

The other members of the committee are DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi** as chair, **Lori Beaman** and **Giorgio Primiceri** (Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions), **Alessandro Pavan** (Director of Graduate Placement), **Ian Savage** (Associate Chair), **Michelle Obuhanich** (Business Administrator), and **Alison Stoute** (Graduate Program Manager).

Students are encouraged to share concerns and suggestions with their representatives.

### *Diversity Committee*

The Diversity Committee is a departmental committee chaired by **Lori Beaman** with faculty, staff, and PhD student members. The committee leads diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in faculty and staff hiring, PhD program admissions, and our undergraduate program. The committee seeks feedback from graduate students on their experiences in the PhD program and as a teaching assistant. It also seeks ideas for DEI programming.

Please reach out to Professor Beaman or **Eilidh Geddes** and **Paul Kim** the graduate student representatives.

### *Department Leadership*

The department's leadership team is unchanged:

**Joseph Ferrie**: Department Chair

**Ian Savage**: Associate Chair

**Marciano Siniscalchi**: Director of Graduate Studies

**Lori Beaman** and **Giorgio Primiceri**: Co-Directors of Graduate Admissions

**Alessandro Pavan**: Director of Graduate Placement

**Robert Gordon**: Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee

**Mark Witte**: Director of Undergraduate Studies

**Ivan Canay**: Chair of the Junior Recruiting Committee

## For Your Information

### *Help and Support*

A listing of help and support resources, both within the department and within the university, is in the [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) part of our website. If you have any suggestions for additional topics, please tell **Alison Stoute**.

### *Graduate Student Opportunities Website*

The Department has a web page for graduate students with information on:

- Conferences
- Resources at NU
- Fellowships
- Programming at NU
- Events outside NU
- Counseling Services (CAPS)
- Job Opportunities

See the weekly update e-mail or visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/nuecon-grad-opportunities/home>

### *For Our First-year Students*

Information on goals for first-year students, with answers to many frequently asked questions, is posted on our web site in the [Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals](#) section.

The Graduate School has a language testing regime for Teaching Assistantship (TA) eligibility. TAs are the primary form of financial support in years two through four. Please place a high priority on making sure that you meet the language requirement. In the past, otherwise qualified students have run into funding difficulties because they did not meet the language requirement.

### *For Those on the Job Market*

The department's program to assist students on the job market has already started. Make sure you have a copy of our *Job Market Handbook* that contains a timeline of events and deadlines. If you are planning on going on the market and you have not been in contact with Director of Graduate Placement **Alessandro Pavan**, please get in contact with him and **Alison Stoute** immediately.

## **Events**

### *Schwartz Lecture*

The annual lecture organized by the Kellogg School of Management to honor the late Nancy Schwartz is at 5PM on Thursday September 9 on Zoom. This year's lecturer is **Avinash Dixit** of Princeton University. His virtual talk is titled "Community-Based Organizations to Combat Corruption." Registration required at [this link](#).

### *Teaching Assistant Training*

Each year the Searle Center for Advancing Learning & Teaching organizes training for new Teaching Assistants. This year it is virtual on Thursday and Friday, September 16 and 17. All TAs teaching for the first time this year, are required to attend. The training is from 10:00AM to 2:00PM each day. In addition to general sessions, there are sessions designed for TAs from the Economics Department. These are led by **Jason Premo**, an accomplished TA in the Department. You do need to register for the conference. Go to the [Searle Center website](#) for more information and to register.

### *Start-of-Year Get Together*

Faculty, staff, graduate students, are invited to a welcome back reception. This year we have moved it

to Friday afternoon from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. The date is Friday, October 1 in White Auditorium on the second floor of our building. Heavy appetizers and drinks will be served.

We will award the Department's Distinguished Teaching Assistant awards, the Bies Essay awards, and the Eisner Fellowship. We will recognize both the 2020 and 2021 winners.

E-mail invitations have been sent out. Book your spot through [this form](#).

### *Center for Economic History Conference*

On Friday December 3, the CEH will host a one-day virtual conference on *methodological advances in the extraction and analysis of historical data*. More information at [this website](#).

## **Teaching**

### *This Year's Course Offerings*

The schedule for graduate courses for the coming year is shown on the [Graduate > Class Schedules](#) page of our web site, along with the timings for each quarter.

### *Maintaining Full-time Status*

You must be registered for at least three course credits each quarter to be considered a full-time student.

First year students are automatically full time in Fall, Winter and Spring as they are registered for 410, 411 and 480.

For students in years 2 and 3 in Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters, between 1 and 3 units of Economics 590 can be used to supplement regular course registrations.

Students in years 4 and above should register for TGS 500 (or TGS 512 in certain circumstances) which is considered a full-time registration.

Students in all years should register for TGS 500 in summer quarter.

### *Registering for Research Workshops*

While it is not part of the formal degree requirements, attending research seminars is probably one of the most valuable aspects of your graduate education. You get to meet leaders in each field and observe the cutting edge of new research. We suggest that starting in your second year, students should regularly attend one or more of our workshop series. As a signaling and commitment device you can formally register for one or more of these series. These registrations are offered in Fall and Spring Quarters. Look for course numbers between Econ 515 and 580.

Students interested in the economics of development should join students interested in applied microeconomics in registering for Econ 535. A separate registration in development should be available starting in Spring 2022.

### *Incomplete Grades*

Excessive incomplete grades result in you being placed on probation by TGS. We have a policy to avoid the problem of excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our [web site](#) for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

### *This Quarter's Course Descriptions*

#### *Advice on Field Sequences*

The Department has guidance on [acceptable field course sequences](#). These are posted in the Graduate > Degree Requirements and Goals > Second and Third Year Goals section of our website.

**Department of Economics Classes**

**Economics 412-1**

Economic Theory and Methods  
 Professor Liang  
 TTh 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301

*Information, Learning, and Data.*

The first half covers foundational papers and methods related to information and learning. The second half covers new applied perspectives on these topics, with a focus on modeling challenges related to "big data" and its social and economic consequences.

Evaluation is based on two problem sets, an in-class presentation, and a research proposal.

**Economics 414-1**

Economics of Information  
 Professor Wolinsky  
 MW 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This course surveys some of the central topics in the economics of information. Among them are formal descriptions of information and measures of informativeness, implementation / mechanism design, search, and issues concerning price formation, the allocation of resources and information aggregation by markets with imperfect information. The course presents both foundational models and ideas and more applied ones.

**Economics 416-1**

Advanced Macroeconomics  
 Professor Lorenzoni  
 TTh 1:30-3:20 KGH 3301

The course covers models that emphasize the role of heterogeneity in the economy, especially focusing on how it affects consumer spending. It also covers different ways of introducing frictions in financial markets and the role of financial intermediaries in the economy (incomplete markets, default, limited

enforcement, and asymmetric information). Finally, the course covers government debt and the optimal conduct of fiscal policy in a low interest rate world.

**Economics 425-1**

Development Economics  
 Professor Jayachandran  
 MW 3:30-5:20 KGH 3301 (M)  
 KGH 1410 (W)

An introduction to microeconomic topics in development, with an emphasis on human capital and political economy, plus empirical methods. Topics include health, education, gender inequality, corruption, property rights, and democracy.

Evaluation is based on class participation, referee reports, an in-class presentation, and short research proposals.

**Economics 450-1**

Industrial Organization  
 Professors Illanes / Porter  
 MW 1:30-3:20 KGH 1410

This course is an introduction to industrial organization theory and empirical analysis. The first few weeks are devoted to theory. Topics include static and dynamic oligopolistic price / quantity competition, entry, collusion and antitrust.

The remainder of the course is devoted to empirical analysis. Topics include tests of market power and collusion, estimation of production functions, estimation of demand functions, and empirical studies of differentiated products industries.

Evaluation is based on a number of problem sets and a final exam.

**Economics 481-1**

Advanced Econometrics  
 Professor Horowitz  
 MW 5:30-7:20pm KGH 1410

*High-Dimensional Estimation and Inference.* Many data sets used in empirical economics contain hundreds or thousands of variables that are potentially relevant to the phenomenon being investigated. For example, the NLSY contains hundreds of variables that may be related to an individual's wage. In some applications, the number of potentially relevant variables exceeds the sample size. An empirical researcher must decide which variables are and are not relevant to the application. The LASSO is one method for doing this, but it is not the only method and is not necessarily the best one. This course describes methods for selecting relevant variables (model selection) and carrying out inference about the parameters of the selected model (e.g., forming confidence intervals).

Topics include penalized estimation methods for model selection, computational methods for penalized estimation, empirical methods for selecting tuning parameters, high-dimensional instrumental variables estimation, inference with penalized estimators, and high-dimensional causal inference.

Evaluation is based on two or three problem sets, weekly one-page memos, and a paper. In addition, each registered student must give a presentation to the class. There are no examinations.

*Students who took Econ 481-1 previously and wish to take this course for credit, should register for an independent study with Prof Horowitz as Econ 499-0-38.*

**Economics 482**

Applied Time-Series Econometrics  
Professor Primiceri  
TTh 11:00-12:50 KGH 1410

This course is on empirical macroeconomics, with a focus on Bayesian methods in macro models. The emphasis is motivated by the increased popularity of this methodology, which is gradually becoming the dominant paradigm in macro/time-series empirical work. Topics include methods for prediction with big data and large information sets, reduced-form, and structural Vector Autoregressions (VARs), state-space models, time-varying parameters and stochastic volatility models, estimation of linear and nonlinear dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models, model comparison and model choice.

Evaluation is based on homework assignments, and a final presentation of a recently published paper or a preliminary research project.

**Economics 483**

Applied Microeconometrics  
Professor Bugni  
TTh 9:00-10:50 KGH 3301

This course covers classical methods and references in nonparametric and semiparametric econometrics. The nonparametric portion of the course studies the nonparametric estimation of a density, the mean regression model, and the additive separable mean regression model. The course considers both kernel and sieve estimation methods. The results in nonparametric estimation are the building block for semiparametric estimation. The semiparametric portion of the course studies the partially linear model, the semiparametric single-index model, and the binary response model.

Evaluation is based on problem sets and a final exam.

*Students who took Econ 483 last Fall with Prof. Manski and wish to take*

*this course for credit, should register for an independent study with Prof Bugni as Econ 499-0-08.*

**Other Departments' Classes**

*See the Department's field sequence rules before registering for any of these classes.*

**Finance 584**

Introduction to Econometrics  
Professor Todorov

This is a Kellogg first-year course and is not appropriate as an Economics field course.

**Finance 585-1**

Asset Pricing I  
Professor Skiadas  
W 9-10:30, Th 2-3:30 KGH 4320

An introduction to competitive asset pricing theory. Topics include arbitrage pricing, mean-variance analysis, competitive equilibrium, and optimal consumption / portfolio choice. There is equal emphasis on sound economics and well-motivated methodology, which includes an introduction to continuous-time methods of arbitrage pricing and dynamic consumption and portfolio choice with recursive utility.

There is an online textbook available from the class website. Evaluation is by weekly problem sets.

**Finance 586-1**

Corporate Finance I  
Professor Milbradt  
M 3:30-7:20 KGH 4302

This an introduction to corporate finance theory and the connection of financial frictions to larger macro settings. Some continuous time tools are used, for which a primer is provided in the first lectures.

The starting point is the irrelevance of capital structure result of the Modigliani-Miller (MM) theorem. The

course then looks at a series of departures from MM such as moral hazard, adverse selection, debt overhang, bankruptcy costs, illiquid markets, bank runs, intermediation, safe assets, and debt maturity.

Evaluation is based on problem sets, a referee report and a final exam. While there is no primary textbook, some of the static models are based on Jean Tirole's *The Theory of Corporate Finance* (Princeton U.P., 2006).

**MECS 540-1**

Political Economy I  
Professor Persico  
T 12:00-3:00 KGH 4301

*Budget Deficits: A Political Economy View.* This class reviews the economic and political-economic literature on budget deficits. It covers theoretical and empirical papers on topics including economic and politico-economic models of government debt; the impact of debt on growth; the effect of fiscal rules; and sovereign defaults. The emphasis is on recent developments in the field. The course is designed to be complementary with Public Finance and Macroeconomics.

Evaluation is by written assignments and class participation.

**MECS 549-1**

Technology & Innovation  
Professor Spulber  
T 10:00-12:50 KGH 4273

This course introduces the field of innovation economics. Topics include innovation competition, platforms and two-sided markets, adoption and diffusion of technology, research and development (R&D), incentives for invention and innovation, R&D contests and tournaments, markets for technology, intellectual property (IP) licensing (patents, copyrights, and trademarks), and entrepreneurship. The course also considers antitrust

and public policy implications of technology and innovation.

Evaluation is based on writing a short research paper. The paper can be empirical or theoretical and in the style of the student's field and department. The instructor will provide help, guidance, and suggestions on how to choose a topic and prepare the short paper.

**MECS 550-1**

Economic Theory: Decision Theory

Professor Klibanoff

W 5:30-8:30

KGH 4301

This is a course on decision theory and focuses mainly on theories of individual decision making under risk and uncertainty. The course begins with classical theories and their preference foundations. Then it explores a selection of topics that expand on the classical work in various directions and are nearer to the current research frontier. Topics covered vary depending on time and the interests of members of the class.

Evaluation is based on some problem sets, a prepared class presentation on a topic or paper from the literature, and participation in class discussion. A textbook useful for the first part of the course is *Notes on the Theory of Choice* by David M. Kreps (Westview Press, 1988).

**MECS 551-1**

Health Economics

Professor Dranove

TTh 12:05-1:25

KGH 4273

After an introduction to the institutions of healthcare markets, students read and discuss health economics research in the areas of medical R&D, as well as research at the intersection of health economics with organizational economics, information economics, industrial organization, and antitrust economics. Each class features a combination of lecture and student presentations of

seminal papers. Students are also introduced to a wide variety of healthcare data sources and begin work on an original empirical research project to be completed during the second course of the sequence.

Evaluation is based on the presentation of research papers, in-class discussions, a research proposal, and final exam.

*The second course in the sequence is Econ 436-2 with Professor Schnell in Winter Quarter.*

**MECS 560-1**

Static Optimization in Economics

Professor Chaves

T 3:00-6:00

KGH 4301

The course covers optimization techniques that arise in economic applications. The focus is on convex optimization, though it also discusses some techniques in monotone comparative statics. The first half introduces the theory of convex optimization, duality, and Karush Kuhn Tucker theory in Euclidean spaces, with some pointers to infinite-dimensional issues. The second half is comprised of applications to mechanism design, statistics, game theory, and finance, and a unit on monotone comparative statics.

The textbook is *Convex Optimization* by Boyd and Vandenberghe (Cambridge, UP, 2004) that is available free online. Evaluation is based on a midterm exam and a final exam.

**MECS 570-1**

Economics of Organizations

Professor Powell

Th 1:30-3:00

KGH 4273

+ another 90 minutes TBD

This course is an introduction to research in organizational economics, which can be succinctly described as the economics of managed relationships. This course focuses on theories of incentives, adaptation, and

firm boundaries, with the aim of understanding how firm practices affect and are affected by the broader economy. The main practical emphasis is on developing applied modeling skills.

Evaluation is by in-class presentations of recent papers.

The required text is *The Handbook of Organizational Economics*, edited by Robert Gibbons and John Roberts, (Princeton U.P. 2013).

**COMP\_SCI 496-0-04**

Special Topics in Computer Science

Professor Hartline

TTh 9:30-10:50

TCH L160

*Mechanism Design.* The course studies the design of mechanisms to mediate the interaction of strategic individuals so that desirable outcomes are attained. A central theme is the tradeoff between optimality of an objective such as revenue or welfare and other desirable properties such as simplicity, robustness, computational tractability, and practicality. This tradeoff is quantified by a theory of approximation which measures the loss of performance of a simple, robust, and practical approximation mechanism in comparison to the complicated and delicate optimal mechanism. The class focuses on techniques for performing this analysis, economic conclusions, and consequences for practice.

Readings are from a draft textbook by the instructor which is available online. Evaluation is by several problem sets.

**Economics 501 Seminar**

This year the seminar is run by Professor Wolinsky in the Fall Quarter and Professor Pavan in the Spring Quarter. The random drawing of the order of student presentations was in the March *Graduate Connection*.

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**Presentation Boot Camp**

The quarter starts with a presentation bootcamp on:

- Tues Sept 21, 11-1:30 KGH 3301
- Wed Sept 22, 11-1, KGH 1410
- Thur Sept 23, 3-5, KGH 1410
- Fri Sept 24, 1-3, KGH 1410
- Wed Sept 29, 1:30-3:30, KGH 3301

See the e-mail from July 27 for full details.

**Fall Presentation Schedule**

The seminar is on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00AM to 11:50AM, and on a few Fridays from 2:00PM to 2:50PM, all in KGH 1410.

The specific dates are:

Week	Mon 11-12	Wed 11- 12	Fri 2-3
4-Oct	Matsuura	Salas	
11-Oct	Moreira Santana Freire	Zhu	Durazzo
18-Oct	Cai	Sciacovelli	
25-Oct	Lyu	Chiu	
1-Nov	Yehoshua-Sandak	Liu	Han, L.
8-Nov	Velez Salamanca	Evdokimova	Obradovic
15-Nov	Pellet	Decet	Ohi
22-Nov	Huerta	No Class	Thanksgiving
29-Nov	Yang	Han, J.	

Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible with the permission Professor Wolinsky.

**Administrative Requirements**

Full practical details are on our [web site](#). Note that:

1. Students must register for Econ 501 P/N in the Fall and Spring of their third year. Two pass grades are necessary to meet the Department's research paper requirement.
2. The signed [approval form](#) must be returned to the Graduate Program Manager within two weeks of the presentation or by the Friday of exam week, whichever is earlier. At least one of the faculty signing must hold a tenure-line appointment in the Economics Department.
3. A "pass grade" is issued based on the signed approval form and

satisfactory attendance (see below).

**Attendance Policy**

Economics 501 is designed to be an interaction between the presenter and peer students. It is mandatory that all third-year students attend every Economics 501 seminar. However, things do come up, so we have formalized how we treat excessive absence. "Excessive absence results in an "N" grade being assigned for the Spring Quarter registration. Excessive absence is defined as being absent from more than 10% of the combined number of sessions in the Fall and Spring Quarters. (For example, we expect 42 sessions this academic year, so absence from five or more sessions is considered excessive absence.) A student is considered absent irrespective of the reason or whether the instructor had been notified in advance. A student assigned an "N" grade for this reason can have the grade changed to a "P" by attending in the following Fall Quarter three sessions for each absence above 10%. (For example, a student missing seven sessions in a year with 42 sessions has to make up nine sessions, calculated as  $3 \times (7 - 4) = 9$ .)"

**Next Spring Quarter**

Specific dates for the Spring Quarter will appear in the March *Graduate Connection*. However, the (random) order of presentations was included in last March's edition and is: Sciacovelli, Giovanni  
Han, Jinwook  
Cai, Michael  
Liu, Yijun  
Velez Salamanca, Amilcar  
Decet, Devis  
Huerta, Diego  
Salas, Jose  
Yang, Jin  
Obradovic, Filip  
Matsuura, Ryunosuke  
Han, Luxi  
Evdokimova, Anastasiia  
Zhu, Hans

Moreira Santana Freire, Miguel  
Pellet, Thomas  
Ohi, Pedro  
Lyu, Kaman  
Yehoshua-Sandak, Tomer  
Durazzo, Felipe  
Chiu, Kwok Yan

**Formal Announcements**

**TA Periods in Residence**

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department does not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights to be able to fulfill your duties. This is especially true as you make travel arrangements for the coming holiday season. Failure to do so is grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the coming year the dates for which you should be in attendance are:

Fall: Tues Sept 21 - Mon Dec 13  
Winter: Mon Jan 3 - Mon March 21  
Spring: Tues March 29 - Mon June 13

**Graduate School Deadlines**

Deadlines for students wishing to receive a MA or PhD degree in December:

- October 22:** Application for a Degree.
- November 19:** Completed dissertation and all supporting materials for the PhD degree.
- December 3:** Final examination report and any change of grade forms for the MA degree.

**Human Subjects Research**

Even though we are a social science rather than a medical science,

it is possible that government restrictions on the privacy of human subjects may apply to your PhD dissertation. If you are collecting new data, or even using previously collected data, on individual identifiable people, then you may have to get prior approval for your research from Northwestern's Institutional Research Board. You should read the FAQ section of their web site to see if it applies to you:

<https://irb.northwestern.edu/>

The web site also includes information on the approval process if that is necessary.

### Students Working on NSF Grants

The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires all students supported by them to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This is accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS **Marciano Siniscalchi** leads the face-to-face part of the class.

## Funding

### Non-Departmental Funding

There are several funding awards that have application deadlines during the Fall Quarter. We have listed some on a page in the [Graduate > Funding](#) section of our web site. In particular, NSF Fellowships are available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents and have a deadline of late October.

### Funding for Research-Related Travel and Expenses

TGS has available funds to pay for research expenses and for travel to conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000. There is funding for two conferences during your time at Northwestern that covers up to a maximum of \$800 for each conference. Full details of the application procedures and links to application forms are on the [funding web page](#).

One of the necessary conditions for obtaining TGS conference support is the commitment of the department to contribute \$200 in matching funds to the expenses if a student's application is successful. The Department contributes \$100 from the Eisner account and requires that the other \$100 is covered by the student's advisor.

## Placement Report

Best wishes to our job market candidates from last year as they start their professional careers (academic appointments are in the economics department except where indicated):

**Bence Bardoczy** – Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors, Washington DC

**Ricardo Dahis** - Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Ana Danieli** – Amazon

**Egor Kozlov** – Amazon, Washington DC

**Isaac Loh** – University of North Carolina Wilmington

**Joe Long** - Research Improving People's Lives (RIPL)

**Utsav Manjeer** - Facebook

**Jane Olmstead-Rumsey** – London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom (with a postdoc year at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis)

**Francisco Poggi** – University of Mannheim, Germany

**Dmitry Sedov** – Uber

**Ludvig Sinander** – University of Oxford, United Kingdom (postdoc)  
**Quitze Valenzuela-Stookey** - University of California, Berkeley (with a postdoc year at Duke)

## Graduation Rates

The first table shows the percentage of each class making it to completion of first year classes, achieving candidacy (passing qualifying examinations), defending a dissertation prospectus, and completion of the Ph.D.

Class	First Year	Cand- idacy	Pros- pectus	Ph.D.
2005	88%	77%	73%	73%
2006	88%	73%	69%	65%
2007	96%	86%	79%	75%
2008	89%	85%	81%	74%
2009	100%	85%	77%	69%
2010	96%	81%	67%	63%
2011	90%	85%	75%	70%
2012	100%	90%	90%	90%
2013	97%	90%	83%	79%
2014	100%	88%	71%	71%
2015	95%	80%	75%	70%
2016	96%	77%	77%	na
2017	93%	87%	83%	na
2018	100%	88%	na	na
2019	91%	91%	na	na
2020	100%	100%	na	na

For the 254 students entering in the ten-year period between 2005 and 2014, on average 94% completed the first-year classes, 84% completed candidacy, 76% defended a dissertation prospectus and 73% received a doctoral degree. One of these students is still registered and may yet obtain a Ph.D.

The second table shows the time to completion for students entering between 2005 and 2014. Completion is based on the date that the degree was awarded, which may be up to a year from the time that the student left Northwestern to take up a job. The mean is 6.01 years, and the median is 6 years.



Duration	Number of Students
4 years	2
5 years	35
6 years	121
7 years	17
8 years	8
9 years	1
10 years	1

## Notes

### *Office Allocations*

The carrel selection process was completed in August. Students move between now and the start of classes. Check your email detailing how you can pick up metal keys and when the access lists for rooms with electronic access will be updated.

The carrel rooms contain small lockers that function in the same way as a hotel safe. Users select a 4 to 8 digit code. Instructions can be found on the [Graduate > Current Student Resources](#) page of our web site. First year students using the locker room (3486) must provide their own padlock(s).

### *Keys*

If you are having problems with your Wildcard accessing electronically-controlled exterior and wing-entry doors in the building, please see the Business Administrator. If you lose your Wildcard you need to contact the Wildcard office.

If you lose the key to your office door key or the key to your carrel drawers, we charge a \$15 replacement fee for each.

### *Printing and Copying*

Instructions for installing drivers on your computer to print to the copiers in room 3320 are posted in the [Graduate](#)

[> Current Student Resources](#) section of our website. Your usercode is your 7-digit NU student ID number. You can also use this code to make walk-up copies on the copy machines.

Graduate students are given an allowance of 500 copies/prints per calendar month. You are billed each month at 6¢ a page for any excess above 500.

You will be given a separate code for any prints / copies made as part of teaching assistant duties.

### *First Year Group Meeting Rooms*

There are six rooms assigned as group meeting rooms for first year students (3192, 3196, 3478, 3482, 3488 and 3494). We do not have a formal booking system in place for these rooms but could introduce one if problems emerge. Currently usage is based on first come – first served. It is inappropriate for groups to lay permanent claim to a specific room. Belongings should not be left in the rooms when not in use. Lockers are provided in room 3486 for storage.

### *E-mail Group Mailing Lists*

The Department has four group mailing lists. The group mailing list for graduate students is:

<econ-grads@northwestern.edu>.

There is also a list called

<econ-1stys@northwestern.edu>

which is for first year students. Do not mail to both lists as the second is a sub-set of the first.

Note that these are “closed” lists to avoid spam postings. To post to the lists you must use your @u.northwestern.edu e-mail address. Mail from other addresses (e.g., gmail) is automatically rejected.

### *Coffee Machine in Pantry*

There is a Nespresso coffee machine in the pantry that can either brew espresso or regular coffee. The

machine requires capsules that are sold in boxes of 50 for \$35.00 (70¢ a cup). The order form can be linked to from the [“Graduate > Current Student Resources”](#) page of our web site.

The form and a check payable to “Northwestern University” should be given to the staff in our main office. Orders are placed at noon on the first business day of the month.

### *Next Graduate Connection*

Volume 27, number 2 will be published on December 1.