

**A short interview with Economics student Divyansh Kataria, one of the VKURA winners this year. His topic was on GDP growth: “Is the frequency of FXI effective in the GDP growth of a country?”**

**What was satisfying about your VKURA project?**

It was in my field and my subject. I can include my VKURA experience in my resume. This will help me get employment in the future.

**Why did you choose Economics?**

I’m not naturally good with the theoretical part of sciences, but I’m good with data sciences, math, analytics, and statistics. That attracted me to Economics.

**What would you tell high school students who are interested in Economics?**

Lots of high school students think Economics is super easy and that it is the same as business—it is not. You need to make sure your basics are strong, the basic economic concepts like supply and demand, scarcity, allocation, and you should ask yourself, “What is Economics?”

**What are you reading these days?**

I don’t read a lot, but I read a lot of chess books. I like Garry Kasparov’s openings and I like Bobby Fischer. I like to play chess online, sometimes with other players and sometimes I practice by myself. I won a chess tournament in high school where I am from in India, in Delhi.



University  
of Victoria

**An interview with third-year Economics student Kelechi Memeh about winning a Valerie Kuehne Undergraduate Research Award. Her poster on the volatility of the exchange rate and the standard of living in Nigeria is on display in the hall near the BEC 360 Economics office.**

**Kelechi, how did you find your way into Economics?**

My initial goal was always to study law in the UK, but circumstances didn't let that happen. I didn't know you needed an undergraduate degree to study law in Canada, and I panicked when I saw that because I had never thought of a second choice. I chose Economics because it is closely related to law and it is also a very versatile degree that can be used in many industries.

**What kind of courses have you enjoyed most so far?**

I'm currently taking the History of Economic Theory in North America and it is quite interesting, I must say. It's giving me an opportunity to learn more about Canadian history in comparison to the United States. I also enjoy taking English courses, because it gives me an excuse to read new books. I took an Art History course which I really loved, I hope to take more in future. I really enjoy History but I'd rather learn that independently.

**What did you learn from doing the VKURA project?**

It gave me the opportunity to research independently on a topic that concerns me. Research is truly a whole lot of work and requires a lot of reading and dedication. VKURA taught me that your first project doesn't have to be perfect, just make sure you have a group of people there to help you stay on the right track along the way. Seeing other students' research showed me there's an endless list of questions to find answers to.

**Do you have any advice for high school students on how to get into ECON?**

I would advise to have a basic understanding of economics and how the economy works. You really don't have to understand everything before you come to university. Also read up on what an Economics degree entails, it is a very versatile degree that can lead you to different places, especially when paired up with a minor. Have you travelled very much? I travelled a lot when I was younger. Since moving to Canada and starting university, my travel has slowed down a bit. I really miss travelling and would like to travel again when I have more time. Senegal is next on my travel list.

**What do you like to read when you are not studying economics, and what are you reading now?**

I enjoy reading novels and poetry, usually African literature. I'm also reading haiku from Japan. There's a lot of literary talent in Africa that gets little notice. My most read genre at the moment is probably Bildungsroman because it relates to where I am in my life. I am not reading anything at the moment, but next on my reading list is *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* by Wole Soyinka.

