

Everything you need to know about a PhD in Econ, and more

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Why a PhD in Economics?

- Long: 4-6 years, depending on places
- Tough: more exams, research even more stressfull, scholarships lower than the wage you could get with a MSc
- But worth it: learn to do [top research](#), access to more skilled jobs (through a centralized [job market](#)), long-run satisfaction (higher wages, recognition, more chances to make a difference)

Where

- US: international, more competitive, tougher
- Europe: international, very good programs (in UK might require an entry MSc program)
- Italy: less international, shorter (max 4 years), but many good exceptions

How

- GPA: do your best!
- GRE: expensive, not easy, have to practice, do it in time (and possibly more than once)
- Reference letters: get to know your professors, especially those with more international exposure
- Motivation letter: be sincere, not standard (but also not naïf)
- Some applications have a fee (especially in the US, 50/100\$)
- Some scholarships from outside: [Unicredit](#), [Bank of Italy](#)

Timing

- Have the GRE ready by September 2020 (i.e., prepare it in the Summer), then repeat it by November (if necessary)
- September-November: talk to (your most beloved) professors about your grades and motivation
- Whole package ready by November-December, then send everywhere
- Deadlines: for the US is December, for Europe January-February, for Italy February-May (but check the webpage of each institution)
- Responses: late Winter/early Spring

Alternative 1: Research Assistantships

- One year of work as a RA with a renowned research group (e.g., Angrist at MIT, Voth at Zurich, Saggio at UBC, [others](#))
- Pros: make an international experience, get to know good professors who might help you in the job search, or write a reference letter for a PhD/Internship/Job
- Again: requires good GPA + reference letters + motivation letter
- Deadlines: start in December-January, through the Spring

Alternative 2: Internships

- Preferential entry for jobs in many institutions (governments, international organizations, private sector, etc.)
- Again: requires good GPA + reference letters + motivation letter
- Deadlines: all year round

Questions!

- Am I worth a PhD? Apply, otherwise you don't know
- What if I am not sure? Still try, then decide (you might change mind, don't want any regret)
- Can you help me? Of course (reference letters, circulate vacancies, one-to-one talks)
- More info? Econjobrumors.com

THANKS!

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