

Welcome



We began the academic year in September with the usual hive of activities. This has been a lively and productive year in many dimensions. The School was very pleased to welcome our expanding student community, with over 200 BSc students, over 900 MSc students. We are also pleased to have joined the School Michelle Restarick as Head of Administration, Sarah Riley as Teaching and Learning Manager, Fabienne Paul as Finance Officer, Anil Puri as Internship Co-ordinator, Jubeda Shamima Khatun as Administrative Assistant. A very hearty welcome to all our new colleagues! With best wishes for this semester and beyond.

Professor Sujoy Mukerji
Head of School

Student Survey Season 2018

Student Survey Season at QMUL is now coming to an end. The School of Economics and Finance would like to thank all of you who participated in the surveys- the NSS, UKES and Postgraduate Taught Survey- your feedback has been invaluable. By

participating in such surveys you have ensured that your experience here has been communicated to future applicants and that we continue to have fantastic students like you coming through our doors!

Study Well!

Good Luck for your Exams...Give it your best and try not to let the stress get to you!

NSS
National Student Survey

The NSS runs at Queen Mary from Monday 29 January to Monday 30 April.

POSTGRADUATE

TAUGHT EXPERIENCE

SURVEY

PTES Survey

The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) is the only UK higher education sector-wide survey to gain insight from taught postgraduate students about their learning and teaching experience. Wherever you are in the world, by participating in the PTES you will benefit. It is an opportunity for all taught postgraduate students

to reflect on their learning and teaching experience. The results of the survey help us to improve the taught postgraduate offering at Queen Mary. The PTES was launched at Queen Mary on Monday 5 February as part of the Student Survey Season along with the NSS and UKES, and will close on Friday 25 May.

Save the Date!!!

8th June, 18

Disco Cruise- PG Annual Summer Party



THAMES DISCO CRUISE

Induction 2017

The Induction weeks 18th Sep was packed full of activity – for both Postgraduate and Undergraduate students.

Postgraduate Induction

A Welcome Talk, Pre-session lecturers and classes, Welcome and orientation events like City Finance Walking Tour, Theatre shows for Lion King and Wicked, Launch of Alumni Talk Series, Networking sessions with Programme Directors and other students and much more! It was indeed two weeks of powerful events welcoming the students.



These are the feedback we received from our students

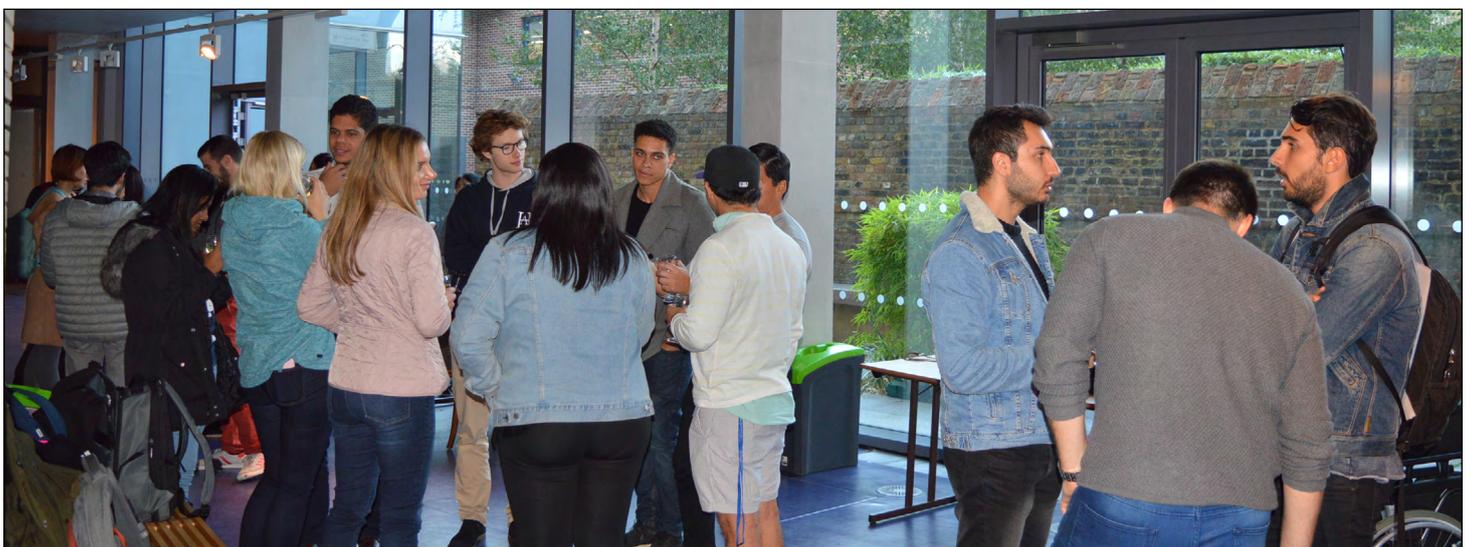
“Plenty of different workshops and introduction lectures. Helpful staff. Lots of entertaining activities”.

“Thank you very much to all of you, who took the time to answer all my questions”.

“It was very informative and everyone was very helpful, friendly and welcoming”.

“City walking tour was great, the guide made it very entertaining and interesting! I would definitely recommend it, thanks for organising it”.

“The material covering in the induction is very helpful”.



Undergraduate Induction

The School of Economics and Finance would like to extend a big welcome to our cohort of over 220 undergraduate students who joined us this academic year.

Induction seemed to be a big success, the week was packed full of activities – a reception and icebreaker games in the Senior Common Room, a treasure hunt – economics related, of course - a trade game and much more! The School was very pleased to meet you all. Induction would not have run so smoothly without the help of our dedicated ambassadors so a big thank you to them for their time, support and efforts! If you would like to join our student ambassador scheme please ask at the admin office for further information.



School of Economics and Finance- Annual Guest Speaker Lecture 2017/18



Professor John Curtice-
'Can we trust the polls?'

The Annual Guest Speaker Lecture started about ten years ago and was introduced as a way to bring (mainly) undergraduate students and staff together through the discussion of some topical issue of interest to economics students.

On the 16th October 2017 John Curtice came to speak to SEF on the topic 'Can we trust the polls?'. Professor Curtice is a familiar face when it comes to elections and referendums and he regularly appears on TV during election nights- he is a regular media commentator on British politics, and head of the team responsible for the analysis of the BBC/ITV/Sky joint general election exit poll.

Given the apparent unreliability of recent polls, the talk offered some valuable insights into the nature of polling and the recent and somewhat unpredictable changes in voting patterns.

Thank you to all of you who came to the lecture, we hope to have an equally engaging talk in the next academic year.

Former PhD student Barbara Masi wins "Ezio Tarantelli" award

Our PhD graduate Barbara Masi (cohort 2016) has received the 2017 Annual Labour Economics Award "Ezio Tarantelli" from the Italian Society of Labour Economists (AIEL).

The annual "Ezio Tarantelli" award for the best essay is awarded, during each National Conference, to the author of the work presented at the previous year's Conference, which is distinguished by its high scientific value.

Congratulations to Barbara!

Dr Renato Faccini awarded the George Fellowship from the Bank of England



Dr Renato Faccini has been awarded the George fellowship from the Bank of England. George

Fellowships are awarded to promote research into the working and function of financial business institutions in the UK and elsewhere and the economic conditions affecting them.

The George Fellowship was established in 2003 to recognise former Governor Sir Edward George's lifelong service to the Bank, and his role as the first chair of the Monetary Policy Committee. Congratulations to Renato!

Alumni Talks- In Discussion- Journey towards a successful Dissertation

On 6th February, 18 we organised a session for students to meet our Alumni's who have recently graduated and could talk about their Dissertation preparation experience. We had a panel of three alumni members, **Nuno Fernandes** working as Structured Finance - Infrastructure and Energy EMEA at Crédit Agricole CIB, **Eleftherios Vidalis**- Vice President - Compliance, Controls and Governance (IFRS9/Capital/Forecasting/Impairment Controls and Models Specialist) at Barclays and Nihit Joshi- CISI Education Trust Award Winner. It was an interesting panel with diverse experience and they provided a lot of guidance to our students. Over 90 MSc students attended the event and they all had opportunities to ask questions at the end. The event was hosted by Vladislav Skovorodov, Teaching Associate, Economics.





Winter Graduation

Our MSc students graduated on Monday 18th December. The ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the People's Palace in Mile End, attended by almost 800 graduates, family and friends. All have made huge achievements during their time at Queen Mary University of London.

Overall Student Prize 2016-17

Congratulations to the following students who were recognised for achieving the highest degree mark from their cohort.

Each received a prize of £2000:

- Mr Thu Ha Tran – Banking and Finance MSc
- Miss Rana Abdelrehim – Behavioural Finance MSc
- Mr Tao Chen – Business Finance MSc
- Mr Edward Hall – Economics MSc
- Mr Ondrej Honzik – Finance MSc
- Miss Maria Papachristodoulou – Finance and Econometrics MSc
- Mr Huy Viet Ho Dac – Investment and Finance MSc
- Miss Pearlyn Xi Ni Woon -Wealth Management MSc

Elected Course Reps

Each year of each degree has at least one Course Rep. Course Reps are the key link between students and staff in the School. They seek out students' views and represent them at Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) meetings, work in partnership with staff to discuss improvements and resolve any course related issues that may arise throughout the year. Course Reps work closely with the Students' Union to campaign for change and make things better for students. Current students can find a list of their course reps on QMPlus and on noticeboards.

The Course Reps from 2016-17 have shared the below campus experience with us:



"The Graduate Center is a wonderful place to work and study, and it provides us with the much-needed focal point for our graduate activities. It has made the overall studying experience more enjoyable - especially the magnificent views from the 7th floor overlooking the City and Canary Wharf. Whether researching in the Bloomberg room, having group meetings and discussions in the group study and seminar rooms or even grabbing a coffee from Café Grad - the Graduate Center has everything to offer. I am glad it's finally here and I can proudly call it my second home!" - Jineshwar Kochar (MSc Investment and Finance)

"All of the SEF students were thrilled to have moved to the new Graduate Center. It has provided us new opportunities and created a healthy study environment exclusively for graduate students. It is a place to gather with peers, whether it's a break at the grad café or in a group meetings room. The best of all is the unbeatable city views from the 7th floor". - Erin Clare Riley (MSc Banking and Finance)



Industrial Tours/ Webinars/Getting started sessions

MSc students had the opportunity to visit the Thomson Reuters London Office, know about Careers at Thomson Reuters and also had an Introduction to Thomson Reuters Eikon. MSc students also visited Bank of England Museum. They further had opportunity to attend Getting started training from member from European Headquarters of Bloomberg, learning more about how to use Bloomberg.

Open Lunch Meetings with the Programme Directors



The School had arranged additional sessions for all students to meet

with the director of their degree programme, which gave them the opportunity to provide additional feedback in an informal setting to discuss your challenges, priorities for your programme and share your experiences and at the same time, these open meetings provide a networking opportunity for students.

Welcome new members of the School:



Michelle Restarick
Head of Administration

Michelle Restarick joined the School in September as the Head of Administration. She previously worked in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences in Queen Mary as the Teaching Services Manager for 9 years, where she managed the administration of the undergraduate students within the School. Prior to that Michelle worked at the University of East London in the Combined Honours Office as a Senior Administrator and also at the University of Westminster in the Research Degree Office as a Research Administrator.



Sarah Riley
**Teaching and Learning Manager/
Deputy Head of Administration**

"I was delighted to have been offered the newly created position of Teaching and Learning Manager within the School. My role will involve overseeing both PG and UG teaching and learning activities, and deputising for the Head of Administration when required. I have worked with both the UG and PG teams in my 10 years at the School, and I am very grateful and excited to be able to continue my career at SEF."

Anil Puri
**Employer Engagement and
Internships Coordinator**

"I am very pleased to be starting my new role as Internships Co-ordinator in the School of Economics & Finance. I joined the Careers Team working as an Internships Co-ordinator in February 2018, and I am looking forward to now working with a new cohort of students in SEF. Having spent the last 17 years in recruitment, I have experience helping a wide range of job seekers in securing employment within a range of jobs in various industry sectors. I am looking forward to putting on a worthwhile programme of events as well as co-ordinating more internships and placements for SEF students"

Moushumi Bhowmik
Marketing Manager

"I joined the School in September, and will be working for a year as Kiri's maternity cover. I've worked in a number of different areas of Queen Mary, and look forward to working with the SEF team on the various projects and strategic goals".

Siobhan Swindells Career Consultant

"I have recently joined SEF as a Career Consultant in February 2018. Prior to joining Queen Mary, I have worked in Financial Services for over 16 years in both the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Royal & SunAlliance as a HR Project Consultant and HR Business Partner. In both organisations, I enjoyed working with senior leaders to support their businesses across a range of strategic and operational projects, including large scale organisational change, graduate and senior level recruitment and selection, leadership development and talent management. More recently, I have provided consultancy for Aviva and the BBC. I have a Masters Degree in Career Management and Coaching

(2017) and now look forward to drawing on my industry experience and career knowledge and skills to support SEF students through the transition from university to the workplace".

Jubeda Shamima Khatun
Administrative Assistant

"I joined SEF in October 2017 as the Administration Assistant having worked at IT Services' Business Support Team for 3 years. I graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in English Language and Literature. I've been enjoying organising events for the School and looking forward to the ones to come.

Thank you to those who have welcomed me to SEF – especially the Admin team!"

Fabienne Paul Finance Officer

"I am very pleased to be joining SEF as the Finance Officer having previously worked in similar roles at Anglia Ruskin University and Imperial College London. I look forward to working with all at SEF".

GEM awards



We have various mechanisms for rewarding staff's contribution and development. The GEM Award is an informal recognition scheme for Professional Services colleagues, to thank colleagues for going the extra mile.

Congratulations to Richa Dave, PG Student Support Manager in the School, recipient of a GEM award in October 2017.

If you would like to nominate someone for a GEM award, please email gemaward@qmul.ac.uk with the name of the nominee and a couple of sentences explaining why they should receive the award.



ECOM123: Systematic Trading Strategies

"Systematic Trading Strategies" is

a new elective module being offered to students taking masters degrees at the School of Economics and Finance from this academic year.

Systematic trading and investing is an important part of today's financial markets. Increasingly investors are buying passive indexed funds which use simple systematic methods; whilst shorter term trading is dominated by automated high frequency algorithms.

Finance is increasingly filled with recent graduates who have quantitative skills which they can't apply practically, or with more experienced traders who lack the right theoretical grounding. Complex techniques like 'machine learning' are also being used without a proper understanding of the basic

fundamentals; at best this will give poor results, and at worst it can be extremely dangerous to your wealth!

I've tried to use my own experience in building and managing portfolios of systematic trading strategies to create a course which provides students with the necessary theoretical tools to effectively analyse or create systems for trading and investing. To make the course more relevant I'm also using contemporary examples such as crypto currencies to explain the theory, as well as relating my own personal trading 'war stories'.

As a brand new course a considerable amount of work was needed to prepare all the material needed. I'm very grateful to Tomasz Mlynowski, the teaching associate on the course, who has done this. Although I have done numerous industry presentations and the occasional guest lecture, this has been my first experience of teaching an entire module. I've found it very rewarding and I'd like to thank the students for their patience with their neophyte lecturer!



Christmas Party

On 8th December, to end 2017 and celebrate festivities around Christmas, all SEF staff & PG students were invited to come along to the Christmas Party. This year the venue was Cargo, a buzzing, atmospheric venue for bands and DJs in disused railway yard with global menu and a garden. *The highlight of the evening were our students, all lively and bubbling with energy keeping up the excitement.* Many of our teaching assistants, administration staff were also present and it was a very successful evening with good entertainment.

Introduction to Machine Learning in Finance



"Introduction to Machine Learning in Finance" is a new non-graded module being offered to students taking masters degrees at the School of Economics and Finance from this academic year.

It is a non-assessed six-week course that aims to give students insight into some of the methods that people currently regard as machine learning. It may come as a surprise that many such techniques have been in use for a long time (sometimes decades) and are well known to, for example, statisticians, engineers and physicists alike. I make a clear distinction between the machine-learning algorithms or methods that researchers might use and the reasons

why we use them; which is typically, to infer some general truth about a universe or population at large based on sample data.

Sample data may now be vast in nature (so-called 'big data'), e.g. financial time series, medical measurements and mobile phone data, and this has given rise to the role of the data scientist but is ideally still someone who has been trained to analyse data properly.

Financial datasets are made available to help students understand the techniques that will be presented. Practical application of the methods will be illustrated using R (a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics). Students are, however, free to use an analysis tool of their own choice, e.g Python or Matlab. I'll also make brief reference to the use of the Bloomberg Terminal.

At the end of the course, I hope to leave students with a flavour of how machine learning is or might be used in finance generally, the firm theoretical foundations for many of the techniques and to dispel some of the mystique that currently surrounds the topic of machine learning.

Welcome new PhD students



Mina Mirshahi Research Interests: Empirical Asset Pricing and Quantitative Finance



Tien Chuong Nguyen Research Interests: Applied Bayesian Econometrics, Monetary policy, Monetary Economics and Bitcoin and Digital Currencies



Elisa Facchetti Research Interests: Applied Microeconomics, Labour Economics, Economics of migration and crime, Policy evaluation.



Fulvia Marotta Research Interests: Time series, Econometric Theory, Statistics



Luca Zamboni



Luca Grezio

1st QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop for PhD and Post-doctoral students

The 1st Economics workshop for external PhD & Post-doctoral students is a two day events organised by PhD students of the department of economics and finance. The event will take place on June 21-22 and will be mostly based in the Graduate Centre. The two-day workshop will consist of a mix of parallel and plenary sessions covering the following broad research-fields: Macroeconomics, Econometrics, Finance, Theoretical Microeconomics, and Applied Microeconomics.

The workshop aims at bringing together young researchers working on areas of Economics and Finance. Both PhD students as well as young researchers from external universities will be encourage to send their paper. The aim of the event is to create a stimulating

environment for participants to discuss and receive valuable feedbacks on pressing issues in the relevant fields. Indeed, the papers presented will be discussed by faculty members at the end of every sessions. This represents a unique opportunity for presenters to



Guido Bonatti

discuss their projects, receive targeted feedbacks from senior professors, and network with their peers.

During the workshop SEF PhD students will have the opportunity to meet colleagues from other universities and exchange research ideas, comments, and potentially lay the groundwork for future collaborations. We believe that Queen Mary University will benefits from the event. The workshop aims at attracting presenters from all over Europe, as well as from other continents. This represents a unique opportunity to get the word out for our university.

Dive into Financial Markets, Investment Banking or Trading with QMTIS: Queen Mary's Trading and Investment Society since 2008/2009

Want to explore areas such as Asset Management, Investment Banking, Private Equity and Alternative Investments or learn how BlockChain and AI & Machine Learning is changing the finance industry? Or just join a friendly and fun community of like-minded finance enthusiasts?

The academic year is coming to an end and Queen Mary Trading and Investment Society (QMTIS) is looking back on a very successful year. As the biggest and most active finance-related society on campus with more than 300 members, we expanded our extensive network across the City and got sponsored by Bank of America Merrill Lynch. We've been nominated for "The Society of the Year" and "The Best Event of the Year" after having held more than 25 events this year with guest speakers from various prestigious investment banks, asset managers and alternative investment firms. Our topics this year ranged from CV, Cover Letter and Interview workshops to Insights into Corporate Banking, Investment Banking, Venture Capital & Start-ups, Proprietary Trading, Emerging Markets, Prime Brokerage, Private Equity, Asset Management, Asset Allocation, Economics and Tech.

Just before the Christmas break we hosted the Economics Ball together with the Economics Society. The event was a full success with more than 100 students enjoying the black-tie event including 3-course dinner, DJ and live performances. Check out some pictures on our Facebook page.

In February, we hosted a full-day Trading and Capital Markets Masterclass in collaboration with the Economics Society. Students could experience the life of Sales, Sales-Trader and Traders on a Trading Floor. We also brought in the UK Chief Economist from Nomura who talked about Britain's Housing Market and had an Insight into the Private Equity Industry session with alumnus Tobias Richter from Providence Equity Partners.

Members not only benefit from our events. They can also join our various sub-divisions. Teams such as Investments (Equity Research and M&A), Macro Research, Trading and Tech are meeting up weekly to discuss industry trends, increase commercial awareness and work on various projects.

For example, our growing Tech Team has developed their own trading simulator game which you can find here: <https://qmtitrader.com/>

They are still working on it, so give it a shot and leave us some feedback so we can improve it! They're doing some great projects and research which is being published on www.qmtis.com. By the way, they are also looking for some new keen and passionate members of their team. tech@qmtis.com - Get in touch if you're interested ;)

The mixture of our weekly events, learning through projects in our sub-divisions, our mentorship programme and our established network prepares members well for their careers. QMTIS



Undergraduate Induction Imagery Competition!

For this year, we kept the brief broad and requested submissions relating to the economy of the East End of London.

Congratulations to our first year student Jack Ivory who won the imagery competition with his submission (right) with a caption as follows:

"Very much like the rising and declining of water, this image represents the constant daily fluctuations within our economy caused by Brexit and other future uncertainties we face - I feel East London is very much at the heart of this."

The next imagery competition (open to all UG students) will be on **Income inequality in London**, feel free to be as creative as possible! We look forward to receiving your entries.

members have been quite successful in securing internships and roles at various firms such as Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Citi, UBS, Credit Suisse, RBC Capital Markets, BlackRock, BNP Paribas, Nomura and many others. However, it's not just the careers focus that makes us a strong society. It's our passionate and very driven members with a tenacity to go the extra mile. We've organised various socials on and around campus with free pizza and free coffees to grow our and foster our community. It's not too late to join! Get in touch and also check out our new Instagram account.

We're looking forward to the next year and are hoping to welcome and inspire new members for QMTIS.

Check us out Facebook, our website, qmsu.org, Instagram or email us at enquiries@qmtis.com.



Careers News

*It has been a great year academic year so far and it has been a pleasure to meet many of you at a various employer events, careers workshops, and one-on-one appointments. This year we hosted a range of employers on campus and as part the Career Taster Scheme we sent 36 SEF students to companies such as **Liberty Mutual Insurance, Barclays, Bloomberg, KPMG and the British Heart Foundation.***

Career Appointments

In case you are still looking for a job after graduation, please remember that the careers service will be available for one-on-one appointments all throughout the summer term as well as during summer holidays. You can book an appointment by calling 020 7882 8533 or by visiting the reception in WG3 in the Queen's Building.

Please note that our service is available to you for

Looking for Job Opportunities

We also wanted to remind you that Queen Mary, in collaboration with University of London, liaises with a range of employers to source exciting graduate roles, part-time jobs and internships for you. In order to find an up to date list, make sure you visit our jobs website <https://qmul.targetconnect.net/leap/jobs.html>.

We value your feedback

Emphasising the importance of your student voice, we would love to hear your thoughts on what sessions and events you found particularly useful, and how we could possibly serve you better – We are always looking for

feedback, so please do not hesitate to get in touch directly via email: s.spoendlin@qmul.ac.uk

If you need to get in contact or have any feedback or suggestions regarding internships, please don't hesitate to contact Anil on a.puri@qmul.ac.uk

Resources for International Students

If you are an international student and looking for jobs abroad, you may find GradLink a helpful resource. GradLink offers an online careers service for international students and graduates studying across the UK.

You will find specialist websites and portals for the following regions:

- UK (www.gradlinkuk.com)
- China (www.gradlinkuk.com/china.php)
- India (www.gradlinkuk.com/india.php)
- Malaysia (www.gradlinkmalaysia.com)
- Africa (www.gradlinkafrica.com)
- Bangladesh (www.gradlinkbangladesh.com)

As part of International Students week we held a presentation by **Access Tier 5** who are one of only a few authorised UK business immigration programmes that **can provide flexibility within the Tier 5**

Government Authorised Exchange (GAE) category. UK Home Office promotes Tier 5 GAE as the most appropriate route for non-EEA nationals wishing to experience work life in the UK as it allows UK Employers the opportunity to offer internships to graduate recruits. This scheme allows non-EEA students to gain in the UK for as little as one month to a maximum of up to two years once they have secured their internship.

Tier 5 GAE also gives Employers the chance to assess a candidate's capabilities during the internship before offering them a more permanent position and sponsoring them under Tier 2. Please visit www.accesstier5.com for further information on the services they provide.



For further queries about what's featured in this newsletter, please contact:

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