



Queen Mary
University of London

School of Economics and Finance

School Newsletter

Issue No.25, December 2020

School Newsletter

Welcome



I would firstly like to extend a warm welcome to all new students joining the School of Economics and Finance community for the 2020-21 academic year.

This year we are welcoming around 1,000 new students to the School across our undergraduate, postgraduate taught, and research programmes. I would also like to welcome all our returning students.

I am delighted to take over the role of Head of School and would like to thank Sujoy Mukerji for his enormous contribution to SEF over the last 5 years. Most notably, leading the School's growth in terms of student numbers, staffing and income and, School of Economics and Finance more recently, steering the School in response to the pandemic.

Obviously, this year has presented us with challenges. I am very proud of the how the School has responded, and the hard work, commitment, and innovation made by staff to ensure students continue to have an engaging, enjoyable and academically rigorous experience that reflects the strengths of the Queen Mary community that we are all part of. Of course, keeping the health and safety of students and staff is our primary consideration. We have adopted a flexible blended approach to education this year, which combines online education, with the provision of weekly on-campus classes for most modules, for those of you who are able to join us in person. With this approach, we are hoping to create an inclusive educational environment for everyone, whether you are here in person or online.

I excited to announce the launch of the brand-new Economics Master's Apprenticeship Programme in partnership with the Civil Service Government Economic Service. The Programme will commence from February 2021 and is being co-created with senior representatives from government departments and executive agencies blending the academic rigour of a Russell Group university and cutting-edge professional practice of senior government economists. We are looking forward to working with the Government Economic Service to create a rich programme that provides

career development for the next generation of senior Government economists from all parts of the community.

Meanwhile, the School continues to prepare for its submission at the end of the year for REF 2021 (Research Excellence Framework). Our submission will showcase the world-leading research our academics carry out across all the major sub-fields of Economics and Finance and the real impact of this work beyond academia, from international public policy to analysis in central banks.

In other news, we will have a number of new staff members join us for this academic year. Dr Manolis Noikokyris joins us as a Reader and Dr Ilaria Piatti and Dr Joao Ramos join as a Senior Lecturers. We have also had several new Professional Services staff join us this year. Ashley Arnold joined as Marketing and Student Recruitment Manager, Philippa Costello joined as Undergraduate Student Support Officer, Aminul Hoque is our Employer Engagement & Internships Coordinator and Laura Skedgell is our new Careers Consultant. We also have two new roles. Hannah Dormor has joined in the new role of Alumni Engagement Coordinator and Mupi Mbiba as qNomics Coordinator.

A very warm welcome to all our new students and colleagues!

Professor Jason Sturgess
Head of School

Student Prize Winners 2019-20

Congratulations to the following undergraduate students who received a College prize, an award based on academic excellence:

Drapers' Company Prize:

Oliver Seager (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Chu Sun (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Saye Monnan (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Principal's Prize:

Adriano Mariani (BSc Economics)

Ehssanullah Baghban (MSc Economics)

Junya Li (MSc Banking and Finance)

Congratulations to the following students who received a School Prize:

Corry Prize (for the best 3rd Year Economics Project)

Oliver Seager (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Bernard Corry was a professor in the Department of Economics from 1966 until his retirement in 1996, and passed away in January 2001. He was always a strong advocate of projects, and to mark his many contributions to the Department of Economics, QMUL, and the economics profession in the UK, his colleagues established an annual prize for the best project. The first award of this prize was made in 1997.

Coddington Prize (for improvement in 1st year mathematics and statistics)

Mahima Brojomohun (BSc Economics)

Alan Coddington taught first year quantitative methods in the School and one of his students in 1966, impressed by the skill and humour which he brought to the task, established a prize of £100 in his memory to be awarded to the student showing the greatest improvement during their first year in quantitative modules.

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

Hrishav Das (BSc Economics)

The School of Economics and Finance has set up an annual prize in honour of Kieran Dhaliwal, who was tragically killed in 2014. Kieran was a good student and contributed to society through charity work: in his spare time he used to teach mathematics and economics to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The prize intends to reflect these two characteristics of Kieran's life and is awarded to the second year student who meets the following requirements (1) excellent academic performance in the second year; (2) evidence of contribution to society through some form of charity work.

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

Michal Bazan (BSc Economics and Politics)

This prize was established by Mark Renner in 1994 in memory of his mother, and is awarded to a second year student on the basis of both effort and performance, with first preference being given to students on the Economics and Politics programme.

Course Reps

Course reps are a very essential part of the student community at SEF; they are the voice of our programmes.

Students are encouraged to join and contribute to the MS Teams, WhatsApp, and WeChat groups led by their Course Reps and communicate their feedback, both positive and constructive, to them. This will enable the Reps to present the matter at our termly Student-Staff Liaison Committee (commonly referred to as the SSLC).

Engaging with your Course Rep is more important than ever as we experience blended teaching and learning for the first time, and we are experiencing face-to-face teaching at a distance. You Reps need innovative ideas to get connected.

You can find your Course Rep on the QMSU website: qmsu.org/yourvoice/reps/coursereps



Induction 2020

Undergraduate

Welcome Week was, of course, prominently online this year. Students were nevertheless busy getting to grips with their University transition.

Students were able to meet and hear from their Senior Tutor and Advisors, as well as many members of the Professional Services Team who were eager to welcome them to the School of Economics and Finance and let them know what we have to offer. Throughout the week, students met as part of small groups to discuss a range of 'unpopular opinions'. They heard from Dr Tim Lee at his talk where he discussed brand new research on the COVID-19 and inequality. Those on campus were able to join campus tours, the QMSU Welcome Fair and come together on the final day of the week in the Great Hall, for a wrap-up session.

What students said:

"It was really good! I felt like they accommodated well seeing as a lot of the sessions were online."

"Welcome Week is full of activities and I like it very much. Providing a comprehensive schedule would help us identify the activities and pre-school programs that are available on a daily basis."

"I found it informative and it helped introduce relevant aspects of the course and uni life. I would have liked perhaps more information on out of learning activities such as sports teams/societies."

"Welcome Week was very entertaining and I thought it was a great way to better get to know the university and the students. The "Unpopular Opinions" activity was very fun and I enjoyed coming up with different arguments for the statements with my group members."



Postgraduate

Autumn 2020 was extremely busy for the Induction team with a lot of enhancements being implemented and evaluated than the previous years. This year we could not present a table full of canapés and drink but did try to present a spread of different experiences. The students participated in contests and won Amazon vouchers. The induction programme had Pre-session Maths and Stats programme, Induction session from Programme directors, Optional module leaders, Excel training. We had a range of social activities which included:

- Share a Story introducing your QMUL Journey,
- Photography Competition,
- End of week party with a prize for the best drink prepared by the students,
- Economics Bingo.

We also had a Virtual Company Visit to Urban Edge Capital. The speaker was the CEO and founder of UEC Gibran Registe-Charles.

In addition to this, we had a City Finance Walking Tour, of course following the government guidelines. Over this two-hour walking tour, the origins of London's financial centre and indeed the world's first Stock Exchange were discovered. Overall it was a complete action-packed two weeks of Induction.

Quotes from students:

"My experience of online learning is going great and the lecturers are delivering the content nicely."

"That's wonderful. I was totally well informed."

"It's quite thoughtful to have so many activities, and I get all information I need."

"The pre-session maths for finance module was refreshingly pleasing. It helped me revise all my concepts from undergrad and will surely help me understand other modules throughout the year. Although I wish I could attend the live/on-campus sessions, the recorded lectures were as better."



Run for fun and campus games!

Last year the Student Union hosted a series of sports events for the annual Campus Games.

This is a chance for students and staff to get involved in a wide range of activities throughout the year from a Parkrun to a Tug-of-war. Points are awarded to schools for participation and at the end of the academic year, SEF could be the holders of the Campus Games Trophy!

A number of people from SEF took part in Queen Marys 'Run for Fun' on Saturday the 16th of November 2019 in Mile End Park. This is a timed 5k run and links with the Mile End Park Run. The SEF team did incredibly well in the 2019/20 Student Union Campus Games. We came second after The School of Medicine and Dentistry. Sarah Riley is part of the SEF professional services team. She said "it's great to take part in Run for Fun as professional services, academics and student come together to share a joint interest. It doesn't matter how fast you go (I speak from experience!) it's about having a great time in the local community." Our PA to Senior Management, Derek Judge, won Fastest Individual Staff Male in the campus games triathlon! Well done to everyone took that part!



Hi everyone! My name is Davina Pindoria and I am currently a second year BSc Economics student, looking to graduate in 2021. So far, I have loved my experience studying Economics at Queen Mary! The tutorials and lectures are very though provoking and interesting and it's great to be learning about what you love alongside fellow students who share your passion for the subject as well being taught by such distinguished researchers and Professors!

Reflecting on my time so far at Queen Mary, I definitely wanted to stay in London and therefore Queen Mary was the perfect option for me. Being so close to Canary Wharf is of massive benefit to us as students as a lot of investment banks, asset managers and consultancy firms hold career events or stalls on campus. From attending one of these in my first year at university, I was able to secure an all-expense paid month-long summer internship in Hong Kong with HSBC which was an incredible experience; both professionally and culturally.

I would say that the star of the School of Economics and Finance is our brilliant careers service. Coming into university, I was unsure what I wanted to do after I had completed my degree in Economics (which has all sorts of applications to a variety of different jobs) and after my careers module in first year as well as utilising the help given to me by Serena and the rest of her team, I felt a lot more reassured about what next steps to take! From fine-tuning your CV, to assessment preparation to interview practice, I think that the SEF careers service is our hidden gem!

Outside of academic life, I also think it's important to be involved in societies and extracurricular activities. Alongside being a SEF student ambassador and Central Queen Mary Student Ambassador (which are great part time jobs to have), I am also involved in a number of sports and volunteering opportunities on campus. These provide a great release when I feel the stress of my degree piling up. It is always important to have a balance. Work hard but play harder!

I am looking forward to going into 3rd year and then onto graduation too. I have loved my time here so far and can't wait to see what the next year holds. One piece of advice I would give is to make the most of university. Being in the heart of London and being the only campus-based university here is an amazing opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. You might surprise yourself!

Psychometric Competition

Well done to the winners of the psychometric competition for last semester!

Most tests completed

1. Yasir Awil
2. Manisha Fernando
3. Ronak Rodrigues

Best overall result

1. Yasir Awil
2. Manisha Fernando
3. Harry Delacruz Jamieson

Striving for Excellence – SEF at the 2019 Education Excellence Awards

The Education Excellence Awards are presented by President and Principal Prof. Colin Bailey and Vice-President Prof. Stephanie Marshall.

The awards celebrate the hard work of QM staff who have significantly contributed to QM excellence in the four core areas of Education, Student Engagement, Student Employability and Learning Environment.

We're proud to say that SEF has done particularly in both 2019 and 2020

2019 winners:

Emanuela Nova, Placement Officer, for the set-up of the Year in Industry programme;

Dr Rachel Male for her work on the redevelopment of the undergraduate curriculum with significant improvements on feedback and assessment.

2020 winners:

Dr Rachel Male for leading the transition to blended education.

Sarah Riley, Teaching and Learning Manager, for significant contributions to the PGT January-start programmes

James Kilvington, PGT Programme Manager, for his contribution in achieving substantial improvements in the Schools' Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) scores, and for the support he's shown to postgraduate students.

Shahnaz Shahid, IT/Web Support Officer, for the extensive support given to colleagues in the transition to online classes and recorded lectures, and for developing a system to allow the School to run online exams effectively.

As reported by Emanuela, "it was a real honour to receive the award. I am proud to be part of an organisation that really values and recognises the hard work we put in everyday".

Congratulations to the winners and the rest of the staff at SEF for their amazing work!



Research News



Professor George Skiadopoulos wrote an article in CFO Magazine about his recent research on financial flexibility as a determinant of the firm's capital structure.

Financial flexibility is defined as the company's ability to take advantage of new investment opportunities as they come along, or sustain ongoing projects, via borrowing. The research tested and verified a main prediction of the financial flexibility paradigm: that manager's expectations about future company-specific investment shocks, proxied by information extracted from equity options, affect a company's leverage. Moreover, it documents that the leverage of small and financially constrained companies are far more sensitive to expectations for shocks than that of big and financially unconstrained firms, as predicted by the financial flexibility paradigm.

This research was conducted with Dr. Costas Lambrinoudakis (Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds) and Mr Konstantinos Gkionis (PhD student, School of Economics and Finance, Queen Mary University of London), and it is published as a lead article in the Journal of Banking and Finance. CFO Magazine is a monthly magazine and it is the leading media brand in the United States aimed at CFOs. Congratulations to Professor George Skiadopoulos!



Thirty years on from German reunification, Dr Anna Raute has published a working paper which sheds new light on the impact it had on women.

According to the research, even decades after reunification, mothers who grew up in East Germany are still quicker to return to work after the birth of a child than mothers who grew up in West Germany.

The findings also showed that women from East Germany work longer hours. However, the study also reveals that West German women who directly interacted with East German women have changed their working practices since 1990.

Whilst much has been written on the various impacts of reunification, often focusing on how the West has influenced the East, few studies have shown that the process has also worked the other way around. In the case of this study, it shows that the East also had an influence over the working culture of the West. As such the research sheds new light on the subject of German reunification, the 30th anniversary of which takes place on 3 October 2020.

Anna's work has also featured in The New York Times as well as many German outlets, some of which include: Tagesspiegel (printed edition) WELT, Handelsblatt, Zeit, Süddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), MDR and n-tv (German TV).



Dr Tim Lee's research with co-authors Sangmin Aum's and Yongseok Shin on the effect of COVID-19 on South Korea's labour market has been featured in The Wall Street Journal and Barrons (a Wall Street Journal magazine), and gained a featured coverage in Canada's National Post and the Brazilian daily Folha de S.Paulo (Portuguese).

Tim and co-authors find that even within Korea, which more or less contained the pandemic without ever shutting down the economy, the sole region that had a significant outbreak experienced a larger drop in employment and worsening inequality compared to the rest of the nation. They argue that the quantitative magnitude of the negative effects imply that even in countries that experienced much larger outbreaks, such as the UK and the US, as much as half of the negative labour market consequences may be directly due to the epidemic (consumers and businesses voluntarily limiting their economic activities), rather than the large-scale lockdowns implemented by the government.

The media has focused on the precautionary message of the article: Lifting lockdowns won't recover the economy unless there is a larger, sustained drop in COVID-19 infections.

Postgraduate News

New PG Optional Modules for inclusion in the HEAR

We are pleased to inform you that the following QM Extra activities have been formally approved by the Education Quality & Standards Board for inclusion in the HEAR from 2020/21 onwards:

- C++ for Finance
- Introduction to R
- Postgraduate Financial Trading Programme
- Python for Finance
- QUMMIF Training in Investment and Portfolio Analysis
- VBA/Excel for Finance

All current students who have successfully completed Python for Finance and C++ for Finance shall have the module included on their HEAR transcript.

Congratulations!

Upcoming Semester B modules are:

- Intro to R,
- Amplify Trading,
- Stata,
- Applied Portfolio Management,
- MATLAB,
- Foundation course in technical analysis

Optional Modules

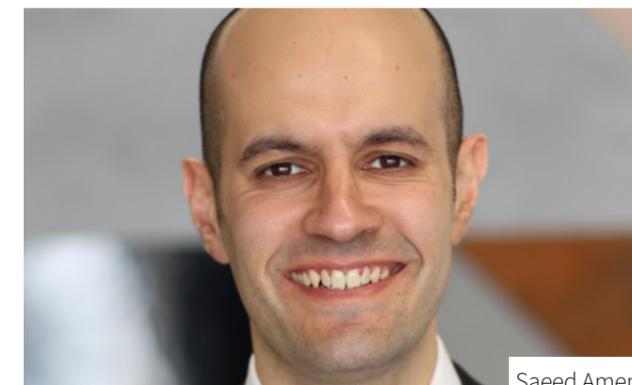
Optional modules for PG students are one of the most acknowledged programmes at SEF. We have students participating in large numbers.

Saeed Amen and Ivan Zhdankin have been teaching C++ for Finance, Python for Finance and VBA/Excel modules in Semester A.

This is what they have to say about their experience at SEF:

"I'm a visiting lecturer at QMUL and I've been teaching subjects including Python for finance, alternative data and also Excel/ VBA. I've very much enjoyed teaching. The coding background of the students varies, with some just starting, whilst others have more experience. I've tried to ensure that there's enough time to ask questions and get feedback in particular during the tutorial sessions. My background is in developing FX trading strategies and researching markets more broadly. As a result, I've added a lot of content to solve problems that I've often encountered during my work in financial markets, whether it's creating trading strategies, creating event studies or working with alternative datasets. I hope the students get a lot of practical skills from my courses, which will help them in the future in the finance

industry. Given the circumstances, I've been teaching online and it's worked very well, the student interaction has been very good. However, I'm still very much looking forward to returning to in-person teaching when things hopefully normalise."



Saeed Amen

"I had a pleasure to deliver C++ in Finance course at QMUL. Though the course was delivered online the students were highly engaged during the lectures and tutorials asking many questions about the materials and applications of C++ in quant and trading industry in Finance. I believe students were very interested in the interactive approach of the course, which includes quizzes and sessions on preparation for interview questions. The course is of introductory level, however, some of the students were asking for additional materials and more advanced content in C++. I understand students come from different backgrounds and I believe it is important to keep everyone engaged so we kept the baseline content untouched while bringing more materials on board when addressing students requests so that students could have a better understanding of how things work in practice. I am happy to have the opportunity to share my experience from the quant finance and systematic trading industry and give students some visibility on the interview preparation for the quant and trading roles."



Ivan Zhdankin

Postgraduate News

Alumni Talk Series

At SEF we intend to work with you to provide a fascinating professional networking event with your alumni with real added value that you will benefit from personally and professionally. You have an opportunity to experience their journey and will have the opportunity to share your queries.

This year we launched the Alumni Talk Series during Induction in September 2020. Our first speaker was Dominik Nagler, who completed an MSc in Banking and Finance in 2018 and is now working as an Associate at Credit Suisse.

In October 2020 the speaker was Shurouq Qawariq, who completed an MSc in Finance in 2017 and is the founder of Rumman, a personalized micro-savings and investment app. Rumman aims to open the world of saving and investment to those traditionally unable to afford it.

In November 2020 the speaker was Kateryna Hrynychak, who completed a BSc Economics, Finance and Management in 2015. She joined Bloomberg as a Data Analyst as an Intern, six months following the internship, I took over a team of 12 analysts covering all of EMEA Mutual Fund product.

We look forward to continuing inviting our Alumni to speak to our students in the future.



Live Trading Market Competition

On Friday 6th December 2019 SEF held their first ever live trader competition! Our MSc students had the opportunity to access a world-class trading platform and operate as hedge fund traders for the day. The session was led by experienced industry expert William who gave the students training and guidance.

"It was great to trade the major US data release with students from Queen Mary. Nikos Prapas stood out as the best performer for a consistent interest rate expectation strategy; going short Gold, US T-Notes and the EUR/USD. Most impressive was how he maintained his discipline and avoided overtrading in the volatility."

Congratulations to all students who took part and a big thank you to Will and his team for putting on such a fantastic event.



Time to TALK

Thursday 6th February 2020 was Time to Talk Day, a day when we encouraged everyone to have a conversation about mental health.

In March 2014, Queen Mary signed the Time to Change Employer Pledge, a commitment to you all to change how we think and act about mental health at every level of this organisation.

One in four of us will experience a mental health problem and 9 in 10 say they have faced negative treatment from others as a result. By choosing to be open about mental health, we are all part of a movement that is changing the conversation

around mental health and ensuring that no one is made to feel isolated or alone for having a mental health problem.

If you'd like to have an informal chat about any troubles or difficult situations you are experiencing, you can attend a drop in session online. sessions will take place on Thursdays 3-4pm via MS Teams or Zoom. If you wish to attend, please send Emanuela (e.nova@qmul.ac.uk) and Alexandra (a.nowosiad@qmul.ac.uk) an email ahead of the session so that we can make sure there are no overlaps.

These sessions are completely private and confidential.

Learn about the other services related to Mental Health offered at Queen Mary here: welfare.qmul.ac.uk

Careers News

The SEF Careers Team is offering all their usual support online this year, from careers appointments to employer events and much more!

We have already hosted a range of interesting online events, such as a presentation by the Government Economic Service, an Investment Banking panel (JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Credit Suisse, MUFG) and a Women in Finance Panel (NatWest, Duff and Phelps, Gemini Capital, Beazley).

All the events this year are being recorded, so if students are unable to join they can watch them in their own time. We are also running a range of careers workshops this year, ranging from CV to LinkedIn workshops, as well as some Digital Mock Assessment Centres which have been highly valued by previous participants.

The central QM Careers team has also successfully managed to move all our popular work experience programmes online. By taking part in QTaster, students can now sign up to a variety of virtual company visits and networking sessions. As part of the Student Consultancy Project, you will work in a multidisciplinary consultancy team, providing remote services to companies in East London. In addition to all this we are also offering some face-to-face appointments in SEF each week.

Lastly, the Careers Support for SEF Students QMPlus page has been expanded to include more resources and information on industry sectors, application stages and events. The page is a valuable space for students to read articles and watch videos to prepare for application tests and interviews.

Year in Industry: what is it really like?



Taking a year in industry during your undergraduate course is an eye-opening experience that can really boost your career and personal growth. However, it's also pretty daunting.

Mikael is a forth-year SEF student who took his placement year at ING Bank. Learn more about the programme from his own words!

Why did you decide to take a year in industry?

Originally, taking a year in industry was not the plan. However, the opportunity came up in March, and after getting through the different stages of the application process and receiving the offer, I decided I would take it as it would give me the opportunity to get a foot in an industry that is extremely competitive.

What have you learnt from the whole application process that will be helpful when looking for a graduate role?

One thing I've heard the most during the application process is to be yourself and I couldn't agree more. Companies are not looking for the "perfect" candidate; all they want to know is if you are an honest person, hard-working and if you have a real interest within the chosen field. Do your research!

What advice would you give to students who are looking for their industrial placements now?

Always keep an eye out for the QM careers email, that's how I got mine. There are always opportunities being posted so check your emails and follow through with the application. Also, make sure you are a part of all the relevant societies to your field as it shows recruiters that you are interested. Being around people who are interested in the same things as you can also motivate you to challenge yourself.

Did you receive many rejections? What advice would you give to students having a tough time with rejections?

Yes, can't count how many but that's normal. If you're not getting rejections, then you are doing something wrong – not applying enough. What you need to learn is to use these rejections as a learning curb. If you struggled with the numerical, go to jobtestprep, practice everything on there, and be comfortable with it. Most applicants don't take time when they complete their applications and rush through it. Take your time. Read the job description and match your CV and cover letter to match those requirements. Do your research on the company. Apply to everything possible. An opportunity will present itself. Make sure you take it.

What are three things that you are enjoying the most about your current role?

1. My exposure in the firm. I meet regularly with very senior people from all different teams and work on different projects with them. Once I was sitting at my desk and my manager's boss pulled me up and asked if I could spare an hour for him to use my brain on an acquisition he was working on. We researched a lot of stuff and my input was massively used and appreciated in the decision-making process.

2. Working on whole company projects. Interns oversee many events that go on around the building. These kinds of projects allow us to get away from our desks but also develop project management skills and improve our ability to work on multiple tasks at once.

3. Before starting the role, we had a two-week training period where we attended Ashridge Business School and stayed there for two days. During this time, we completed a project management course, training on Excel, Outlook among many other useful skills. This was very useful when we started our internships and began to incorporate these skills into every day work.

How will your year in industry help your career progression?

Aside from the wealth of experience and all the technical skills that are picked up, the best thing has to be the network we build during our time. Speaking to people, shadowing them on different projects and even just asking them to a coffee can make a big difference. You speak to people who would oversee the recruitment and interviews of the roles you want so you know what they are looking for. This is a massive advantage when going for your next interview whether that is in the same company or not.

You can add a placement to your studies if you are enrolled into "Economics and Finance" and you switch to "Economics and Finance with a Year in Industry" before the end of your second year. As you can read above, there are several benefits connected to the programme, such as the acquisition of specific and transferable skills; enhanced employability; increased motivation and a bigger network. Speak to Emanuela if you'd like to add the year in industry to your course, there is still time!

My Semester at Columbia University



There are very few times in your life when you will have the opportunity to live and study in a different culture, without job pressures or other responsibilities. Experiencing life in another country while you are a student is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and you should grab it if you can.

Read about Mohammed's semester at Columbia University in New York City and start thinking about where you want to be in 2021-22! Applications will reopen in October.

Why did you apply to study abroad?

I applied to a study abroad because I wanted to increase my confidence and responsibility. It was a way of challenging myself by living in a different environment to the UK. It is a good opportunity to gather academic knowledge while meeting people from different cultures.

Why did you choose Columbia?

I chose Columbia because it is an Ivy League school. It will look great on a CV that you were part of a study abroad programme especially if it is also a top school and top universities generally have excellent professors.

What do you most enjoy about your time abroad?

I enjoyed my classes abroad because I had amazing professors. They were really talented at simplifying complex concepts and I wish I had more classes with them. I also enjoyed visiting major parts of New York such as the Rockefeller Centre, Wall Street or Times Square. Looking at the infrastructure gives you an idea of the greatness of the US and the city of New York.

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

It helped me gain more confidence and commercial awareness. It also made me more interested in Macroeconomic Data and the Financial Markets. The study abroad experience helped me narrow my career options, as I'm willing to get into trading on Financial Markets or take a PhD.

Would you encourage future students to study abroad and why?

I would definitely encourage students to go on study abroad programmes because it was the best thing that happened to me during my degree. It opened my mind and made me learn so much. It is a great way of boosting confidence, evolving professionally and building a great personality!

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

Prepare the documents that the host university asks you for well and book well in advance your visa appointment to be ready before the start of the academic year. Enjoy the experience. You will only be abroad for one semester or one year so try to make the most of it.

Want to study abroad but missed the deadline for next year? Then why not consider a Summer School Programme. Applications are now open for summer courses in Zurich, Shanghai, Prague and many more will open in the coming months! Have a look at the SEF UG Info Zone on QM Plus and check what's available under 'Study Abroad Opportunities'!

qNomics

A student-led financial guidance centre, qNomics was established in 2015 to provide business advice to start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Since then it has grown and become part of the SKETCH umbrella, which further enables students to apply their learning to drive social impact and cohesion in our local communities.

What is qNomics? Running annually in line with the academic year, qNomics is a student-led knowledge exchange programme in which SEF students use the knowledge from their studies and apply it by providing financial guidance to local businesses and entrepreneurs. The programme was created by Leon Vinokur, who has the inspiration to give students the opportunity to use the skills and knowledge they've amassed from their academic studies by counselling real life clients with real life business issues.

The free financial guidance covers a range of complex problems including business planning - practical steps on how to grow your business, marketing - how to bring your products into market, and funding - assistance on how to best prepare to apply for funding, pitching advice, and an introduction to relevant people in the network subject to readiness of the business.

In addition to student advisory, the programme has a marketing and content development element in which students can join either and in groups work together to grow and develop qNomics. The marketing aspect focuses on prompting qNomics internally and externally mainly through social media. The content development aspect gives students the opportunity to participate in workshops by delivering group presentations to local community hubs.

Who is and can get involved? The programme is geared towards SEF students – mainly third year undergraduates and postgraduates, as they have the necessary learning to undertake the advisory element of the programme. The students are placed into groups of three or four – the groups are mixed undergraduates and postgraduates, genders, ethnicities, and degrees, meaning that students work with a variety of people from various backgrounds as they would in a real-life working environment.

What's new in qNomics and how has the programme responded to the current pandemic?

Earlier this year, qNomics was brought under the SKETCH (Student Knowledge Exchange for Community Hubs) Unit, alongside The Legal Advice Centre, qLegal, The Student Consultancy Project, and the QM Social Venture Fund. The £650,000 investment to the university from the Office for Students & Research England has given the qNomics a real chance to expand the programme, giving students more opportunities and more exposure “to professionals across a wide range of disciplines and organisations”.

As a result of the recent investment, in the autumn of this year, the team welcomed Mupi Mbiba, who started her role as the qNomics Coordinator. Bringing skills from past experiences Mupi is eager to “support with the development of the qNomics programme and student's in their professional and personal development whilst giving something back to the community”.

Due to COVID, the programme went virtual with all trainings and consultations taking place online through a variety of mediums. Whilst this brought new challenges, this has not stopped the programme being incredibly successful as this year's cohort has over 45 students and 20 clients taking part. Additionally, the team have continued their streak of creativity and innovation by finding new ways to engage students and new opportunities for them to take part in and utilise their skills.

For more information on the programme please check out of webpage, social media platforms or contact Leon Vinokur or Mupi Mbiba.

The Banking and Finance Society



In 2019/20, the Banking and Finance Society put on various different events allowing students to gain key insights into the banking industry. The Banking and Finance Society has allowed students to learn more about the banking industry, gain career advice and network too!

The society started off the year by providing a taster session, where one of the co-founders of the society (currently working at Goldman Sachs) ran the session. This allowed students to learn more about the ethos of the society as well as what the Banking and Finance Society offers to students. At the beginning of the first semester the Banking and Finance Society ran a series of events focused on assisting students with the essentials of any job application process...CVs and cover letters! This was done by running a CV clinic and also providing a CV workshop on how to master your CV, ensuring that students are on the right track to securing spring weeks, internships and graduate schemes.

Additionally, an Assessment Centre Workshop and a Psychometric and Interview Workshop with SEO was also run, to give students a real insight into what the more difficult parts of the application process can be like. The Banking and Finance Society also put on an Investment Banking Panel and a Graduate Analyst Panel where speakers from Credit Suisse, RBC, and HSBC came to speak to Queen Mary students about their experience. Many of the students were Queen Mary alumni, and it was a great opportunity for students to network! The society also started its Ambassador Scheme, giving students an opportunity to be an advocate for the society whilst also gaining the key skills to be a part of the committee next year. With many students securing internships, to kick off the second semester the society held an Internship Social. This was an informal event where incoming Summer Analysts for 2020 had the opportunity to speak to past Summer Interns, with pizza and beverages also being provided! Students had the chance to speak to students who had interned at JP Morgan, Rothschild, RBS, PwC and Lloyds (who were also all Queen Mary alumni)! The Banking and Finance Society continues to be one of the most established societies at Queen Mary, and continues to excel!



The Trading and Investment Society



Queen Mary Trading and Investment Society (QMTIS) was established in 2009. Since then it became the most prestigious, active, and largest finance-related society on campus, helping students across Queen Mary.

During the recruitment period in Semester A, QMTIS hosted a series of events focused on helping students to build a strong profile when applying for jobs. This included: mastering a CV, Cover Letter, and LinkedIn workshops, brought to students by professionals from the industry. To help students to secure internships and insight days, QMTIS hosted 2 mock Assessment Centres with Sparta Global and an Interview Workshop with Career Cheetah.

Celebrating a 10th year anniversary in November, the society invited its members to distinguish its milestone journey together, as well as to build relationships and network with current professors from the SEF and QM alumni who work in top banks like Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, Credit Suisse and many more.

The society opened its guest-speakers events by inviting professionals from Fintech to increase students' awareness of the technology disruption in the financial industry and what it will bring for the future.

In Semester B, QMTIS hosted a Welcome Back presentation, which was marked by presentations from the Investments, Trading, and Macro Research teams. This was followed by the Investment Banking and Women in Finance panels. All the panellists were QM graduates who have a career in investment banking, wealth management, asset management and other industries. These events were crucial for the society and its members to increase equality and encourage QM students to pursue their dream career despite their degree, previous experience, background and find support in this journey.

The QMTIS Macro Research team members post news coverage every week, which can be viewed on the society's LinkedIn page. The Trading team meets every week to discuss the market movements and top events. The Investments team meets weekly to build equity research reports to be presented to the public at the end of the semester.

QMTIS is proud to be named the best society on campus and hold a Golden Award.



A Warm Welcome to our New Staff Members



Dr Manolis Noikokyris joins Queen Mary as a Reader in Economics and Finance. He also holds the position of Senior Tutor for the School's undergraduate degree programmes. He has previously held academic positions at Kingston University London and the University of Essex.

His research interests lie primarily in the fields of monetary policy, macro-finance and international finance. He currently works on a variety of topics including the financial market implications of monetary policy; the determinants of firm investment; and the impact of financial constraints on firm behaviour.

He received his Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Essex. He also holds an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of Essex, and a BSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of Macedonia.



Dr Joao Ramos joins as a Senior Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London. He researches in the area of Game Theory and specializes in the economics of information - the analysis of how economic agents strategically acquire, use, and share information - with an emphasis on how information asymmetries affect incentives.

His research focuses on how long-term relationships may ameliorate the frictions that conflicting interests cause. That is, how the prospect of a future relationship may align actors' interests: the parties may be flexible concerning their immediate goals, with a view to a healthy long-term relationship.

Before joining Queen Mary University of London, he was an Assistant Professor of Finance and Business Economics at the Marshall School of Business of the University of Southern California. He received his Ph.D. in Economics in 2016 from New York University.



Ashley Arnold joined the Administration team in March 2020 as Marketing and Student Recruitment Manager. He brings with him 27 years domestic and international experience of the Higher Education, Executive Education, Not for Profit and Hospitality sectors, holding a BSc (Hons) in Hospitality Management, and both an Executive MBA and a MSc in Business and Management Research from Henley Business School at the University of Reading. "I'm very excited to be part of a highly-motivated and collaborative team and look forward being part of SEF's innovative future".



Philippa Costello joined the School as Undergraduate Student Support Officer in March 2020. After completing her Bachelor's degree at UEA (and not wanting to leave), Philippa moved into Professional Services at a number of UK universities, including the University of Nottingham, University of Warwick and the Open University.

A Warm Welcome to our New Staff Members



Hannah Dormor joined the School of Economics and Finance in the new role of Alumni Engagement Coordinator in January 2020. Hannah has spent the last few years working on graduate schemes and leadership programmes in the Civil Service, and has qualifications in HR Management, Law and Philosophy. She is “excited to be working in such an innovative and diverse organisation and is keen to develop an engaging programme of alumni activity, enabling and encouraging alumni to get involved in the life of the university.”



Laura Skedgell joined Queen Mary Careers and Enterprise in 2019 and began supporting School of Economics and Finance students this summer. She has a decade of experience working for financial services companies in client-facing and corporate social responsibility roles. In 2013 she moved into the education sector, specialising in projects bringing young people and businesses together. Directly before joining Queen Mary, she was an education consultant advising clients such as Barclays on employability and social mobility initiatives. Laura is passionate about helping students achieve their career goals from whatever background they come from.



Mupi Mbiba joined the Professional Services team as qNomics Coordinator in September 2020. A QMUL alumna, Mupi completed her BSc (Hons) degree in Accounting and Management in 2018 and then started an 18 month placement at MUFG in in Corporate Social Responsibility team. At the beginning of her career, Mupi is eager to bring the skills she learnt from past experiences to develop the qNomics programme, and support student in their professional and personal development whilst giving something back to the community.



Aminul Hoque joined the SEF administration team as Employer Engagement and Internships Coordinator in March 2020, having worked previously in the Careers and Enterprise Central Events Team. He has led on operations and business development for a diverse range of organisations and is passionate to support students through engaging with employers and sourcing various internship opportunities.

**.HAPPY.
HOLIDAYS**

On behalf of everyone at the School of Economics and Finance, we offer our season’s greetings and best wishes for the New Year.