



Graduate Schemes for Economics Graduates

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WHAT

Graduate schemes are designed to allow fresh graduates to settle quickly into a professional environment. Employers provide training of relevant skills and hands on experience – either through an assignment-based rotation in different areas of the firm, or specific training a selected role within an established department. Training in career areas such as accountancy, management and finance is often accredited by a corresponding professional association. More often than not, employers provide support for you to attain said qualifications and practise professionally.

WHEN

For many of us, the goal of higher education at UEA is to achieve graduate employment. With the pessimistic outlook of the employment market, competition is at an all-time high. According to the UK Graduates Careers Survey, a record 42% of finalists made job applications almost a year before graduation – applying for vacancies at the beginning of their final year. With such competition, it will be prudent to take a more proactive approach in job seeking.

WHERE

Large employers usually offer graduate schemes and graduate training programmes. These programmes typically last for a year up to 2 years. Popular destinations of Economics graduates from UEA include Aviva, Grant Thornton and Pricewaterhouse Coopers. While most employers demand a minimum 2:1 academic requirement, at times even a UCAS points requirement, some graduate schemes are less demanding and require only a 2:2 or a pass.

HOW

Application deadlines for graduate schemes are conventionally between November and December for programmes starting the following September/October. As such, it is wise to do your employer research to prepare for your application during the first term of your final year. Applications are often reviewed on a rolling-basis, so it is always advisable to apply early.

Many large graduate employers use online application systems to sort prospective candidates for their schemes and training opportunities. Some firms, including Aviva and BNP Paribas, include several competency-based question with this round of assessment. The next round of assessment is often an online psychometric test – usually consisting of a numerical reasoning test and/or a verbal reasoning test, provided by talent acquisition organizations such as SHL. If your application is successful you may then be invited to an assessment centre or interview.