

# **12 supercurriculars that strengthen your child's Economics application.**

*What top universities actually want to see beyond A-level grades.*

*the activities:*

*Your child doesn't need to do all 12. Pick 2-3 that genuinely interest them and go deep. Admissions tutors can spot a checklist approach immediately.*

### 1. **UKMT Maths Challenges**

Top Economics courses are mathematically rigorous. UKMT builds the reasoning skills that also lay the foundation for TMUA prep later.

**Start here:** Start in the summer of Year 11. Register at [ukmt.org.uk](https://ukmt.org.uk). Begin with the Intermediate Challenge, progress to Senior in Year 12.

### 2. **TMUA Preparation**

Required by Cambridge, LSE, UCL, and Imperial for Economics. Warwick treats it as optional but a strong score unlocks a reduced offer.

**Start here:** Start UKMT in summer of Year 11, then move to TMUA papers in summer of Year 12. Past papers free at [admissionstesting.org](https://admissionstesting.org). Two stages, not one.

### 3. **Essay Competitions**

Proves original economic thinking, which is exactly what admissions tutors want.

**Start here:** [John Locke Institute](https://www.johnlockeinstitute.org), Marshall Society (Cambridge), or RES Young Economist of the Year. Pick one and commit.

### 4. **Read The Economist Weekly**

Not the Financial Times. The Economist explains the "why" behind the news, which is what they ask about at interview.

**Start here:** [economist.com](https://www.economist.com). One article per week. Research every concept you don't understand. Expect a two-hour read, not an eight-minute one.

*the activities (continued):*

## 5. **First-Year University Textbooks**

Shows you understand what the degree actually involves. Mankiw and Varian are the standards.

**Start here:** Try Mankiw's [Principles of Economics](#). Work through chapters 1-3 and research anything unclear.

## 6. **Free Online University Courses**

MIT OpenCourseWare and Marginal Revolution University offer real university-level content for free.

**Start here:** [mru.org](#) or [ocw.mit.edu](#). Complete one full course, not three halves.

## 7. **A Deep-Dive Research Project**

Admissions tutors want intellectual growth, not a checklist. Pick one question and spend three months on it.

**Start here:** Choose something genuinely interesting (housing markets, minimum wage, central bank policy). Read academic papers, form a view, write it up.

## 8. **Data Analysis Project**

Top courses like Imperial's EFDS require coding from day one. Prove you can work with real data.

**Start here:** Download economic data from [ons.gov.uk](#) or [data.worldbank.org](#). Use Python or Excel to analyse it. Publish findings on a blog or GitHub.

*the activities (continued):*

## 9. Economics Podcasts

Great for commutes, school runs, and building vocabulary for interviews.

**Start here:** [Planet Money](#), More or Less (BBC), or The Rest Is Money. Start one today.

## 10. Student Investment Competitions

Hands-on experience with markets beats theoretical knowledge alone.

**Start here:** [Student Investor Challenge](#), Young Financial Journalist, or CFA UK school competitions.

## 11. Lead Your School Economics Society

Admissions tutors value initiative. If there isn't one, start it.

**Start here:** Propose it to your Head of Economics. Organise one speaker or debate per half-term.

## 12. University Open Days & Taster Programs

The "Why this university?" interview question needs a specific answer, not a generic one.

**Start here:** Attend open days at every shortlisted university. Ask current students what the course actually covers, not just the brochure.

*Pick 2-3. Go deep, not wide. Quality over quantity.*

# Need a personalised plan for your child?

Whether it's GCSE planning, A-level choices, university applications, or supercurricular strategy, I can help you build a clear plan for your child's next step.

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[uniplan.me/courses](https://uniplan.me/courses)

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