



## MSc Behavioural Economics - Reading list

Welcome to the MSc Behavioural Economics! We are looking forward to meeting you in September. You do not have to read any academic books before the start of the MSc programme. However, you should note that some of our modules are quite quantitative (e.g., *Principles of Economics*, *Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice*, *Experimental Economics and Game Theory*, and our two research methods/statistics modules: *Behavioural Research Methods: Design and Analysis*, and *Applied Econometrics and Psychological Research Methods*). If you do not have a quantitative background, we highly recommend that you work on your maths skills before the start of the term.

Apart from maths skills, the best preparation for the programme is to develop good study and time management habits. To do this, we recommend the following books:

- **How to Change** by Katy Milkman (2021): <https://www.katymilkman.com/book>. A very engaging book that uses lots of insights from behavioural economics to show readers how to develop good habits. Katy Milkman's podcast is also very good: <https://www.katymilkman.com/podcast>
- **Rest: Why You Get More Done When You Work Less** by Alex Soojung-Kim Pang (2016). A great book that provides good arguments against a culture of overwork and burnout. You will have a much better study experience if you take rest seriously and structure your work/study time efficiently. We also recommend the author's more recent book "Shorter".
- **Deep Work: Rules for Focused Success in a Distracted World** by Cal Newport (2016). A great book that advocates deep, focused work; exactly what you need to do well at university.

If you would like to read introductory behavioural economics, economics and/or research methods books to prepare for the MSc, please have a look at the list below. Please note that some of these are the textbooks that we are going to use for some of the modules: you do not need to read them in preparation for the MSc, but some of you may prefer to become familiar with them beforehand.

### Behavioural Economics:

- Philip Corr and Anke Plagnol. *Behavioural Economics – The basics*. Second Edition, Routledge (2023). Written by two City faculty members (Anke Plagnol will teach some of your classes), this book provides a basic introduction to the fascinating field of behavioural economics.
- Richard Thaler's (2015) book, *Misbehaving*. This provides an informative tour of Thaler's engagement with behavioural economic issues since the 1970s; and, as such, it provides an enjoyable tour of the development of the whole field.
- *The Undoing Project: A Friendship that Changed Our Minds* by Michael Lewis (2016). This is a very well-written book (not academic), which describes how Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman developed their ideas and changed how we think about the human mind. A great read.

- Wilkinson, N. & Klaes, M. (2012). *An Introduction to Behavioral Economics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

### **Economics:**

- Eric Angner (2023). *How Economics Can Save the World: Simple Ideas to Solve Our Biggest Problems*. Penguin.
- Frank and Cartwright (2013, 2016) - *Microeconomics and Behaviour*, any edition.
- Mankiw and Taylor (2017) - *Economics*, any edition.

### **Research Methods and Statistics:**

You will have two modules in research methods/statistics in which you will also learn how to use the statistical software programme R. It is assumed that you already possess basic computer skills, such as creating folders, saving files, copy-and-pasting text, etc. You do not need to learn R before you start the MSc programme.

- Christine Dancey & John Reidy (2020). *Statistics without Maths for Psychology*. Pearson. We may refer to this book in our two research methods modules. You will be able to access it for free through the City library once you start your studies.

### **Maths:**

Students who do not have an undergraduate degree in economics are **strongly advised** to work on their maths skills before the start of the term. You can find maths tutorials on the BBC website. These maths concepts will be relevant for several modules (e.g., *Principles of Economics*, *Cognitive and Economic Science of Rational Choice*, and *Experimental Economics and Game Theory*).

Here is the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8sg6fr>

Any of the topics in the list above are of relevance. We recommend that you become familiar with all of them, as they pop up everywhere – perhaps except for trigonometry.

The BBC website also has a section dedicated to basic calculus. If you become familiar with the topics under “Calculus Skills”, it will serve you well in our programme, although we do not use calculus often. Here is the link:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z6nygk7>

If you prefer to purchase a maths textbook, we recommend the following book (the BBC website should be sufficient though):

- *Mathematics for Economics and Business* by Ian Jacques (2023). Pearson.

Please contact us if you have any questions before you start the MSc programme. We are looking forward to meeting you in September.

Kind regards

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