

EconMatters

Alumni Profiles

Jiawen Wang (BSc with Honours 2018)

My name is Jiawen Wang, and I graduated from Dalhousie University (Department of Economics) in 2018. After that, I obtained an MA degree from the University of British Columbia in 2019. As an international student and a graduate of the 2 + 2 program at Dal, I am grateful for the support I received from the faculty members in Economics who helped me deal with language barriers, improved my self-confidence, and stimulated my interest in economics after arriving in Canada for the first time.



I was originally interested in econometrics in order to better understand how economics, mathematics and statistics connect. Econometrics uses statistical techniques to understand economic issues and has a set of useful tools that combines economic theory with available data. I think Dalhousie's economics program does a great job of helping students learn and use statistical software to analyze economic data, and successfully finish their honours thesis. Writing a thesis not only improved my ability to collect data, but also enhanced my critical thinking skills.

My BSc. Honours degree at Dal opened up a lot of doors for me, helping me to further my studies as an MA student at UBC. My studies have trained me to handle all aspects of data analysis, research, and economic reasoning. Given my academic experiences, I came to be an out-of-the-box thinker who is comfortable working in teams or independently to ensure that results consistently achieve or exceed goals.

To further pursue my interest in econometrics, I am currently volunteering for the office of institutional research and analysis at McMaster University, which is definitely a good opportunity for me to accumulate work experience. By analyzing a rich dataset and developing different business models, I improve my skills and learn how to handle quantitative and qualitative research, support a new system, and assess trends, foster process improvements to solve complex problems.

The Department of Economics at Dal has had a profound impact on both my academic career and professional career path. An economics degree gives me a set of analytical skills that can be applied in a range of scenarios and circumstances.

Thank you, Dalhousie, Thank you, all Professors for your willingness to share your passion for Economics with your students. It meant a lot to me during my student life.

Madigan Dockrill (BSc 2016)

My name is Madigan Dockrill, but I always went by Maggie while I was studying at Dalhousie. I graduated in 2016 with a BSc Honours in Economics and Mathematics. I am currently completing my PhD at University College London.



I'm from Halifax and absolutely love the city, so naturally I decided to start my studies at Dalhousie. The Economics Department is a great place to be an undergraduate student. One highlight for me was participating in the Governor's Challenge, a competition run by the Bank of Canada for undergraduate students to make a monetary policy recommendation. This competition introduced us to the way central banks work and sparked my interest in monetary policy. At the same time, I was writing my honours thesis, which was my first attempt at doing my own research. It was an exciting year for me, and by the time I finished my BSc, I was convinced that I would pursue a PhD.

In 2016, I started my Master's degree at the University of British Columbia. I learned a lot during my year in Vancouver and confirmed that I wanted to do research in macroeconomics. However, after a really challenging year, I decided I wasn't quite ready to commit to a PhD and took a job at the Bank of Canada as an Economist.

I joined the Canadian Economic Analysis department at the Bank, and their rotation program, which meant that I was able to try out three separate teams during my two years in the department. I learned about many different aspects of conducting monetary policy and saw a glance of the different career paths available at the Bank.

Taking time off from school and working at the Bank of Canada was definitely the right choice for me. After being a student for so long, studying a lot of theoretical economics, it was important to get out in the "real world" and see what being an economist is all about. I got to learn so much about using data and managing research projects, and even got to present one of my projects at the 2019 Canadian Economics Association conference in Banff.

Eventually I decided that I was ready to go back to school. At the time I was working on the Bank's model development team and learning about their New Keynesian model of the Canadian economy. I knew I wanted to do research, the type of research my colleagues were conducting at the Bank, developing models that might be used by central banks in the future. I wanted to be able to commit all my time to learning about this field and PhD was the best way to do that.

This past September I started my PhD at University College London in the United Kingdom. It has been another tough year full of late nights doing problem sets and studying for exams. But I know now that it's the right path for me, and I'm looking forward to getting started on my dissertation this summer.

John F. Graham Memorial Lecture 2019



The John F Graham Lecture is an annual event supported by a memorial fund established in memory of John Graham, a long-time member of the Dalhousie Department of Economics, who passed in 1990. The Department hosted the 28th Graham Lecture on November 28, 2019. This year's speaker was Dr. Angela Redish (University of British Columbia). She presented on the topic "From Ducats to Libra: New monies in historical perspective".

News

Maxwell Scholarship Award Recipients 2019-20

Haocheng Bai, Zhilin Cui, Brendan Irish, Sam Kirsh, Qihui Li, James Lloyd, Shuting Shang, Riel Tetreault, Shuhe Zhang and Katherine Zhao are recipients of a Professor W. Maxwell Award for 2019-20.

Sciographies Q&A: Lars Osberg, Economist



Dr. Lars Osberg appeared on Sciographies, a radio show and podcast about the people who make science happen, brought to you by the Faculty of Science and campus-community radio station CKDU.

Dr. Warman appointed as NBER Research Associate

Casey Warman has been appointed as Research Associate in the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) program on Health Economics.