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BRAC University launching program in Economics

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BRAC University, one of the fastest-growing private universities in Bangladesh, is all set to launch a post-graduate level programme in Economics, called the Master of Science in Applied Economics (MSAE), from the semester of Fall 2007. The programme, which is the first of its kind in Bangladesh, is designed with the requirements of the local job market in mind, with an objective of creating highly competent economics professionals in the private and public sectors of the country. However, the course will also be useful for those who wish to prepare themselves for studying economics at the doctoral level. Upon completion of the core components, students can focus on one of three fields: econometrics, financial economics or public policy. These fields have been chosen based on feedback received from potential employers. The MSAE will be a 36 credit programme, and can be completed within a year of full time study, or three full semesters. For prospective Ph.D. students, the MSAE programme will act as a foundation, while for those who do not wish to proceed further down the academic route; the programme will act as a terminal qualification for the wider job market.

Prospective students for the programme should ideally have an undergraduate degree in economics, however flexibility has been ensured in order to accommodate students from a fairly wide range of disciplines. As such, some students will not have had adequate exposure to any economics courses prior to this programme. Such students will have to complete some or all of the non-credit foundation courses prior to commencing the Masters programme. The exact mix of courses will depend on the individual student's situation and consent of the advisor. Having to do these foundation courses can add one extra semester to the length of the programme. To mention another little caveat here, this is a day program, which may be a problem for certain people who want to complete post-graduate education while being involved in a full-time job. On the plus side though, tuition rebates are available since the program is just being launched. Lastly, of course, the university will assist the students with career placement.

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