



An Roinn Airgeadais
Department of Finance

Submission Tips

Economic Policy Competition 2020

Economic Policy Competition 2020



- This is the seventh Annual Department of Finance Economic Policy Competition
- The prize is a twelve week paid summer internship in the Department of Finance during which the successful applicant will be presented with a certificate from the Minister for Finance
- The internship will be spent working alongside economists in the Department
- There will be two policy questions for students to choose from

Questions



1. To achieve sustainable economic growth over the medium-term (i.e. the next five years), Ireland will have to deal with a number of key macroeconomic and fiscal challenges. Discuss.
2. Regaining competitiveness was an important part of Ireland's export-led recovery. What strategy would you propose to help enhance Irish competitiveness?

General Tips



- Read the question in its entirety and make sure to answer all parts of the question
- Plagiarism will mean immediate expulsion from the competition
- Answers should be based on a sound evidence base
- Answers should demonstrate a deep understanding of the issue
- Review the PowerPoint presentation on your chosen topic for useful data sources, reading materials etc.
- Proof-read your work before submitting!

Structure



- Submissions will be in the form of a 150 word summary supported by a 2,000 word submission
- 1-2 pages max of supporting quantitative analysis / bibliography may be submitted separately in an appendix to show how calculations were done / sources of information

Summary



- Even though this appears first in your application, it should be written last!
- Clear and concise
- Maximum length - 150 word summary
- Audience – Economists in the Department of Finance
- The summary should be informative - give an overview of everything you write about in your paper including methods used and your results

Content



- Supporting 2,000 word submission
- Concise and to the point, if you can say it in 1,000 words there's no need to go over this. 2,000 words is a limit not a target!
- Everything that the reader needs should be contained in the 2,000 words, the supporting appendix is only for bibliography or background calculations that are not needed to understand the answer
- The introduction should be clear and relevant
- The paper should represent a balanced articulation of the relevant and timely facts to support the central purpose of the argument that you are presenting
- Each paragraph should focus on one idea and follow a logical order
- Conclusions reached should be well supported by the body of your paper

Appendix



- This should be used for supporting material only and should not be seen as a continuation of your paper.

- Accepted supplementary material:
 - Bibliography***
 - *Evidence presented in your paper should be reliable and trustworthy*
 - *All sources should be listed in your bibliography and not contain mistakes. Please include direct links when quoting sites off the internet*
 - *Use the Harvard system*

 - Quantitative supporting material***
 - *Regression analysis*
 - *Background calculations*

Process



- The participating institutions will proceed to run the competition however they wish; be this through specified modules or as an open competition
- Each institution will have their own internal deadline.
- The institutions will select the top three submissions.
- The deadline to submit the top three essays from each institution to the Department of Finance is Friday 14th February 2020.
- The Department will then pick the top essays, with students to be called forward for interview in March 2020. The winning student will be informed of their success shortly thereafter.
- The prize of a paid summer internship in the Department of Finance will commence in June 2020.

More Details



- Further details of the competition can be found on the Department of Finance website www.gov.ie/finance
- Submit your application to the point of contact in your institution by their submission deadline
- Institution to submit the top three applications to the Department of Finance by 14 February 2020
- Winners will be notified shortly after interviews in March 2020