

Welcome Fresher Economists!



Hi guys! My name is Jay Lee, and I am one of the 2 new Economics subject reps, the other being John Boreham in the 3rd year :) I am a rising 2nd year economist at Pembroke. As subject reps, John and I will be the points of contact for economics for the coming year, so if you have any queries about the course, contact us anytime. :)

Though I expect that you know quite a bit already about what the subject entails, I'll just quickly explain what it's like. As a fresher, you will be enrolled in Economics Tripos Part I. This means you will be taking 5 papers: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative Methods in Economics, Political and Sociological Aspects of Economics, and British Economic History. Unlike some other courses, Economics students don't have options to choose from until the 2nd and 3rd years.

The workload can be rather heavy, but personally, it wasn't as bad as I thought it'd be. First of all, there aren't that many lectures a week (about 10-11hrs), and they begin in the morning (mostly 9 or 10am) and always end before 1pm. You will also have 5 supervisions every 2 weeks, each lasting an hour, where you hand in the supervision work beforehand and go over your work with your supervisor. Since your lectures all end in the morning you have the entire afternoon to do supervision work, spend time with your friends, participate in club/society activities, and basically do whatever you feel like doing. The workload in the Michaelmas and Lent terms are pretty much the same, but in Easter term you will only have a few lectures given by special guest lecturers so that you can prepare for the exam. One tip here: some people think these special lectures are useless and don't go, but the topics covered in these sometimes come up in the macro exam.

I don't think much pre-term preparation is necessary, but if you want to, you can skim through the macro and micro text books listed below. You don't necessarily have to buy them, as they are readily available in the College Library and the Marshall Library of the economics department. Going over some statistics and vectors you learned in A-level/IB/AP might be useful as well.

In case you are worried about the workload, socializing, and general university life, I stress that you don't need to be. Everyone else is as eager as you are to make new friends, your lovely college parents will help you with any immediate questions, and there's no need to be intimidated by the academic aspects as long as you keep up with the supervision work. I personally had so much fun in my first year at Pembroke! :D

On a final note, I'd just like tell you to enjoy your summers to the fullest!

Best Wishes,

Jay

Textbooks

Microeconomics:

[Intermediate Microeconomics](#) by Hal R. Varian

Macroeconomics:

[Macroeconomics European Edition](#) by Mankiw and Taylor

Contacts

Jay: ejl41@cam.ac.uk and find me on facebook as "Jay EuiJung Lee"

John: jb648@cam.ac.uk