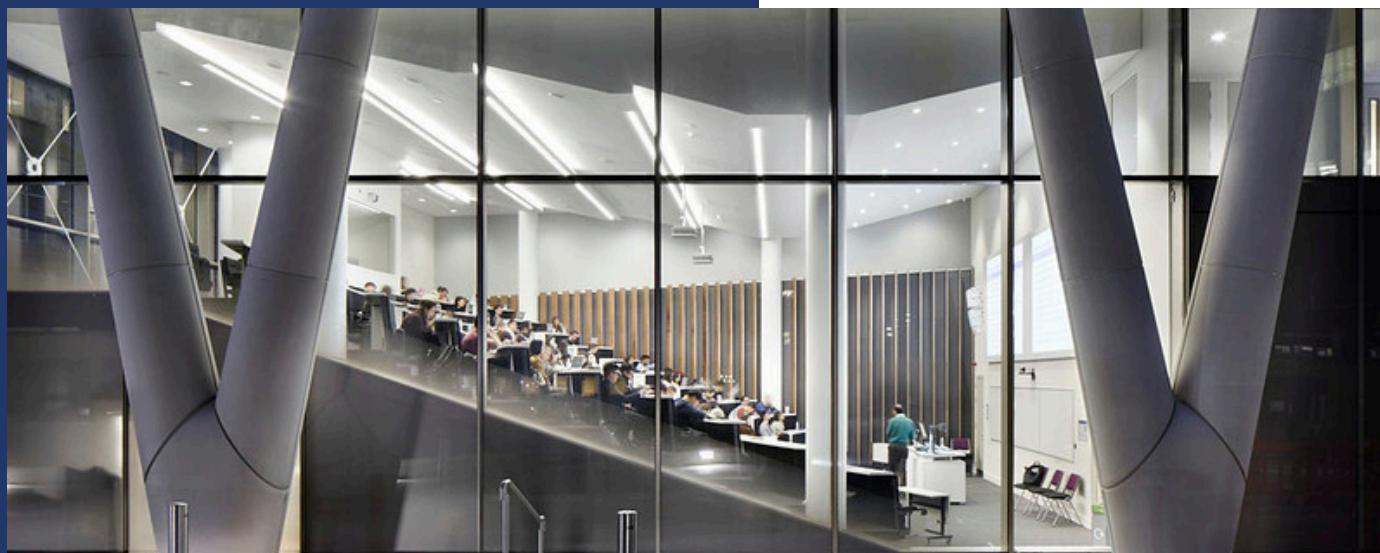


# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

## NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 28, February 2025



## Welcome from the Head of School

Welcome back to all our students and staff! I hope you are ready for an exciting and productive second semester.

A special welcome to our new students who have joined us in January—we are delighted to have you as part of the School of Economics and Finance and look forward to supporting you throughout your studies.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff member, Kaity Briscoe, who has joined SEF as Alumni and Engagement Coordinator.

We are excited to have her on board and look forward to the contributions she will make to our community.

Wishing all students the best of luck for the semester ahead. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events and celebrating your successes throughout the year.



**Professor Alp Atakan**  
Head of School

# Queen Mary rated outstanding for education

This past October, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) underwent a full inspection by Ofsted, assessing its apprenticeship programmes against the Education Inspection Framework. This was QMUL's first full inspection as a university, and it included a detailed review of three SEF apprenticeship programmes: Level 4 Investment Operations Specialist, Level 6 Financial Services Professional, and Level 7 Senior Economist.

We are thrilled to announce that QMUL was awarded an OUTSTANDING rating overall, achieving Outstanding in all four key areas: quality of education, behaviours and attitudes, personal development, and leadership and management. Impressively, the inspection found no areas for improvement—a rare and remarkable result.

To put this achievement into context, QMUL is one of only seven universities across the UK to be rated Outstanding for apprenticeships, one of just two universities in London to achieve this distinction, and one of only two Russell Group universities—alongside Cambridge—to receive the highest possible grading. This success was made possible by the incredible efforts of staff, apprentices, and employer representatives, who together provided hundreds of pieces of evidence during the inspection. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this phenomenal result, which highlights the excellence of QMUL's apprenticeship programmes. [Read the full press release.](#)

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider



## SEF Achieves Top Rankings in Shanghai Global Ranking 2024

The School of Economics and Finance (SEF) has once again demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence, securing top positions in the Shanghai Global Ranking 2024. SEF has been ranked:

- Top 50 in the world for Economics
- Top 100 in the world for Finance

These rankings reflect the School's dedication to world-class research, innovative teaching, and impactful contributions to the fields of economics and finance. We are proud of this achievement and remain committed to further advancing our global reputation for excellence. Congratulations to our faculty, researchers, students, and staff for their ongoing contributions to SEF's success!



## Celebrating Excellence: SEF Winners at the HSS Faculty Awards

In November, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Queen Mary University of London hosted its annual awards ceremony, recognising the outstanding contributions of staff and students across the faculty.

These awards celebrate excellence in research, teaching, student support, and professional services, highlighting the dedication and passion that drive success within our schools. The School of Economics and Finance (SEF) was proud to see several members of our community recognised for their exceptional work. Congratulations to the following winners and commended individuals from SEF:

These achievements reflect the School's commitment to delivering high-quality education and student support. We are incredibly proud of our colleagues and their contributions to making SEF a vibrant and inspiring place to study and work. Congratulations once again to all the winners!

### HSS Award Winners 2024

#### Professional Services Awards

- Student Support Officer Award (Joint Winner): **Elena Georgiou**

#### Education Awards

- Excellence in Accessibility (Winner): **Apprenticeship Team**
- Assessment & Feedback Champions (Joint Winners): **PGT Team – Claudio Vallar, Lokuj Jaman, Ahmed Gilman**
- Teaching Assistant Excellence (Joint Winners): **Konstantina Mari, Chi Tran**
- Supporting Student Employability Prospects (Commended): **Eileen Tipoe**





## Alumni Talk for MSc Banking and Finance Students

The School of Economics and Finance recently had the pleasure of hosting an exclusive Alumni Talk for MSc Banking and Finance students with Sajid Khatib, Credit Control Coordinator at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Sajid shared insightful career tips, offering students valuable guidance on navigating the job market and building a successful career in finance.

In addition to career insights, we were delighted to welcome Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies, who provided essential resources and information to support student well-being. Their presence highlighted the importance of mental health and the support available to students as they balance academic and personal challenges.

This event was organised by our Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Kaity Briscoe. A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event a success! Stay tuned for more opportunities to connect with alumni and access well-being support.

## PhD Students Connect Through Nature and Culture

PhD students at the School of Economics and Finance have been making the most of a series of engaging outings, organised by Dr. John Morrow, offering opportunities to explore nature, experience world-class theatre, and connect with fellow researchers.

Trips included tea and autumn views in Surrey, a walk from Dover with rare clear views of Calais, and a sunny day in Henley-on-Thames, where they explored the Regatta course, woodland, and local wildlife, ending with a stunning sunset. They also attended A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Barbican, with researchers from LSE, RHUL, Greenwich, and the BoE. These events provide a refreshing break from research while strengthening connections across institutions. More adventures await in the coming months!





## Professor Anna Raute Featured in The New York Times on Japan's Declining Birth Rate

We are thrilled to announce that Anna Raute, Doctor of Economics at the School of Economics and Finance, has contributed her expertise to a significant article in The New York Times addressing the critical issue of Japan's declining birth rate and the challenges surrounding fertility policy.

The article, titled “Japan Grapples With Plummeting Birth Rate and the Challenge of a Shrinking Population,” delves into the complex web of economic, social, and cultural factors impacting Japan's demographic future. Dr. Raute's insights provide valuable context to this globally relevant issue.

We encourage all members of our community – students, faculty, and anyone with an interest in these important issues – [read the full article here](#).



## Professor George Skiadopoulos Co-Organises IFFR Asset Management Conference

On 22 January 2025, Professor George Skiadopoulos played a key role as a co-organiser of the IFFR Asset Management for Institutional Investors 2025 Conference.

This prestigious event brought together academics, institutional investors, policymakers, regulators, and supervisors to discuss the latest developments in asset management. The conference provided a platform for insightful discussions on market trends, investment strategies, and regulatory challenges, fostering collaboration between industry leaders and researchers.



## Workshop on Education and Inequality Coming to UCL in 2025

A workshop on "Education and Inequality," organised by Camille Terrier, Pedro Carneiro, Anaïs Fabre, and Michela Tincani, will be held at UCL in London on June 19-20, 2025.

Focusing on education's role in addressing inequality and fostering intergenerational mobility, the event gathers leading researchers and UK/European policymakers. An exciting speaker lineup includes Sue Dynarski, Peter Arcidiacono, Michela Tincani, Basit Zafar, Caterina Calsamiglia, Zach Bleemer, Chao Fu, Seth Zimmerman, Peter Bergman, Jack Mountjoy, and Anaïs Fabre. This workshop promises valuable insights into the complex relationship between education and inequality.

Further details about the workshop agenda and registration will be released closer to the date.

## PhD Poster Session Opportunity!

We're looking for submissions for a poster session at the upcoming workshop on "Education and Inequality". This is an opportunity for QMUL PhD students and postdocs to showcase their work and network with leading researchers and policymakers in the field of education. If you're working on topics related to education and inequality, we encourage you to submit your paper for consideration.

Interested students and postdocs should send their papers directly to [c.terrier@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.terrier@qmul.ac.uk). Don't miss this chance to engage with the latest research and connect with colleagues!



## 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!

