

HAND BOOK

Department of Economics



FULAFIA
Federal University of Lafia

**DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMICS**

Federal University of Lafia

Faculty of Social Science

Department of Economics Guidebook

Federal University of Lafia

Welcome Message from the Head of Department

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you to the Department of Economics at the Federal University of Lafia (FULafia). Our department is a vibrant academic community dedicated to fostering intellectual growth, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of economic principles and their application to real-world challenges.

As a pioneer department established with the university in 2011, we have consistently strived for excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. We are proud of our accredited programs and our commitment to producing graduates who are not only academically sound but also ethically grounded and ready to contribute meaningfully to national development and global economic discourse.

This guidebook serves as a comprehensive resource, providing essential information about our programs, academic expectations, resources, and opportunities available within the department. We encourage you to familiarize yourselves with its contents and to actively engage with our faculty and staff. Your success is our priority, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

We look forward to a productive and enriching academic journey with you.

Sincerely,

[Name of HOD - Placeholder] Head of Department, Economics

1. About the Department

The Department of Economics is one of the foundational departments within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Federal University of Lafia. Established in February 2011, alongside the university itself, it has grown to become a reputable center for economic studies in Nigeria. The department is committed to providing high-quality education and conducting relevant research that addresses contemporary economic issues.

2. Vision and Mission

Vision: To be a leading center of excellence in economic education and research, fostering innovative solutions for sustainable development in Nigeria and beyond.

Mission: To produce highly skilled economists equipped with robust theoretical knowledge, analytical capabilities, and ethical principles, through a comprehensive curriculum and impactful research, contributing to national development and global economic discourse.

3. Academic Programs

The Department of Economics offers a range of programs designed to cater to various academic and professional aspirations:

3.1. Undergraduate Program

- **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in Economics**
 - **Duration:** 4 years (for UTME candidates); 3 years (for Direct Entry candidates).
 - **Focus:** Provides a strong foundation in economic theory, quantitative methods, and applied economics, preparing students for diverse careers or further postgraduate studies.

3.2. Postgraduate Programs

- **Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Economics**
 - **Duration:** Typically 18-24 months (full-time).
 - **Focus:** Advanced study in economic theory, econometrics, and specialized fields, culminating in a research thesis.
- **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics**
 - **Duration:** Typically 3-5 years (full-time).
 - **Focus:** Original research contributing new knowledge to the field of economics, leading to a doctoral dissertation.
- **Professional Master's Degree in Financial Economics**
 - **Focus:** Application of economic principles to financial markets and institutions.
- **Professional Master's Degree in Health Economics**
 - **Focus:** Economic analysis of health and healthcare systems.
- **Professional Doctorate Degree in Health Economics**
 - **Focus:** Advanced research and application of economic principles to complex health sector challenges.

4. Admission Requirements

4.1. Undergraduate (B.Sc. Economics)

- **UTME (JAMB) Candidates:**
 - Five (5) O' Level credit passes in relevant subjects (including English Language, Mathematics, and Economics) obtained in not more than two (2) sittings.
 - An acceptable score in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and the university's Post-UTME screening.
- **Direct Entry Candidates:**

- A minimum of Merit (or Lower Credit) grade in a relevant Diploma program (e.g., in Economics, Accounting, Statistics) from a recognized institution, in addition to satisfying the O' Level requirements.
- Two (2) passes in relevant subjects at the Advanced Level (A' Level) with five (5) O' Level credit passes, including English Language, Mathematics, and Economics.

4.2. Postgraduate Programs

- **M.Sc. Economics:**
 - A Bachelor's degree in Economics with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Lower Division) from the Federal University of Lafia or any other recognized university.
 - Candidates with a Third Class Honours degree may be considered for a Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) first.
- **Ph.D. Economics:**
 - An M.Sc. degree in Economics from the Federal University of Lafia or any other recognized university, with a strong research component and a minimum CGPA as specified by the University's Postgraduate School.
- **Professional Master's/Doctorate Degrees:**
 - Specific requirements vary by program but generally include a relevant Bachelor's degree (often with a minimum class of degree) or an M.Sc. in a related field, along with professional experience where applicable.

5. Curriculum Overview (General)

The curriculum for all programs is designed in accordance with the National Universities Commission (NUC) Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS) and Core Curriculum Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS), ensuring comprehensive coverage of economic principles and contemporary issues.

5.1. B.Sc. Economics Core Areas:

- **Foundational Economics:** Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Economic History.
- **Quantitative Methods:** Introductory and Advanced Mathematics for Economists, Statistics for Economists, Econometrics.
- **Economic Theory:** Intermediate and Advanced Microeconomics, Intermediate and Advanced Macroeconomics, Welfare Economics.
- **Applied Economics:** Monetary Economics, Public Finance, Development Economics, International Economics, Labour Economics, Environmental Economics, Entrepreneurship Development.
- **Research:** Research Methodology, Final Year Project/Thesis.
- **General Studies:** Communication Skills, Computer Applications, Nigerian Culture and Society, Entrepreneurship.

5.2. M.Sc. Economics Core Areas:

- Advanced Microeconomic Theory
- Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
- Advanced Econometrics
- Research Methods in Economics
- Specialized Electives (e.g., Advanced Development Economics, Monetary Policy, Public Sector Economics, International Finance)
- Thesis/Dissertation

5.3. Ph.D. Economics Core Areas:

- Doctoral Seminars in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics
- Specialized Field Courses
- Advanced Research Methods
- Original Research leading to a Dissertation

6. Academic Regulations and Guidelines

- **Course Registration:** Students must register for courses at the beginning of each semester as per the university's academic calendar.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance at lectures, tutorials, and practical sessions is mandatory.
- **Continuous Assessment:** Performance is evaluated through continuous assessment (tests, assignments, presentations) and end-of-semester examinations.
- **Grading System:** The university's standard grading system applies.
- **Probation and Withdrawal:** Students must maintain the minimum academic performance required to remain in their program. Policies regarding probation and withdrawal are outlined in the university's academic handbook.
- **Academic Integrity:** The department upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and any form of academic misconduct are strictly prohibited and will be met with severe penalties.

7. Student Support and Resources

- **Academic Advising:** Each student is assigned an academic advisor to provide guidance on course selection, academic progress, and career planning.
- **Departmental Library/Resource Room:** Access to relevant textbooks, journals, and online resources.
- **Computer Laboratory:** Equipped with software essential for economic analysis and research.
- **Student Associations:** Opportunities to join student associations like the National Association of Economics Students (NAES) for academic and social activities.

- **Career Guidance:** The department provides guidance on career opportunities in economics, including pathways to public service, private sector, research, and international organizations.

8. Research and Publications

The Department of Economics is actively involved in research, contributing to knowledge in various fields. Faculty members publish in reputable national and international journals. The department also publishes the **Lafia Journal of Economics and Management Sciences (LAJEMS)**, a peer-reviewed journal providing an international outlet for scholarly dissemination of findings in Economics and related fields.

9. Contact Information

Department of Economics Faculty of Social Sciences Federal University of Lafia [University Address - Placeholder] Nasarawa State, Nigeria

Email: [Departmental Email - Placeholder] **Phone:** [Departmental Phone - Placeholder]

Website: [Link to Departmental Page - Placeholder]