

Rethinking Economics

How-to Guide:

...Planning events for the
academic year.

Introduction

Events and activities are a rewarding and inclusive way of expanding the movement and learning more about economics. It's important to plan your events with **diversity and balance** in mind. They can **attract a wide range** of people and are important for showing students and academics what economics education could be like. . This document will hopefully help you to deliver a programme of events that will enable your group to **grow and flourish** while giving you experience in varied tasks and developing your own skills.

For advice on how to plan individual events see our '*How to...Run an Event*' guide.

The options

There's a **wide range** of things your society can do. Below is a number of **possible ideas** to get your **imagination** going. Local groups have either put these events on before or have plans to this year, if you need any help bring it up in the organisers call or speak to a member of the staff team for **help and advice!**

- Academic Lectures and Seminars
- Activism Workshops
- Film Clubs
- Reading Groups
- The Schools Project
- Trips to Public Events
- Topical Talks
- Conferences
- Socials
- Group Meetings
- Collaboration Events
- Student Led Lecture series
- Revision Sessions
- Debates
- ...The list goes on, however, this list stops here.

Aim to try a **variety** of these options over the year - and any more that seem like a sensible option for **your group**. Every group is different and finding out what works for you is important in finding out how the group can establish itself and become a **mainstay** of university life.

For more resources and how-to guides visit rethinkeconomics.org/helpfulresources

We **recommend** having a meeting, social and accessible event such as a topical talk, early on in the semester to **entice and ease in** new and old members during freshers week.

Timing

Think about the timing of when your events are **way in advance**, if the big varsity game is on, it's probably **not the best** time to host a talk in the biggest lecture theatre available, likewise exam time is not only going to **limit** your members **participation** but also your own ability to take on tasks for such projects. **Taper** your events around **busy times** and **organise in advance** when your workload is **low**. Some groups have gone as far as to publicise a schedule of events for each semester, to give attendees as much notice as possible!

Capacity

Similarly your **capacity** as a group will obviously be a **key determinant** of what events and activities you can put on. A small group or member base is not necessarily a weak group, you're likely to have a **dedicated** group of members who you know you can rely on. **Conversely**, big groups don't always equate to success, too many chefs can spoil the logistical and organisational broth after all. Remember to **be ambitious but realistic**, and organise according to the strengths of your group. For example if you have someone on your committee that has seen a lot of economics documentaries, then film screenings will be easier to organise whereas if you have someone who is good at chairing discussions then debates could be a good thing to do.

Reaching out

As a part of your university union there are lots of societies with **diverse aims and interests**. One thing that is likely to unite you all is a desire to further your movement and only so many hours free in the day! So why not **collaborate**? Working together will enable you to **lessen** your workload, **widen** your reach, **share** expertise and knowledge and **build** your membership, **furthering** the movement and increasing your **impact**.

Get Debating Soc involved in your "Question time" special, Feminist Soc on board for your series on Feminist Economics, run a joint workshop for campaigning with other progressive societies, have a bake-off with Baking Soc! There's as much scope as you want!

Checklist

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1	Are your events evenly spaced out throughout the year?	
2	Have you checked your events to against the university calendar?	
3	Are your events balanced, providing varied opportunities throughout the year?	
4	Have you sought help/shared advice with the wider network for your events?	
5	Have you asked your members what they want to do?	
6	Have you contacted other societies to collaborate?	

Example Plan

Week	Event and Activity
1	Freshers Fair & Social
2	Accessible talk - "Is rising inequality a problem for developing countries?"
3	Film Screening - Terry Jones' Boom Bust Boom
4	Campaigning for curriculum change workshop
5	Social/Group meeting
6	Panel discussion - 'Economics in the Media'
7	Debate with the Economics Department "Has mainstream economics failed?"
8	Social, Behavioural economics workshop at a local school
9	Talk on ecological economics "Is growth good?"
10	Feminist Economics reading group - "Who cooked Adam Smith's dinner?"
11	Debate "Will the markets save us?"
12	Social, Fundraiser with other societies- Bake off..?