LAND ECONOMY
Environment, Law, and Economics
What is Land Economy?

The undergraduate degree in Land Economy at Cambridge offers students the opportunity to build valuable skill sets, study some of the key issues of our time, and cultivate excellent career opportunities.

If you are looking for a degree that will challenge you intellectually and offer a wide breadth of career opportunities, this is it.
MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Law, economics and their relationship to the built and natural environment are at the heart of this course.

After establishing a thorough grounding in the core disciplines, you will have the opportunity to specialise, and to examine the complicated ways that law, economics, and the environment interact and influence each other.

Like the Land Economy degree, the Department itself is uniquely specialised and multidisciplinary. Each member of academic staff in the Department is an expert in their field, in specialties ranging from private law and economic policy, to investment analysis and city planning. Together, they combine resources and ideas on research projects, making for a friendly and collaborative atmosphere.

APPLICABLE

The issues studied on the degree have real-world applications and international scope. As you discover your areas of interest, you will also have the chance to explore questions with real-world significance.
TEACHING

Our students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in genuine two-way communication. We facilitate this through a combination of lectures, supervisions, seminars, and fieldtrips.
LECTURES

Lectures are your starting point for engaging with course material. Taught in the Department, these large-group sessions bring together all Land Economy students.

The member of academic staff leading the lecture will introduce ideas, outline theories, or guide you to questions or points of interest for your readings.

Typical lecture = 1 hour
Students/lecture = 50
Lectures/week = 10

SUPERVISIONS

The hallmark of Cambridge education, supervisions involve very small group teaching, with the emphasis on discussion, problem solving, and direct interaction between staff and students.

Supervisions give you the opportunity to sit down with a member of staff from Land Economy to discuss an essay or problem set you’ve completed, dig deeper into the course material, and ask any questions you may have. This more personal format is a fantastic chance to catch up, to jump ahead, or just to have a chat with some of the top experts in the field.

Typical supervision = 1 hour
Students/supervision = 2-5
Supervisions/week = 2-3

SEMINARS

The Department runs a seminar series each term, introducing topics like qualitative planning and design, or discussing a timely issue like the effects of the Right to Buy scheme. The Department invites external speakers from all over the world to lead seminars in their particular area of expertise. Students have the chance to learn from these leading experts.

Typical seminar = 1 hour
Seminars/week = 1
The Land Economy undergraduate degree is a three year honours degree programme which leads to the award of a Cambridge first degree.

The programme focuses on law and economics, including aspects of the built and natural environment, business finance, and resource management.
Land Economy is an excellent route into a professional career and as I have found, it also provides an excellent background for the acquisition of a wide variety of skills.

Originally, “tripos” was the name of the three-legged stool that students sat on for their exams. These days, we’ve moved on from stools, but the word has stuck.

The undergraduate degree is often called the “tripos,” referring to the tripos exams you must pass to complete the degree.

In Land Economy, this is split into 3 years:

- Your first year, Tripos Part 1A
- Your second year, Tripos Part 1B
- Your third year, Tripos Part 2

Each year, you will take a number of different “papers”, or modules. For each paper, you will learn the materials through a combination of lectures and supervisions, and be assessed through coursework and examinations.

THE TRIPOS
Your first year as a Land Economist will give you a thorough grounding in the core disciplines of law and economics, and introduce you to the multidisciplinary nature of the degree.

BUILD YOUR FOUNDATIONS

You will have the chance to explore the foundations of these social sciences and see how they relate to the built and natural environment before going on to specialise in particular areas later in the degree.

As a first year Land Economy student, you will take four “papers,” or subjects, which will be assessed by written examination and through course work.
Economics I
Introduces microeconomic theory and welfare economics

Economics II
Introduces macroeconomic and microeconomic policy

The Public Sector
Covers institutional and legal frameworks, including an examination of public law

Quantitative and Legal Methods for Land Economists
Introduces principles of legal techniques, mathematics, and statistics

Land Economy, Development, and Sustainability
Ranges through the multidisciplinary nature of Land Economy itself

Worried about exams?
Many colleges offer mock exams, giving you the chance to experience full exam conditions to help you prepare for your first Cambridge exams.
DEFINE YOUR INTERESTS

In your second year, you will have the chance to develop your skills and explore specialties. You will have a wide array of subjects to choose from, including further options in law and economics, as well as planning, management, and resource allocation.

As a Part IB student, you will choose five papers from Group B, which will be assessed through written examination. The only requirement in your second year is to take either Paper 8 or Paper 9 (or both!).

OPTIONS DAY

To help you decide which papers would be the best fit for you, the Department offers a Tripos Options Day in the summer of each year.

This event offers brief course introductions from lecturers, as well as time for questions, to help you better understand the content of each paper.
SPECIALISE

In your final year, you will specialise even further, with the opportunity to take courses from Group C that are reserved for Part II students only.

As a Part II student, you will choose four papers. One of these can be from Group B, while at least three must be from Group C.

DISSERTATION

As a third year student, in addition to taking four papers, you will write a 10,000 word dissertation on your choice of subjects within Land Economy.

Your final year dissertation is a fantastic opportunity to explore your interests, engage with members of academic staff, and prepare for a possible career.

You will have one-to-one supervisions for your dissertation with a supervisor who is a leading specialist in your chosen subject.

GROUP C PAPERS

PAPER 12: Law and economics
PAPER 13: Landlord and tenant law
PAPER 14: Planning policy and practice
PAPER 15: Advanced techniques in finance and investment for real estate
PAPER 16: Land, food, and ecosystem services
PAPER 17: Land policy and development economics
Although a small, friendly department, Land Economy benefits from a wide array of resources, both within the Department and across the University.

**WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT**

The Department of Land Economy offers tools, resources, and study spaces to meet your needs throughout the course.

In addition to resources within the Department, the interdisciplinary nature of Land Economy means that the Department has strong ties with industry and departments across the University.

**CLEAB**

The Cambridge Land Economy Advisory Board fosters a unique partnership between industry and academia. CLEAB is made up of senior managers, directors, executives, and partners of professional firms working in areas related to Land Economy. CLEAB supports the Department by offering advice and financial support to academics and students, supporting the mentoring scheme, and developing connections between the Department and industry.

**COMPUTING**

The Department offers a computing room with fixed workstations with a variety of specialist software. You will also have access to online resource platforms.

The Department’s intranet contains past exam papers and guidance on examinations, supervisions, essay writing, dissertations and transferable skills. For course resources, the Moodle platform provides reading lists, lecture notes, PowerPoint slides, and supervision materials.
MARSHALL LIBRARY
You can register to use the Marshall Library, which services the Faculty of Economics and the Centre of Development Studies. The Marshall Library contains a large collection of economic journals, periodicals and books.

SQUIRE LAW LIBRARY
Land Economy students can use the Squire Law Library on the Sidgwick Site. The Squire houses specialist collections on a variety of legal topics including international environmental law and European Union law.

JUDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL
As a Land Economy student, you will have access to the library and resources at the Judge Business School, including print resources and archival financial data on Bloomberg and Datastream.

COLLEGE LIBRARY & UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
In addition, you will have access to your college library and the central University Library, which contains over eight million books, journals and other items.
The Department of Land Economy is a small, friendly group of students and staff. Given the interdisciplinary nature of Land Economy, you will find that the people in the department have diverse interests, and are always happy to share ideas.

There are several ways to connect with like-minded people, both within and outside the Department.
You always bump into people that you know wherever you go, so you’re never far from a friendly face.

LAND ECONOMY SOCIETY

The Land Economy Society organises several social events each term which are always well attended. Predominantly student run, the Society also has a student committee to discuss and organise upcoming and new events.

STUDENT LIAISONS

The Department has an active Student Liaison Committee and student representatives on the Board of Land Economy. These representatives give students a voice in the Department, and allow them to pass on any concerns, problems or suggestions, which are then discussed at meetings with senior staff.

CU REAL ESTATE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY

CUREFIS is a society run for students by students. Founded in 2012, the main purpose of CUREFIS is to widen the interest in, and understanding of, the real estate industry and property investment, especially among those students thinking of taking up a career in a related field. CUREFIS links influential academics, ambitious students and blue-chip and innovative finance sector employers, encouraging students to take an active role.

Related Societies across the University:

- Marshall Society (economics)
- Cambridge University Law Society
- Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society
We understand that, as a student, you need to know that the time, effort, and money that you invest here at Cambridge will be put to good use.

We work closely with employers in the public and private sectors to ensure that your undergraduate education will prepare you for the job market.

Employers across both sectors recognise that our course equips graduates with both a deep understanding of highly relevant subjects and the necessary skills to apply this knowledge in a professional setting.
WHERE WILL LAND ECONOMY TAKE YOU?

There is no single career track for students studying Land Economy. This course is perfect for those who value the opportunity to sample an array of subjects, to specialise, or to combine interests in new and fascinating ways. Our graduates go on to be lawyers, economists, and civil servants, or to work for international or national agencies. Many go into finance, business or management careers, and others enter public service or continue into further education.

EMPLOYMENT

CAREERS PURSUED

- In Employment
- In Further Study
- Traveling or unavailable
- Still Seeking Employment or Study
- Accountancy & Tax
- Actuarial & Insurance
- Banking & Investment
- Health
- Management Consulting
- Teaching/Lecturing
- Other Service Industries
- Other
- Manufacturing, utilities, power, business
A consultant is someone with expertise in a particular field who offers impartial advice to businesses, companies and organisations.

Typically working within a larger consulting firm, you might travel to work with companies internationally or be based within a specific country or city.

As a management consultant, you might offer your suggestions to businesses on topics like company strategy, financial planning, mergers and acquisitions, insolvency or corporate social responsibility.

If you are interested in pursuing a legal career, our graduates are often granted partial exemption from the academic requirements of the Law Society and Bar Council.

The exemptions you receive will depend on which subjects you study during your degree.
The term ‘chartered surveyor’ encompasses a wide range of specialties and career possibilities in an increasingly global market.

As a commercial property surveyor, you might be involved in the acquisition or valuation of a property, advising funds on investment strategy or managing the relationship between landlords and tenants.

Working in planning and development, you might assess the economic, social, and environmental impacts of a new building design or determine what land use is most appropriate for vacant land.

For those interested in careers as a property surveyor, the course is accredited by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Because of Land Economy’s unique range of subject areas, we offer a wide-ranging degree as well as the RICS accreditation.

If you are interested in becoming a property surveyor, but would like to incorporate public policy, environmental law, and economics into your degree, Land Economy would be an excellent choice for you.
When it comes to connecting with the professional world, the Department of Land Economy offers its students a fantastic range of support.

Whether you are looking for an internship, careers advice, input on your CV, or alumni connections, you will find the help you need.
MENTORING SCHEME
The Department runs a mentoring scheme to connect current students with contacts in industry. This is a unique opportunity to explore possible areas of specialisation and career paths. The scheme is supported by the Cambridge University Land Society and the Cambridge Land Economy Advisory Board.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LAND SOCIETY
The Cambridge University Land Society (CULS) is an alumni group dedicated to professionals working in property-related fields. CULS also works closely with current Land Economy students through the Silver Street Group.

CULS hosts numerous events each year for alumni and current Land Economy students, including networking events, socials, talks, and a careers fair.

CAMBRIDGE CAREERS SERVICE
The Cambridge Careers Service offers everything from CV guidance, interview practice and assessment centre skills sessions, to the Careers Library, full of resources on options and applications. In addition, the GradLink service helps to connect you to Cambridge University graduates in a range of careers.
Deciding which college to apply to is a very personal decision. Don’t worry about finding the “best” college for Land Economy—there isn’t one!

All our students, regardless of their college, take the same lectures and sit the same exams. Additionally, the Cambridge application system is designed so that your college choice will not affect your ability to secure a place at Cambridge. This means you should focus on choosing the community that best suits you. Keep in mind that not every college offers Land Economy as a subject option. Additionally, some colleges have unique communities, like those for mature or female students.

For more information on choosing a college, see the University’s website.
You will apply through the UCAS application system. Remember that for Cambridge University, your UCAS application is due on October 15.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Land Economy degree doesn’t require any prior knowledge of law or economics, and we have no specific requirements for the subjects you study before you apply. Many of our students have a background in both humanities and science subjects. However, many of our students find these subjects to be useful preparation:

- Economics
- Geography
- Maths

PERSONAL STATEMENT

We understand that Land Economy is a unique subject, and that you will use your UCAS Personal Statement to apply to other universities. You won’t be penalised for writing about academic interests related to Land Economy.

SAQ

The Supplementary Application Questionnaire (SAQ), due one week after your UCAS application, is your opportunity to provide some Cambridge-specific information. This is especially useful for applications to Land Economy, which is a subject entirely unique to Cambridge.
If your application is successful, you will be invited by your college to interview and sit the Thinking Skills Assessment.

INTERVIEWS

The interview is designed to act as a mini-supervision, giving you the chance to test out the Cambridge teaching style, and giving us the chance to get to know you off the page. The exact format of your interview will depend on your college, but it’s likely that you will have the chance to talk in more detail about the ideas you raised in your personal statement or SAQ.

THinking SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA) is designed to give us a better understanding of your critical thinking and problem-solving skills. You don’t need to register or pay for the TSA. The college handling your application will provide you with details.

For more information, including sample tests, see: admissiontestingservice.org

You will be notified of the decision on your application by your college in January.

For more information about the application process, see the University’s website.
WHAT WE LOOK FOR

IDEAL LAND ECONOMIST

There is no single model of the perfect Land Economy student. When the admissions tutor looks over your application, they will be looking for intellectual curiosity, independent motivation, and critical thinking. One way to show your curiosity and motivation is by exploring your interests outside school:

- Read
- Follow the news
- Attend court
- Seek work experience or a shadowing scheme

Remember that we are interested in how you think, so regardless of what interests you explore, remember to ask questions, think critically, and reflect on your experiences.

SUGGESTED READING

- *What about Law?* Barnard, O’Sullivan and Virgo
- *Is Eating People Wrong?* Hutchinson
- *Economics of Social Problems*, Le Grand and Propper
- *Feral: Rewilding the Land, Sea and Human Life*, Monbiot
- *Triumph of the City*, Glaeser
- *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jacobs
FOR MORE INFORMATION

STAY UP TO DATE

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DISCOVER LAND ECONOMY

*medium.com/discover-land-economy*

For more on Land Economy, the Department’s blog includes application information, event updates, research news, and alumni profiles.

CAMBRIDGE UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

*undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk*

For more information on application requirements, courses, finances, and events for prospective students.

COLLEGES

*undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges*

To find information on choosing a college, including a list of college contact information.

STUDENT FINANCE

*gov.uk/studentfinance*

For information about how to navigate your finance options for university.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

*cam.ac.uk/disability*

To discover the resources available for applicants with disabilities, health conditions, or Specific Learning Difficulties.
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