



An Roinn Airgeadais
Department of Finance

Economic Policy Competition 2020

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Prepared by the Economics Division
Department of Finance
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Foreword

Information Note on the 2020 Economic Policy Competition

The Department of Finance is pleased to announce that, for the seventh year in a row, it will be holding the Economic Policy Competition in 2020. The winner will be offered a twelve week paid internship in the Economics Division of the Department of Finance. The winner will be presented with a certificate by the Minister for Finance on completion of the internship.

This competition will be essay-based and will assess students' understanding of the Irish macro economy and Ireland's policy-making system. Candidates will be required to submit a 150-word summary with a supporting 2,000-word submission on one of two policy questions provided by the Department.

This October, the Department of Finance Economics Division intends to engage directly with third-level institutions to advertise the economic policy competition and to target it to final year and penultimate year undergraduate students. The participating institutions will then inform their students and proceed to run the competition in whatever way they wish. We suggest, if possible, that lecturers would incorporate the competition essay questions into their modules' continuous assessment process by asking their students to submit their policy proposals to them and for the universities to choose the top three submissions.

The Department will only accept three submissions per institution¹. The Department of Finance will invite the students with the top submissions for interview.

Timeline for the 2020 competition is as follows:

- The competition will be launched in **November 2019**, with the questions submitted to the relevant lecturers.
- The communication strategy includes reaching out to university lecturers, the Department of Finance's website, and advertising on social media. Posters will be designed to advertise the competition, and will be circulated to universities.
- The participating institutions will then inform their students and proceed to run the competition; be this through specified modules or as an open competition.
- The institutions will select the top three submissions and submit them to the Department of Finance by the deadline: **14 February 2020**.
- The Department will then pick the top essays. Selected students will be called for interview in **March 2020**. The winning student will be informed of their success shortly thereafter.
- The prize of a summer internship in the Department of Finance will commence in **June 2020**.

We would be grateful if you could send contact details of the relevant lecturer/module coordinator interested in this competition to economicpolicycompetition@finance.gov.ie in order for the Department to contact them directly.

¹ Accordingly, where more than one lecturer in an institution participates in the competition, all of the lecturers should collaborate to choose the top three from that institution for submission to the Department