

# Pursuing a PhD in Economics

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Msc in Economics, 2018-2019

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# First Step: Self-Assessment

Question: should I pursue a PhD in Economics?

If your aim is a business career: No, get an MBA

If your aim is becoming a researcher: Yes

Research is done in universities, public institutions, consultancies

# Think it over

- \* Do you like economics?
- \* Do you read, books in econ, the FT, the Economist?
- \* Do you puzzle over economic phenomena?
- \* If you don't, are you sure you wanna spend 5 years on a PhD in econ?

# Difference with Undergrad

- \* In the beginning you'll keep studying for exams (1 or 2 years)
- \* Then: The Thesis
- \* Altogether different story
- \* Not a student anymore, you set your own problem
- \* But mind the constraints! (your supervisor)

# Skills

- \* Intellectual Curiosity
- \* Penchant for Math, logical thinking, solving riddles
- \* Creativity
- \* Hard work

# I said: Think it over

- \* Financing grad school is not the problem
- \* The problem is commitment and strenght
- \* Be prepared: when writing the thesis, time will come when the math won't work and your supervisor will say you paper sucks...
- \* Your ideas will be examined down to the smallest detail
- \* You'll be tempted to give up: the hell with it

# Time as a Phd Student

- \* 1-2 years of courses (exams)
- \* 3-4 years writing PhD thesis (supervisor, presentations to faculty)
- \* Job market (January-March last year): cut-throat competition for a job
- \* Move on, grow up, get a life!

For those who haven't left

We can start the presentation  
How to apply for a PhD in Econ



# Choose a Program

- \* Europe or US?
- \* Best programs in Europe: LSE, UCL, UPF
- \* Best programs in US: Harvard, MIT, Chicago, Berkeley, Stanford
- \* Competitive places

# How to get in

- \* GRE: verbal, quantitative, analytical writing
- \* Score 150-160: average
- \* Score 161-164: good
- \* Score 165+: very good
- \* Check out <http://www.ets.org/gre> for dates & info

# What Else?

- Grades in Undergrad School
- 2-3 Reference Letters
- Statement of Purpose: don't dismiss it as mumbo-jumbo

# Time to Apply

December/January of each year

# Useful Sites

- [phdportal.eu](http://phdportal.eu)
- [econphd.net](http://econphd.net)
- [Aea website](#)