UNSW ECONOMICS SOCIETY

CAREERS GUIDE 2025

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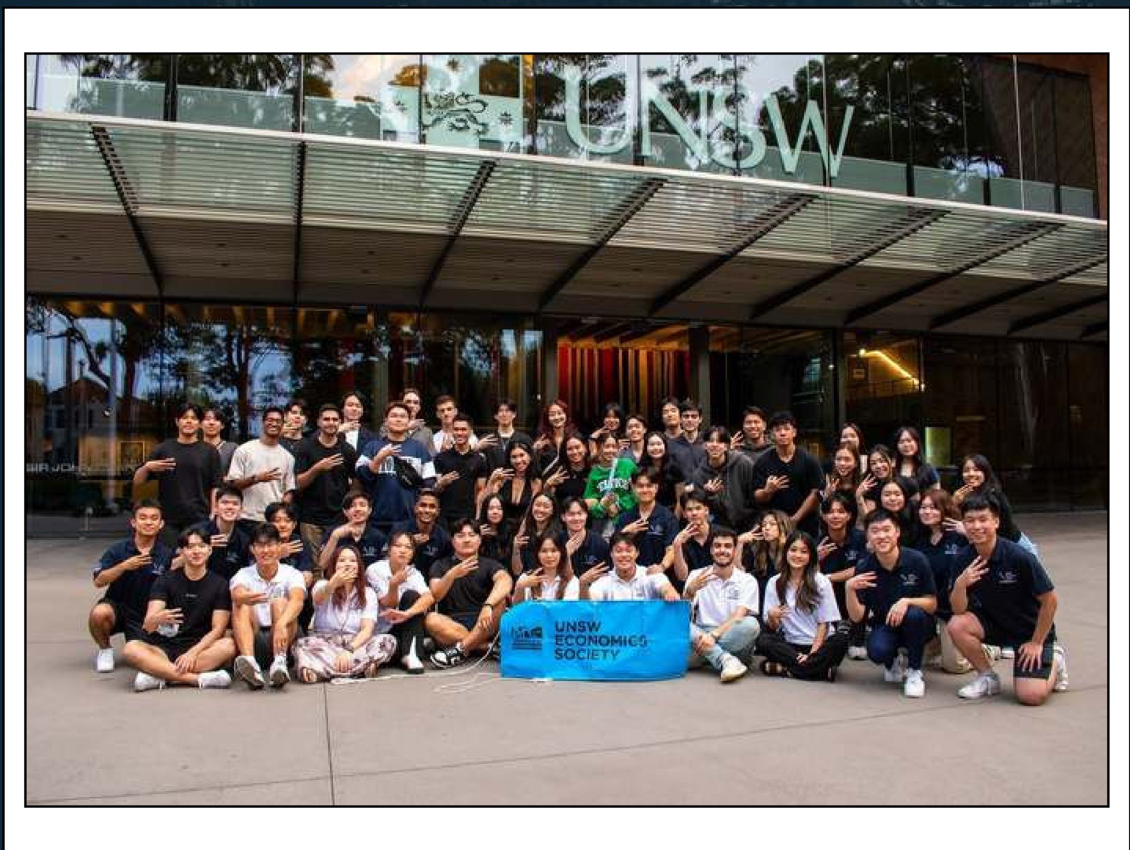


PRESIDENTS' ADDRESS

It is with great pleasure that we present you with the second edition of the UNSW Economics Society Careers guide. As we traverse through the ever-changing, economic landscape this edition builds on the foundation of our previous guide, reflecting our continued commitment to empowering you with the knowledge and resources needed to thrive in the world of economics.

The path from our studies to industry and the professional world can be super daunting journey, but it is also one that is full of exciting opportunities. We created this guide with the intention of it to become a go-to resource for you, providing insights into the various career paths available, practical advice from industry experts, and valuable tips on how to leverage your time at UNSW to build a successful future. Whether you are interested in the corporate sector, government, non-profit organizations, or further studies, the guide is here to help you explore the endless possibilities that await you out there.

As the constituent society of the School of Economics, our mission is to not only foster academic excellence but to also to equip our members with the skills, networks, and confidence to excel in their future careers. The second edition of this guide comes at a time when our community is more vibrant and diverse than ever before, and we are proud to showcase the breadth of opportunities available to you.

We would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the many individuals and organisations that have contributed to the release of this edition. Your support and expertise are what make this guide truly special, and we are grateful for your continued support.

To our members, we created this guide for YOU. Use this guide as a resource to help you navigate the transition from academia to professional industry. Remember that the UNSW Economics society will always be here to support you along the way. We look forward to seeing the impacts you will make on the vast world of economics.
Best of luck on your career endeavours and we hope to see you soon

Chelsea Ng
Co-President

Han Bao
Co-President

ABOUT ECOSOC

Established in 2006, the UNSW Economics Society (EcoSoc) is dedicated to enhancing the experience of students studying economics. Over the years, it has grown into Australia's leading non-profit student organisation for economics, providing a platform for students to engage with industry, expand their knowledge, and develop essential skills.

EcoSoc runs a range of initiatives designed to connect students with industry professionals, equip them with relevant economic insights, and strengthen both technical and soft skills through targeted workshops. By working closely with the UNSW School of Economics and industry representatives, we support students in their academic, personal, and professional growth throughout their university journey.

- Founded in 2006.
- 9 Sponsors & Partners in 2025.

UNDERGRADUATE TESTIMONIAL

Dr. Jonathan Lim

LECTURER/DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

UNSW Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ) Overview
The Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ) at UNSW is more than just a degree—it's a mindset that trains students to analyze complex economic issues, design effective policies, and critically evaluate outcomes. The program builds a strong foundation in core microeconomic and macroeconomic principles, equipping students with analytical tools to understand markets, guide policy decisions, and navigate global economic forces.

Foundational Courses: Microeconomics & Macroeconomics
<u>Microeconomics 1 (ECON1101):</u>
Students begin with this introductory course, learning to “think like an economist” by applying cost-benefit analysis and rational decision-making frameworks. The course covers the principles and consequences of rational choices made by individuals and firms in markets. By mastering these fundamentals, students gain insight into how decisions are made across industries under constraints of costs and benefits.

<u>Macroeconomics 1 (ECON1102):</u>
Alongside microeconomics, students are introduced to the broader forces shaping national and global economies. This course examines aggregate indicators like output, employment, inflation, and economic growth. Key topics include how issues such as unemployment and price stability are influenced by monetary and fiscal policy. Together, these two foundational courses establish the essential framework for economic thinking, underpinning further study and real-world policy analysis.

Developing Quantitative and Analytical Skills
Building on the core theory, the B.Econ program emphasizes quantitative skills that are vital for economic analysis:

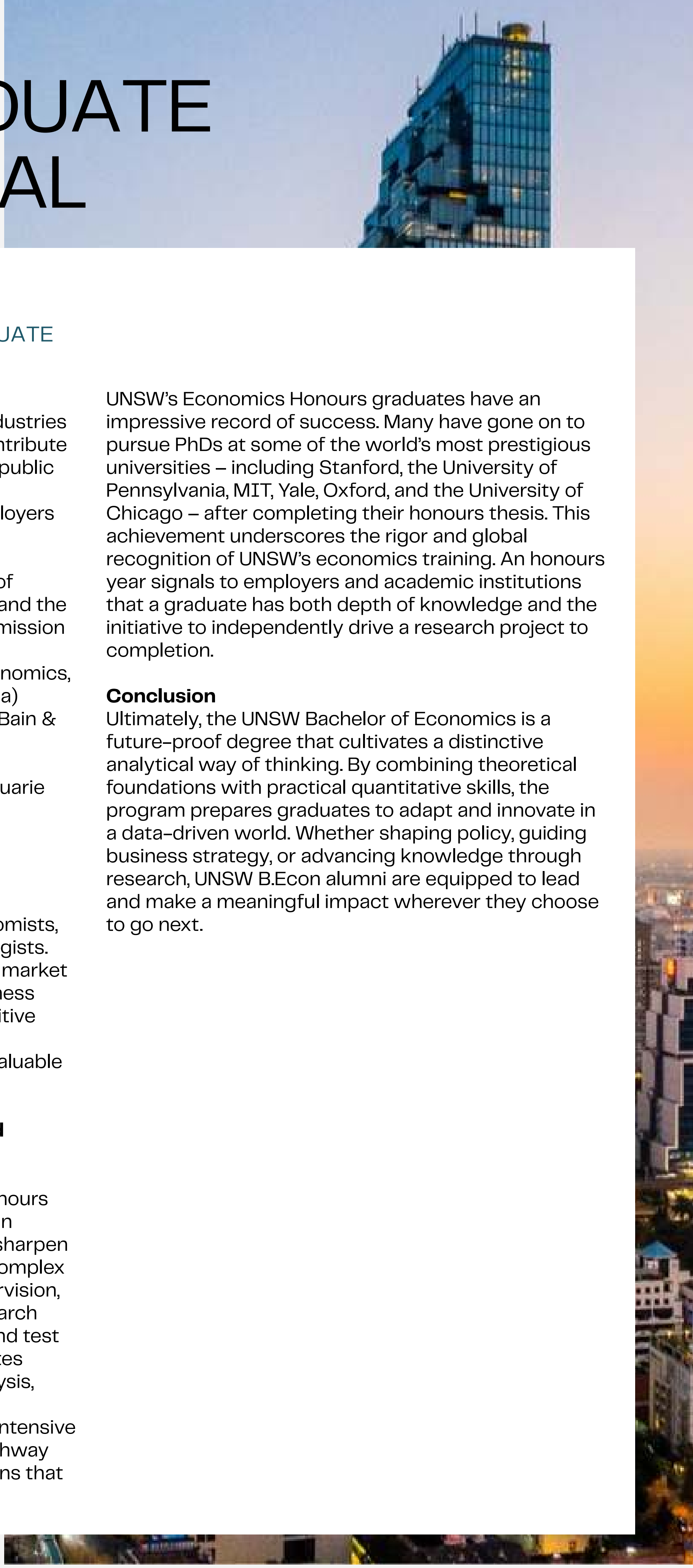
<u>Quantitative Analysis (ECON1202):</u>
This course develops students’ proficiency in the mathematical language of economics. It reinforces and extends the calculus and algebra skills needed to model economic behavior. ECON1202 lays the foundation for the more advanced math used in microeconomic analysis, covering concepts like multivariable calculus and matrices so that students become comfortable with the more complex “mathematical language” of economics.

<u>Business & Economic Statistics (ECON1203):</u>
In this course, students gain strong statistical literacy and data interpretation skills. They learn to collect, analyze, and draw conclusions from economic data—skills essential for evidence-based decision making. This introductory statistics course is comprehensive, giving students a solid base in probability, inference, and regression analysis that will flow into later econometrics courses.

Additionally, Economic Perspectives (ECON1401) broadens students’ understanding of the discipline. Rather than focusing on technical analysis, this course introduces influential economic thinkers and traces the evolution of economic thought over time. Students explore how economic ideas have shaped modern economics, appreciating the historical and philosophical context of the field. This perspective helps them see the “big picture” of how economic theories develop and why they matter, adding depth to their primarily quantitative training.

Diverse Career Paths for Economics Graduates
Many UNSW economics graduates launch their careers at major institutions like big corporations, central banks and government agencies. The diverse skill set acquired through UNSW’s B.Econ prepares graduates for a wide range of careers—many of which may not have the title “economist,” yet rely heavily on economic reasoning. Alumni excel in both public and private sectors, applying their analytical thinking to solve business problems, guide policy, and inform strategic decisions. They find opportunities in government, finance, consulting, and beyond, demonstrating that an economics background is both versatile and future-proof in an increasingly data-driven world.

UNDERGRADUATE TESTIMONIAL



Dr. Jonathan Lim

LECTURER/DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Where UNSW Economics Graduates Work:
Graduates have pursued roles in numerous industries and institutions. For example, many alumni contribute to policymaking and economic analysis in the public sector, or drive business strategy in corporate settings. As an example, some prominent employers and career paths include:

- Public Sector & Regulation: Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Commonwealth Treasury, and the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC)
- Economic Consulting: Deloitte Access Economics, KPMG Econtech, and Accenture (AlphaBeta)
- Management Consulting: Global firms like Bain & Company and McKinsey & Co.
- Banking and Finance: Major banks such as Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, and Macquarie Group
- Property & Urban Economics: Specialist consultancies like Jones Lang LaSalle and Macroplan Dimasi

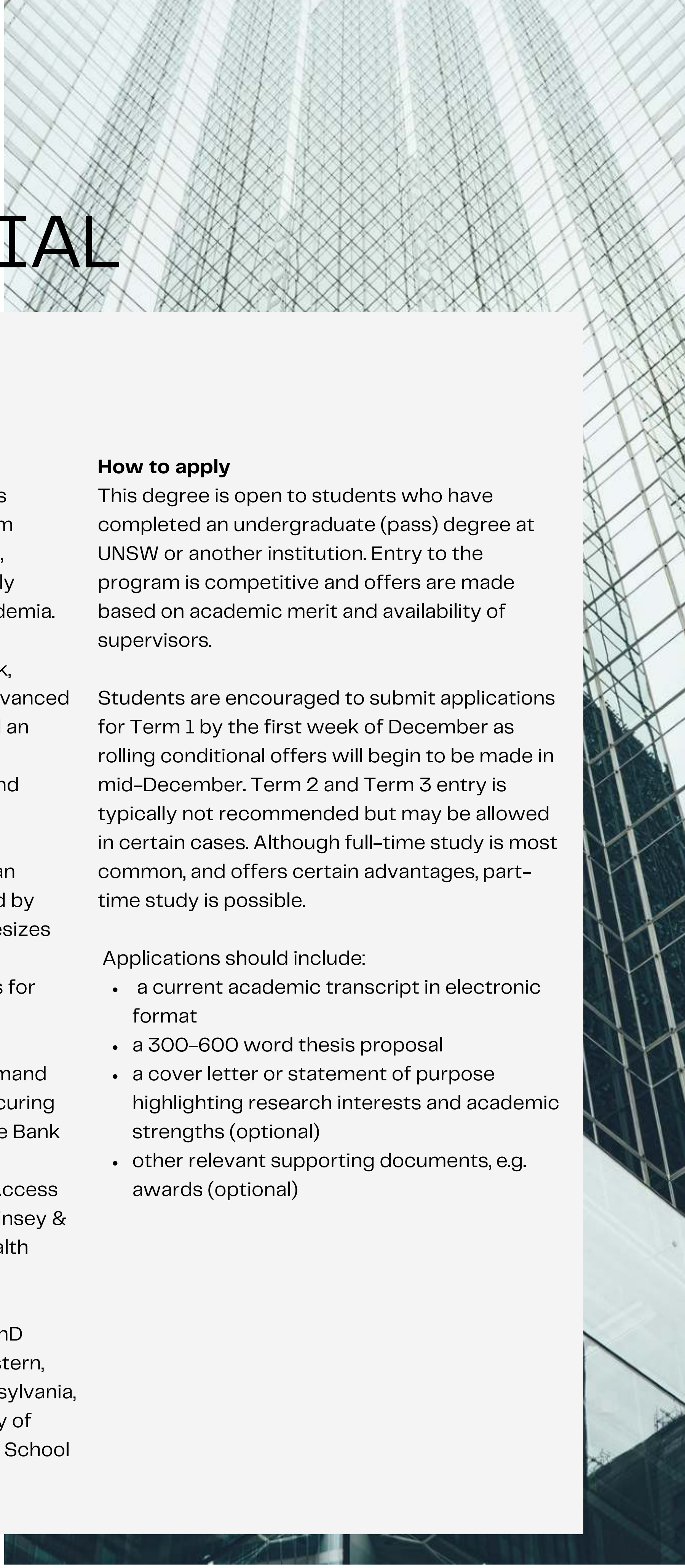
In these roles, graduates might work as economists, analysts, consultants, policy advisors, or strategists. They use their economics training to interpret market trends, evaluate policy impacts, optimize business operations, and address regulatory or competitive challenges. The problem-solving mindset and quantitative skills developed at UNSW prove valuable across all these fields.

Honours: A Stepping Stone to Research and Leadership
For students seeking deeper specialization, an Honours year offers a significant edge. The honours program involves advanced coursework and an independent research thesis, which together sharpen a student's ability to investigate and analyze complex economic problems. Under close faculty supervision, honours students learn how to formulate research questions, apply rigorous economic models, and test hypotheses with data. This experience simulates professional research or high-level policy analysis, refining skills in critical thinking and project management. Not only does honours provide intensive training, but it also often serves as a direct pathway into a PhD program or into elite analyst positions that demand strong research capabilities.

UNSW's Economics Honours graduates have an impressive record of success. Many have gone on to pursue PhDs at some of the world's most prestigious universities – including Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Yale, Oxford, and the University of Chicago – after completing their honours thesis. This achievement underscores the rigor and global recognition of UNSW's economics training. An honours year signals to employers and academic institutions that a graduate has both depth of knowledge and the initiative to independently drive a research project to completion.

Conclusion
Ultimately, the UNSW Bachelor of Economics is a future-proof degree that cultivates a distinctive analytical way of thinking. By combining theoretical foundations with practical quantitative skills, the program prepares graduates to adapt and innovate in a data-driven world. Whether shaping policy, guiding business strategy, or advancing knowledge through research, UNSW B.Econ alumni are equipped to lead and make a meaningful impact wherever they choose to go next.

HONOURS TESTIMONIAL



Dr. Sarah Walker
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Overview
The UNSW School of Economics Honours Program is an intensive one-year program designed to develop advanced analytical, problem-solving, and research skills highly valued in business, government, and academia.

Students undertake rigorous coursework, including Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Macroeconomics, a methods course, and an elective, building on their undergraduate foundation to enhance critical thinking and quantitative expertise.

A key component is the Honours thesis, an independent research project supervised by faculty. This capstone experience synthesizes theory, methodology, creativity, and communication skills, preparing students for diverse career paths.

UNSW Honours graduates are in high demand across the public and private sectors, securing roles with employers such as the Reserve Bank of Australia, NSW and Federal Treasury, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Deloitte Access Economics, BIS Oxford Economics, McKinsey & Company, PwC, KPMG, and Commonwealth Bank.

Recent graduates have also enrolled in PhD programs at MIT, UC Berkeley, Northwestern, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins, Vanderbilt, Yale, University of British Columbia, Oxford, and the London School of Economics.

How to apply
This degree is open to students who have completed an undergraduate (pass) degree at UNSW or another institution. Entry to the program is competitive and offers are made based on academic merit and availability of supervisors.

Students are encouraged to submit applications for Term 1 by the first week of December as rolling conditional offers will begin to be made in mid-December. Term 2 and Term 3 entry is typically not recommended but may be allowed in certain cases. Although full-time study is most common, and offers certain advantages, part-time study is possible.

Applications should include:

- a current academic transcript in electronic format
- a 300-600 word thesis proposal
- a cover letter or statement of purpose highlighting research interests and academic strengths (optional)
- other relevant supporting documents, e.g. awards (optional)

2025 APPLICATION DATES OUTLOOK

Firms	Internship Program		Graduate Program	
	Application Open	**Application Close**	**Application Open**	**Application Close**
Rhelm	-	-	As Opportunities Arise	-
HoustonKemp	Open Now	26 March	Open Now	28 March
Deloitte Access Economics	Open Now	8 April	Open Now	8 April
Grant Thornton	Open Now	30 March	Open Now	30 March
Commbank	July	August	Open Now	21 March
Frontier Economics	April	April	-	-
Mandala	-	-	Open Now	21 March

SPONSORS PROGRAM

Rhelm

RHELM GRADUATE AND INTERN PROGRAM

Rhelm is a specialist consulting firm providing advisory services in infrastructure development and economic modeling. They offer a small graduate program twice a year, giving candidates hands-on experience in consulting projects with strong corporate and client exposure.

HoustonKemp

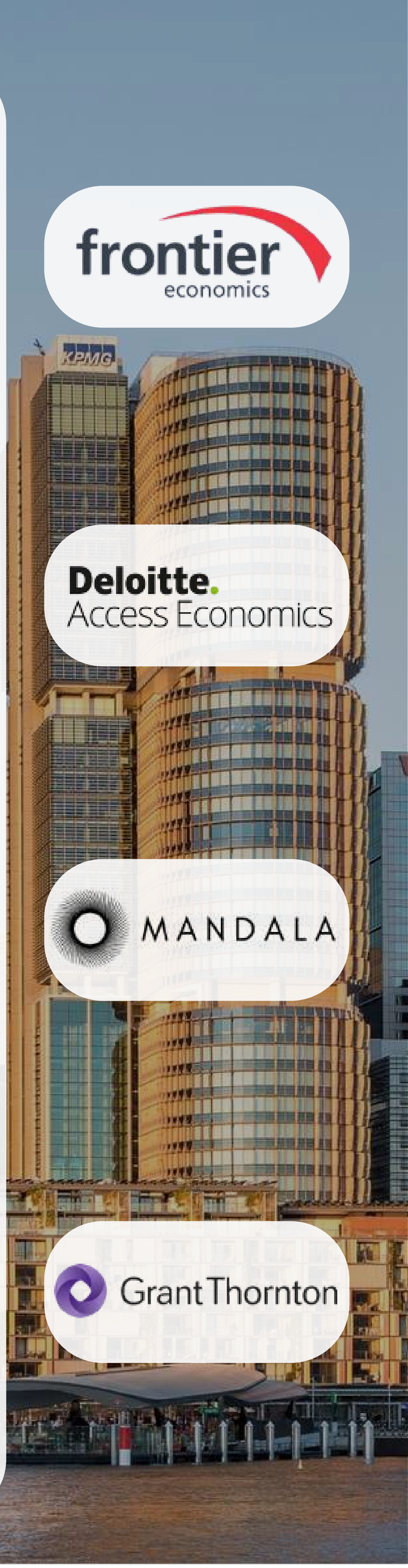
HOUSTONKEMP INTERN PROGRAM

HoustonKemp is a leading economic consulting firm specialising in competition, regulation, finance, and policy across the Asia Pacific. Their Sydney-based internship program, designed for economics students, offers hands-on experience tackling complex economic challenges, with applications closing on 25 March 2025.

Commonwealth Bank

2026 COMMBANK PROGRAMS

CommBank offers a Graduate Program, Summer Intern Program, and Global Markets Summer Analyst Program, providing hands-on experience in various business areas. Applications open in mid-February (Graduate Program), July (Intern Program), and May (Analyst Program).



Frontier Economics

FRONTIER ECONOMICS PROGRAMS

Frontier Economics works on high-impact projects across industries, from environmental sustainability to corporate mergers and government initiatives. Their graduate and internship programs offer hands-on experience in applying economic theory to real-world issues, with applications opening in April and September.

Deloitte Access Economics

DELOITTE ACCESS ECONOMICS PROGRAMS

Deloitte offers award-winning student and graduate programs designed to help individuals grow personally and professionally while making a meaningful impact. Their programs aim to align candidates with roles where they thrive, contributing to a better future.

Mandala

MANDALA 2025 GRADUATE PROGRAM

Mandala is a leading economics and policy consulting firm in Australia, working with major commercial brands, governments, and non-profits to address complex regulatory and policy challenges. Their 2026 Graduate Program is open to final-year students, graduates, and early-career professionals, with applications closing on 21 March 2025 for roles in Sydney, Melbourne, and Canberra.

Grant Thornton

GRADUATE ECONOMISTS PROGRAM

Grant Thornton offers structured graduate and vacation programs designed to provide hands-on experience, early exposure to industry specialists, and financial support for CA qualification. Their vacation program includes paid, full-time work over university breaks, networking opportunities, and a pathway to a graduate offer.

Rhelm

UNCOMMON SENSE

Rhelm is a specialist professional services consulting company offering five key service lines: Advisory, Environment & Planning, Community & Place, Natural Hazards & Resilience and Infrastructure to clients in Australia and internationally.

Rhelm provides advisory services in the key areas of infrastructure development, economic modelling, and business case preparation across the Asia Pacific.

ECONOMICS
RESILIENCE
INFRASTRUCTURE
BUSINESS CASES

THEORY AND APPLICATION

Rhelm's Advisory team develops bespoke economic models and analysis techniques to evaluate infrastructure, policy and program initiatives for our clients. We then work with closely with our clients to establish performance metrics that practically validate these forecasts.

GRADUATES AND INTERNSHIPS

Rhelm has a small graduate recruitment program which runs twice per year. Applications are sought in June and November.
Working within small teams to deliver succinct, robust, transparent and trustworthy outcomes, our graduates get to experience all aspects of projects and consulting; meaning a rapid and comprehensive start to your career with high corporate and client exposure and responsibility, within a supportive structure.

Graduate position applicants should be in their final year of, or have completed, an honours (or post-graduate) degree in a relevant field of study. We may take interns during the main summer break upon request.

HOUSTONKEMP
Economists

CAREERS IN ECONOMIC CONSULTING

COMPETITION | FINANCE | REGULATION | POLICY | ANALYTICS | MODELLING

HoustonKemp is at the forefront of resolving economic questions arising in competition, regulation, finance and policy throughout Asia Pacific.

Our industry-leading experts apply economics to high-stakes, complex and atypical challenges in industries ranging from transitioning the energy grid to competition issues in digital platforms.

Our main Sydney-based internship program runs over the summer break in Australia and is for students undertaking or entering postgraduate study (honours and above) in economics. We also offer internship positions over the winter break.

Our Sydney-based team is also seeking postgraduate students (honours and above) with a strong academic record, excellent written and quantitative skills, the right to work in Australia and a passion for using economics to solve problems.

As an intern or graduate, you will be exposed to challenging economic questions and have the opportunity to work alongside some of Asia Pacific's leading economists.

We encourage interested students to attend our recruitment information evening, in person and virtual, on 11 March 2025 to find out more about working at HoustonKemp.

Applications close on 28 March 2025.

Apply at: www.houstonkemp.com/careers

To find out more about economic consulting or our working environment, please visit our website www.houstonkemp.com, or contact careers@houstonkemp.com

Scan the QR code to register for our recruitment information evening and apply for our internship or graduate program.

A brighter beginning for your career.

Why CommBank?

Our people love it here and we know you will too. Whether it's developing products used by millions, honing your skills on projects that make an impact or finding your people, you'll find it at CommBank. Our graduate, intern and analyst programs are a challenging yet rewarding way to kick-start your career with Australia's biggest bank.

Graduate Program

Working with us means you'll be part of a group of diverse thinkers where your contributions can make a difference.

When you join us as a graduate, you'll be a full-time permanent employee. Our varied rotations across our business will keep you curious and develop your skills. At the end of your 12-24 month program, you'll be supported to find a career that best suits you.

Application Dates

Applications for our Graduate Program typically open in mid February to mid March.

Summer Intern Program

You'll start with us in November and complete your internship in February. Partner with experienced and accessible leaders and work with brilliant teams on real-life projects over 10 weeks. You'll be given full support and training, and the guidance to help you decide if CommBank is where you want to be. At the end of the internship, you'll also have the opportunity for early entry into our Graduate Program the following year.

Application Dates

Applications for our Summer Intern Program typically open in July.

Global Markets Summer Analyst Program

Our Global Markets Summer Analyst (GMSA) Program runs for 10 weeks over the summer and will provide you with hands-on experience in one of our Global Markets teams. By joining one of our specialist teams, you'll discover how we provide core global market products to our institutional and corporate clients. From trading and sales activities in financial markets, to encompassing all foreign exchange, commodities, fixed income and interest rate products.

Application Dates

Applications for our Analyst Program typically open in May.

How do you apply?

All applications need to be submitted online. Visit our website for more information on application open and close dates and how to apply.

CommBank Graduate Careers

Mandala 2026 Graduate Program

Applications close 21 March 2025

Mandala is Australia's most exciting and impactful economics and policy consulting firm. We bring strategy consulting methods and unique datasets to questions of economics, public policy, and regulation.

We count some of the world's biggest commercial brands as our clients, alongside Australian federal and state governments, major not-for-profits, leading technology firms and start-ups. We're helping clients navigate complex regulatory and commercial questions, unpack wicked policy problems, drive impactful social outcomes, and build a more sustainable future.

2026 Graduate Program

Mandala is hiring Graduate Analysts starting in 2026. We are looking for final year students, graduates or early-career professionals with up to two years' experience to join our consulting business in 2026, across our locations in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra.

To apply go to mandalapartners.com/graduate-careers.

MANDALA

Read for a career without compromise?

At Grant Thornton we strive to do things differently. We know that people who genuinely enjoy what they do are reaching out for more opportunities to put their passion into practice and make a real, meaningful difference.

OUR GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

- Structured training & development to learn while you earn
- Early exposure to key Partners and industry specialists
- Financial support to get you CA qualified

OUR VACATION PROGRAM OFFERING

- Full-time, paid opportunity over your university break
- Exposure to real client work and networking opportunities
- Develop your technical and business skills
- Fast track yourself to a graduate offer

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Get started here.

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careers/student-opportunities/

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From helping WWF-Australia develop its Tree Scorecard, to assisting the airline industry in mapping a path toward 2050 net-zero emissions targets, to working on the world's first 'big battery' for the South Australian Government, or providing evidence and advice for high-profile court cases and corporate mergers—join our economists on projects that are shaping societies today.

SOPHIA
ECONOMIST & UNSW GRADUATE

> As a Grad at Frontier Economics, I've jumped straight into work using economic theory and tools for monitoring and valuing the impact of native forest logging, and exploring financial assessments for a waste-to-energy project. I love seeing how I can apply my studies to solve real world issues.

Follow us on LinkedIn to keep updated on when our Winter / Summer Internships or Graduate positions open.

DANNY PRICE
MANAGING DIRECTOR & ECONOMIST, FRONTIER ECONOMICS

Internship & Graduate Program applications open ~ April & September

frontier-economics.com.au/careers


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UPCOMING EVENTS

FAQs

- **I am a first-year student, can I get internships?**

Although nothing is impossible, there are usually no internship programs that would take first-year students. However, there are many things that you can do! Participate in a society, obtain a higher WAM, enter case competitions, indulge yourself in the abundance of opportunities that UNSW provide for you.

- **How to write my first resume?**

This is a huge question, you would find that the internet is filled with a large array of different opinions and recommendations. We can only give you some general tips:

- Keep it short and concise (1-2 page)
- Make sure your name, email, phone number is easily recognisable
- Make your description impactful, you can use structures like the STAR method to help you
- It is okay to not have many professional experience to write about, start off by including activities that you have participated in university (e.g. roles in a society)
- Send your draft resumes to your friends to get feedback

- **What is a cover letter?**

It is common for firms to ask for a separate cover letter/page in your application process, do not mistake this for a resume. A cover letter is where you make it personal and convince the employer why they should hire you for this position. You can highlight your skills and experience relevant to the role your applying to, so make sure you don't reuse your cover letters for all your applications.

- **What is considered a good WAM?**

Depending on the firm you are applying to, the expected WAM range can vary from extremely lenient to extremely high. In general, a Distinction or High Distinction WAM are considered a good WAM and are worth highlighting on your resume.

- **What is the general interview process?**

Some common steps in graduate interview:

- Psychometric/Online exam
  - This usually happens straight after your application, you will be asked to finish this component in 24-48 hours after you received it.
- Video/Phone Interview
  - A few short questions may be asked, generally they would ask you to describe yourself or tell them why you applied to their firm.
- Assessment Centre:
  - Group interview:
    - Usually in the format of asking your group to solve a case, giving you some time to plan, discuss, present.
  - Individual Interview:
    - This is the longer in person interview that you will attend. Your interviewer(s) are likely the managers that you will directly work with if you are successful.

- **How do I prepare for my interview?**

Practise makes perfect. It is always recommended for you to know your resume well, prepare for a self-introduction, prepare for common behavioural questions, and if there are technical interviews, revise on your technical knowledge.

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ESA The Economic Society of Australia