

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Laurier to launch unique master's program in business economics

Waterloo, Ont. (March 9) — Wilfrid Laurier University will offer Canada's first master's program in business economics beginning this September. Unique in its emphasis on business and applied economics, the program will address the distinct needs in the preparation of economists for the private sector.

Frank Millerd, chair of the department of economics, says, "The program will be attentive to industry needs and graduates should be enthusiastically received."

It is expected that graduates will pursue careers as business economists specializing in areas such as economic forecasting, economic policy analysis, industry and market studies, financial economics, strategic planning, and public policy.

The 12-month program will admit about six students in its first year and build to an enrolment of 20 each year. Students will also have the option to combine study and work experience over 20 months.

The program has been developed in consultation with the Canadian Association for Business Economics, a professional association of about 1,100 senior economists.

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"We're excited about the program," says John Hoicka, association president and senior policy adviser with the Ontario Ministry of Treasury and Economics. He says the program's emphases on research methods and communications reflect the needs that exist in the business economics environment.

Millerd says professional business economists will be involved in the program's ongoing development and in the classrooms as guest lecturers.

Students, who will have already completed an honors degree in economics or its equivalent, will take 10 courses — including required courses in empirical research methods and data sources, economic forecasting, and applied microeconomic or macroeconomic analysis. They will also prepare a major research paper.

The program has already received approval from the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies and, recently, from the university's senate.

With its addition, Laurier now offers eight programs at the graduate level. The school of business and economics already offers full- and part-time MBA programs.

There are about 750 students in the general and honors economics programs at Laurier.