ABOUT MQE

MQE graduates meet employer demand for well-rounded individuals who can bring economic insights and strategic thinking to data science.

The MQE Program is connected with industry leaders in economics and data science who serve as consultants to the faculty and mentors to the students.

The MQE Program is a STEM-designated degree program (CIP Code 45.0603: Econometrics and Quantitative Economics) whose students can apply for a 24-month STEM extension of F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT).

CAREER SERVICES

Through services, resources, and events, the MQE Program prepares students with workplace readiness skills, helps them to manage their career path, and supports them in developing their professional networks.

Career planning is generally considered a four-step process that can be cycled through at any point in one’s career. University of Pittsburgh, Center for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Development

1. Advising & Assessment: self-assessment of your skills, values, and interests
2. Explore & Evaluate: exploration and evaluation of your career options
3. Career Goals: identification of your career goals and objectives
4. Action Plan: development of an action plan or strategy

The MQE Program will coordinate services throughout the career development process by providing:

1. Advising/Resources
2. Mentoring
3. Networking
4. Workplace Readiness Skills

MQE Career Services begin during the summer before matriculation into the fall coursework. While the structured mentoring program concludes with the end of the degree program after the spring semester, MQE Career Services are available indefinitely to all MQE alumni.
SUMMER PREPARATION

Student Checklist

- Review this Career Development Handbook
- Schedule an advising appointment by emailing mqeinfo@pitt.edu
- Develop a graduate student resume
- Develop a professional LinkedIn profile
- Review cover letter samples
- Enroll in fall courses

FALL SEMESTER

Advising
Schedule an advising appointment by emailing mqeinfo@pitt.edu

- Review resume and submit for feedback
- Update LinkedIn profile and objective statement
- Prepare a career plan
- Prepare for Career Chats
- Discuss independent projects and internships
- Enroll in spring courses

Resume Feedback
Advisory Board Members preview resumes and provide feedback.

Career Chats
Professionals discuss their career path and the value of specific workplace readiness skills in a student-moderated forum that enhances participants industry knowledge and networking skills.

Career Center Workshops
- Self-Assessment & Myers Briggs
- Researching & Preparing a Career Plan; LinkedIn Learning Certificates; Pitt Handshake

SPRING SEMESTER

Advising - Schedule an advising appointment by emailing mqeinfo@pitt.edu

- Review resume, cover letters and LinkedIn profile to reflect MQE experience
- Prepare and implement job search action plan
- Prepare for mock interviews

Capstone Project
Students work in small groups, under the supervision of faculty and professional mentors, on real-world problems providing data-driven solutions and strategies.

MQE Connects
Students are matched with professionals based upon industry and professional interests for an informational interview.

If you are interested in learning more about employee recruitment please contact:
Shannon Mischler, Program Director, sjmischler@pitt.edu, (412) 383-5425.
• January – Students select up to 3 professionals that they would like to be matched for individual 30-minute informational interviews between February and April.
• February – MQE Program Director curates the matches based upon industry/career preferences and makes a formal introduction by email. Students will schedule and prepare for the professional meeting.
• April – MQE Connects concludes. Students and Professionals are asked to complete a simple survey to ensure program quality.

Mock Interviews
Students participate in a 30-minute mock interview with industry experts.
• In advance of the interview students will submit a sample job posting, resume and cover letter.
• Two to three professionals will interview the student for 20 minutes with content-specific interview questions/challenges.
• Feedback will be provided to you in the last 10 minutes.

Career Center Workshops
• Networking through LinkedIn; Conducting Informational Interviews; Practice with Big Interview
• Negotiating Salary and Benefits; Day 1 through 100 on the Job; Workplace Equity

ALUMNI SERVICES

Alumni of the Department of Economics are invited to keep in touch with the MQE Administrators if they have any need for career opportunities by emailing mgeinfo@pitt.edu. Pitt Commons is a tool to keep all Pitt alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends connected (and job postings!).

RESOURCES

Pitt’s Career Center- resources, professional development and job postings
Pitt Handshake - job and internship postings: employer and alumni networking events
Pitt’s LinkedIn Learning – professional development

Enclosed resources:
• Resume sample – MQE
• Common resume sections
• Action verbs
• Writing better bullet points
• Cover letters
• 50 positive character traits for the workplace
• LinkedIn – Building a great student profile
• LinkedIn – How to network on LinkedIn
• Researching employers
• List of websites for researching careers
• Career conversation worksheet
• 8 steps to an effective career plan
• Self-introductions
• Sample interview questions
• Thank you notes
• Salary negotiations
• Transitioning into a new job

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