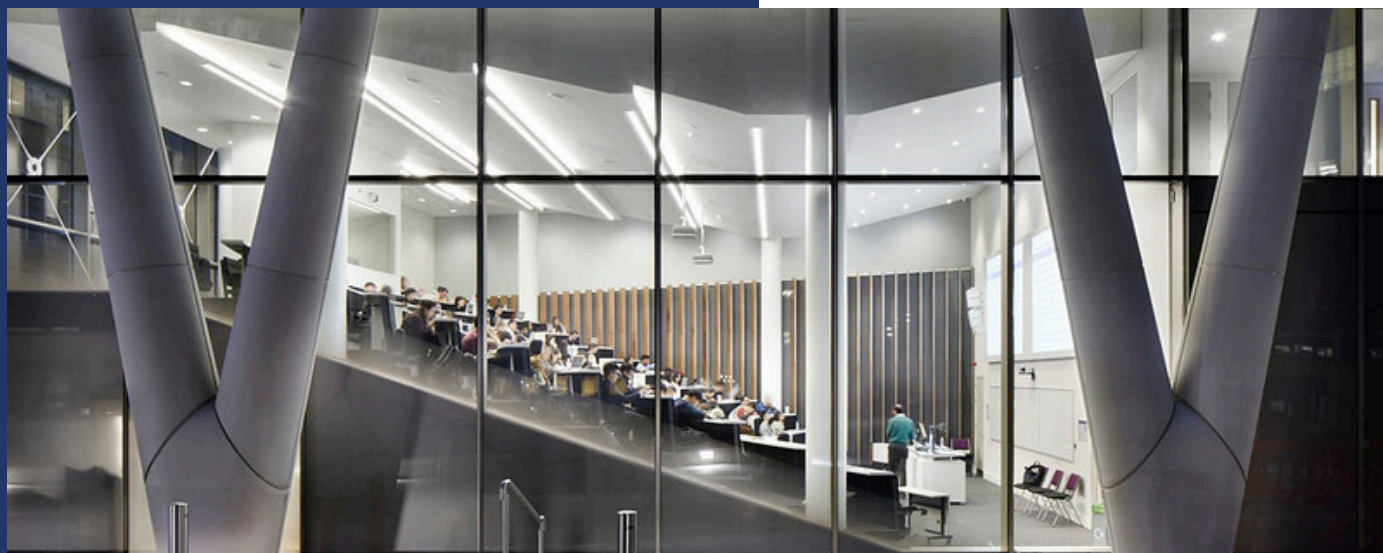


SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 27, September 2024



Welcome from the Head of School

Happy new academic year to all students and staff! I am delighted to take over as the Head of the School of Economics and Finance this year, and I would like to thank Professor Jason Sturgess for his enormous contribution to the School during his term.

This year, we welcome over 1,000 new students to the School across our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. I would also like to welcome staff members who recently joined our school: Dr Sam Altmann and Jan Toczynski joined us as Lecturers, Dr Vishal Kamat and Dr John Morrow joined as Senior Lecturers, Konstantina Diamantidi is our new Marketing and

Communications Manager, Natalie Robinson joined as Senior Marketing and Communications Officer, Louise Richardson joined as PG Student Support Officer, and Sonia Nawoor has joined as Business Support Assistant.

I look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events, and I wish you a productive and lively academic year.



Professor Alp Atakan
Head of School



Queen Mary wins two London Higher Awards

[gNomics](#), which is one of the six pillars of SKETCH, was recently awarded the London Higher Award for student employability. This programme is made up of six strands of work, spanning legal, business, financial and tech advice. [Read the full article.](#)



EMAP Update

Since its February 2021 launch, the Economics Master's Apprenticeship Programme (EMAP) has advanced economic education, with apprentices from the civil service and institutions like the Bank of England. In July, we welcomed apprentices to campus for an end-of-term "Campus week," where apprentices took part in training sessions and group projects. We're now preparing to welcome over 80 new apprentices for the 8th cohort. [For more details, visit our EMAP webpage.](#)

More news

- **The School of Economics and Finance has received two Queen Mary Education Excellence Awards.** One award goes to Alfonsina Iona and the [Queen Mary Investment Fund \(QUMMIF\)](#) team for their impactful platform focused on teaching. This initiative enables students to apply cutting-edge trading and investment analysis knowledge in real-world finance, gaining invaluable experience in fund management. The second award recognizes the School's Apprenticeship Team for their excellence in student employability. They have shared insights from their apprenticeship program across the university and worked closely with students and employers to implement the new Smart Assessor system, enhancing the apprentice learning journey. Special thanks to our Professional Services team (Marissa, Richa, Rachel, Joseph, Nathalie, Susanne, and Valentina), apprenticeship program directors (Radoslaw and Roberto), and senior tutors (Jojo, David, and Arif).
- **The School of Economics and Finance excelled in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) awards this year.** We earned a total of five University awards across professional services, education, and research. [Read the full article.](#)
- **The School of Economics and Finance received its Athena SWAN bronze award in June 2023 and is currently working on implementing a five-year Action Plan.** One of the most notable updates is the launch of a scholarship to support female students wishing to study on any of our degree programmes. Moreover, we are currently promoting Queen Mary's Being A Trans Ally guidance and Pronouns Matter leaflet with the aim to support the inclusion of trans and non-binary staff and students, as well as strengthening QMUL tools to report bullying and harassment.



Class of 2024 students graduate in the Queens Building

A huge congratulations to all of our students who graduated in July! Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off, and we couldn't be more proud of your achievements. We're excited to see where your journey takes you next. As we look ahead, we're eagerly anticipating the upcoming December Postgraduate ceremonies and the chance to celebrate even more of our talented students.

Undergraduate student prize winners

A huge congratulations to all of this year's brilliant prize winners! The following students received a School Prize:

Corry Prize - for the best 3rd Year Economics Project

- Asif Nazrul (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics with Year Abroad)
- Anabelle Thomas (BSc Economics)

Coddington Prize - for improvement in 1st year Mathematics and Statistics

- Giorgio Schito (BSc Economics and Finance)

Kieran Dhaliwal Prize - for second year student based on a combination of academic merit and charity work

- Samantha Whitten (BSc Economics)

Krystyna Renner Prize - awarded to the outstanding 2nd Year Economics and Politics student

- Emily Ridley (BSc Economics and Politics with a Year Abroad)

The following students received a College prize, an award based on academic excellence:

Constance Maynard Prize

- Vittoria Franzini (BSc Economics)

Drapers' Company Prize

- Lauren Daley (BSc Economics, Finance and Management with a Year in Industry)
- Joseph Regan (BSc Economics and Finance)

Principal's Prize

- Asif Nazrul (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics with Year Abroad)
- Quynh Le (BSc Economics and Finance)

The following students received an Academic Excellence Prize, an award to the highest achieving student in Year 1 and Year 2:

- **Year 1:** Anuska Mishra
- **Year 2:** Adi Chauhan



Thank you and best of luck

Over the summer, we bid a heartfelt farewell to four incredibly valuable members of the SEF community.

Donald Wu, our MSc IT Specialist, dedicated over 25 years of service to Queen Mary University. His contributions have been immense, and his presence will be deeply missed. We wish Donald a joyful and well-deserved retirement.

We also bid farewell to Professor Gino Gancia, Professor Aytek Malkhozov, and Samina Mushtaq, who served as SEF's Marketing and Communications Manager. We wish each of them every success in their future endeavors.

Research news

- Professor George Skiadopoulos participated in a Fireside Chat with Silvia Pavoni, Editor-in-Chief of The Banker and Founding Editor of Sustainable Views at the Financial Times. The discussion, titled "How do Investors, Companies, and Governments Cope with Climate Change Risks? A Media Perspective" was part of the 2024 ESG for Banks, Firms, and Institutional Investors: Advances and Challenges conference. The event was co-organised by the Institute of Finance and Financial Regulation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. [You can watch the full interview on YouTube.](#)
- Dr. Anna Raute, alongside Dr. Michael Serafinelli from the University of Essex, organised a one-day research workshop on "The Role of Firms in the Labour Market." Held at SEF, the event brought together international researchers specialising in Labour, Organisational, and Personnel Economics.

Teaching prize winners for 2023/2024

Undergraduate Prizes

- Excellence in Undergraduate Core Module Teaching: **Elisabet Kemp Stefansdottir**
- Excellence in Undergraduate Elective Module Teaching: **Jon de Quidt**
- Special Commendation for Outstanding Assessment and Feedback: **Alejandro Riaño**
- Special Commendation for Services to Undergraduate Education: **Nicolaas Vriend**
- Excellence in UG Class Teaching: **Laura Perez Cervera, Corinne Petrakis, and Hanifa Pilvar**

Postgraduate Prizes

- Semester A Module Organiser: **Tom Schmitz**
- Semester A Teaching Assistant: **Laly Floris**
- Semester B Module Organiser: **Darren Cullen**
- Semester B Teaching Assistant: **Dong (Daniel) Dao**



Calling all new students - earn while you learn as a Student Ambassador

If you're interested in outreach, helping others make choices when considering universities, and you're a confident communicator, consider applying to become a Student Ambassador for the School of Economics and Finance. You'll make new friends, gain skills and experience, and enjoy flexible, £13.99 p/hr paid employment to fit around your studies.

Student Ambassadors are our most powerful brand advocates. You are role models and use your personal experiences to support and advise prospective students on university life. The opportunities involve working with a variety of age groups both on and off campus. These could include:

- Supporting and assisting staff at university open days, offer holder days, campus tours, taster days
- Presenting on university life and other topics
- Participating and presenting on student panels and Q&As
- Supporting marketing staff in virtual activities
- Writing a personal profile for the website and other media communications
- Developing social media content
- Outreach activities: facilitating workshops around the country with Discover Economics
- Supporting central departments with recruitment and outreach activities
- Office-based administrative roles
- Supporting university marketing campaigns

The benefits

Becoming a Student Ambassador is a great opportunity that will enhance your appeal to future employers. The benefits include:

- **Experience:** preparing for the workplace, including the recruitment process. Develop essential presentation skills for academic life and employment
- **Flexibility:** enjoy flexible part-time employment while you study
- **Inspire:** inspire prospective students and share your experiences with future students
- **Skills:** develop your skills such as communication and teamwork
- **Training:** you'll gain specialist training as a Student Ambassador
- **Contacts:** make new friends while at work, participate in ambassador social activities and expand your professional network
- **References:** gain valuable references for future job applications
- **Reward:** enrich your student experience and earn on the job
- **HEAR:** your work as a Student Ambassador will be included in your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR), helping you demonstrate your potential to future employers.

How do I apply?

The application process to become a Student Ambassador is open! Please fill in this online [application form](#)

You do not need any previous experience to apply. You will go through a full recruitment process from application to interview. The ability to communicate professionally via all media is essential, so the quality of your written communication will be considered.

Any questions, please email: sef-studentrecruitment@qmul.ac.uk





An adventure of a lifetime - studying at Miami University

Rohil

BSc Economics and Politics with a Year Abroad

Why did you apply to study abroad?

I never planned on going abroad - I always kept it as an option. Then, I discovered the wide range of partner schools around the world coupled with being locked down at home during Covid-19 for so long. It came at the perfect time to take a year out of my studies and explore and discover a new random part of the world and more than just that, actually live in a completely different country for the year.

What made you choose this destination?

I didn't want to go to Miami - I had the offer to go to Australia which I was incredibly excited about. Miami was never even in my top 5 options but after my first choices fell through due to Covid-19 restrictions, I wanted to go somewhere I knew would be open and unrestricted, so I chose Miami. It turned out to be the adventure of a lifetime.

What do you most enjoy about your exchange?

The opportunity to use Miami as my base, and explore all of Central America and the Caribbean on my doorstep. Being a student at Miami allowed me the perfect backdrop for meeting students my age and making friends from all across these regions. I practically had local tour guides in every place I visited. I managed to get out to 11 different countries and 18 different US states during my time abroad, experiencing things I would have otherwise had the chance to.

Did you get much time to explore the new culture and country you studied in?

I hadn't done much research into Miami before heading out there and although I knew there was a Cuban presence - being surrounded by it was incredible. 70% of Miami's population is Hispanic and 60% speak Spanish as a first language whilst only 5% of Miami's population was born there, it is the biggest melting pot of Hispanic culture I'd ever experienced and it was beautiful.

How will the time you spent abroad help your personal and professional development?

My year abroad was the personal reset I needed to find my motivation again. It allowed me to take a break and focus on my well-being, without the pressures of having anyone I knew around, or any personal previous baggage. From a professional point of view, no matter where I go in the US or Latin America, I know somebody everywhere. I have contacts all across the Americas and that will undoubtedly prove invaluable.

What is it like studying abroad? What are the major differences from the UK and how did you adjust?

Studying abroad gave me a lot of freedom in terms of classes I could take - which I loved. In the US, I took 4 modules a term from 4 different schools, and I was able to reconnect with other interests.

Would you encourage future students to study abroad and why?

100%, it is the opportunity of a lifetime. The chance to live abroad in a random brand-new country for a year and throw yourself into a new culture and way of life in your early 20s, it will stay with you forever and you'll never have the freedom you have now. Two big hesitations though. It is expensive, I worked part-time at university for the year leading up to this exchange but without financial backing from my parents, I would've never been able to afford or throw myself into this opportunity. Secondly, don't go to the US if you're not 21, whether you're a big drinker or not, you won't even be allowed into most venues past 10 pm anywhere.

What advice would you give to students going abroad next year?

Say yes to everything, throw yourself into it, don't hold back, and talk to everyone you meet. It is a year for you to be yourself, don't come back with any regrets.

[Read more Student Experience stories](#)



Jesse McDougall
Corporate CFO

Insights webinar

Thinking about pursuing an MSc with SEF? Join Jesse McDougall, an experienced finance professional and lecturer, for an insightful webinar. With experience in investment banking, hedge funds, and corporate finance, Jesse will share invaluable knowledge that can help shape your academic and career journey.

Date: 24th September 2024

Time: 16:00 - 16:45 pm

[Register your place online](#)

2024 qNomics applications are open

Running annually, qNomics is a student-led knowledge exchange programme in which SEF students use the knowledge from their studies and apply it by providing financial advice to local businesses and entrepreneurs.

We're thrilled to announce that applications are now open to undergraduate and postgraduate students from SEF across all projects:

- Client Advisory Project
- Financial Literary Project
- Environment, Social and Governance Project

[Apply for qNomics Autumn 2024 intake and take a step towards a rewarding future.](#)



Follow SEF

Follow the links to join our social media networks. Social Media is a great way to stay up to date with all the exclusive events and opportunities happening within the School of Economics and Finance!

