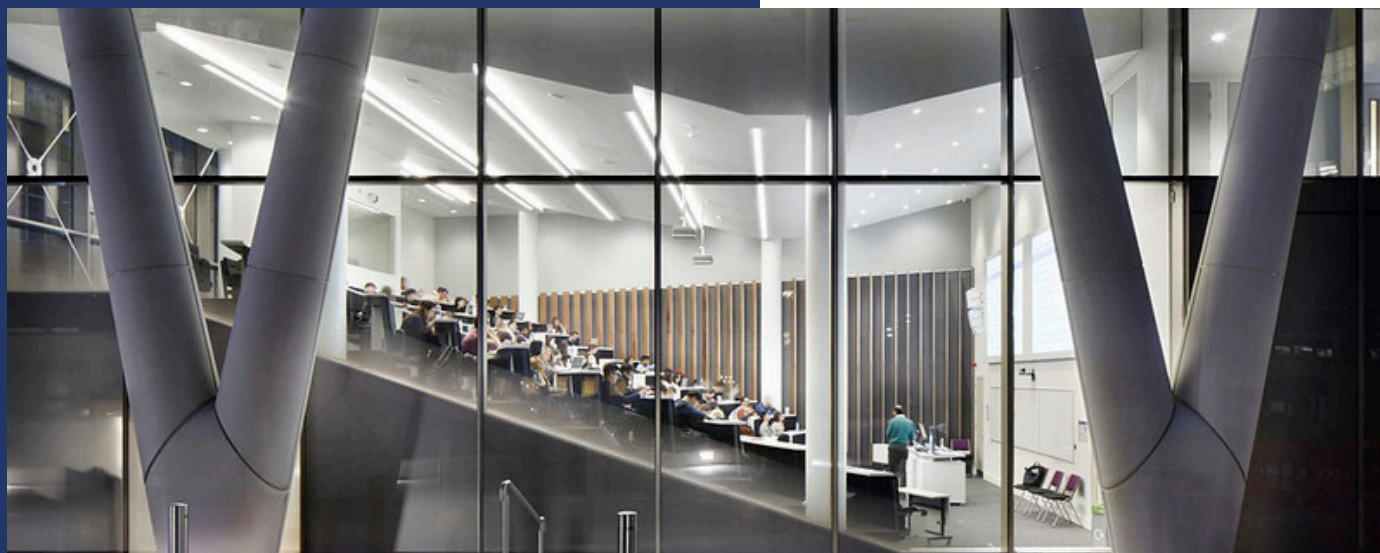


# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

## NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 29, May 2025



## A message from the Head of School

I hope you're all doing well as we head into the final weeks of the academic year.

First, a huge congratulations to all of our students who graduated in April – we're incredibly proud of your achievements and wish you every success in your next steps. To those of you sitting exams this term, I know many of you have already completed some assessments – well done! Best of luck with any remaining exams and coursework. Your hard work and resilience never go unnoticed.

I'm also pleased to welcome a few new colleagues to the School of Economics and Finance. Nia Hamedi has joined us as Placement and Study Abroad Manager, Ozgu Yigit as Degree

Apprenticeship Assistant, and Isabella Carey as the new SKETCH Project Coordinator (qNomics). We're excited to have them on board and look forward to the valuable contributions they'll bring to our community.

Wishing you all the best for a strong and successful end to the semester.



**Professor Alp Atakan**  
Head of School

# Wellbeing information

As we approach the end of another busy and successful academic year, it is very important to recognise how hard we have all worked. It is therefore important to look after your physical and mental wellbeing, and for some, utilise the summer semester as a time of reflection, recuperation, and recovery. As a reminder, there are resources, support and activities available for all QMUL staff and students to help support health and wellbeing, including:

## Staff Resources:

- [Employee Assistance Programme - Wellbeing](#)
- [Activities and programmes - Wellbeing](#)
- [Wellbeing essentials toolkit - Wellbeing](#)
- [Wellbeing workshops - Wellbeing](#)
- [Coaching and self-development - Wellbeing](#)

## Student Resources:

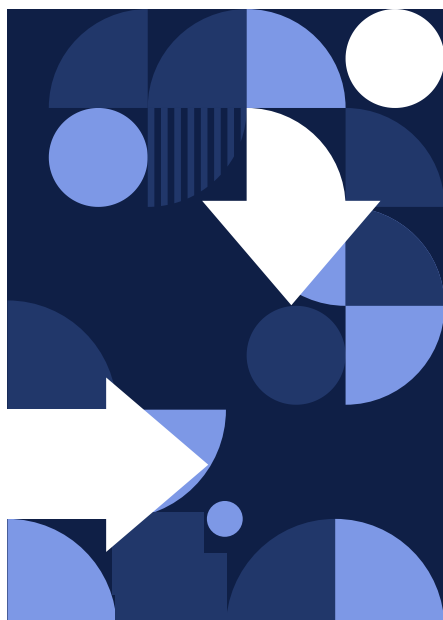
- [Counselling - Advice and Counselling Service](#)
- [Mental health advice - Advice and Counselling Service](#)
- [Wellbeing advice - Advice and Counselling Service](#)
- [Wellbeing resources - Advice and Counselling Service](#)
- [Groups and workshops - Advice and Counselling Service](#) including mindfulness courses and self-compassion groups
- [Student wellbeing hub - Student Experience Directorate](#)

Emotional

Physical

Social

Financial



## Progression Scholarship 2025

**Introducing the Progression Scholarship, a fee reduction aimed at supporting Home fee-status students graduating in 2025 and alumni from the class of 2024 who wish to pursue an MSc within the School of Economics and Finance.**

This scholarship covers the difference between the UK tuition fee and the UK Master's Loan, making postgraduate study more accessible for eligible students. Applicants are automatically considered for the scholarship upon accepting an offer for a full-time MSc programme within the School of Economics and Finance; no separate application is required.

For more details on eligibility and application, please visit the [Progression Scholarship webpage](#).



## Update on our commitment to advancing gender equality

As proud recipients of the Athena Swan Bronze Award, SEF are committed to the advancement of gender equality, representation and progression for all students and staff. Athena Swan is a framework which is used to support and transform gender equality within higher education and as the academic year draws to a close, it is important to provide regular updates on what action we have taken to address gender inequality:

- The School has developed and shared a new policy for academic workload reduction following all types of parental leave.
- Work has progressed regarding increasing the visibility of female role models across student events (i.e. panels, guest lectures and employer talks) and has led to events such as 'Women in Finance'. There has been further encouragement via our undergraduate and postgraduate teams to promote student participation in EDI matters regarding culture and practices
- All staff are encouraged to complete EDI training frequently to ensure all staff under the basis knowledge of EDI principles, legislation, and inclusive practice
- We launched an Women in Economics and Finance PGT Scholarship, providing more access to education for women who are generally underrepresented in Economics & Finance.

As we begin to look forward to 2025-2026, we will continue to build and develop the work that has happened including:

- Aim to organise and set up information sessions about promotion routes for staff
- Continue to develop School policy to enable staff with childcare responsibilities to feel empowered in SEF
- A focus will be to work collaboratively with HR and OPD to continue to create clear processes and guidance and providing internal training on how to prevent and/or report bully and harassment within the workplace
- Reviewing our marketing campaigns and digital content, as well as ensuring balanced representation of female/male staff in specific marketing talks and sessions





## Celebrating our April 2025 Graduates

It was truly a joy to celebrate all your hard work and achievements. As you take your next steps, don't forget that you'll always be part of the SEF community. Stay connected by following our [alumni network on LinkedIn](#), where you'll find the latest updates on events, opportunities, and ways to stay involved.

We'd love to see you at our next event on 5 June — [SEF Career Catalyst: Alumni and Industry Networking Night](#)



## Congratulations to Dr Cheng Xue

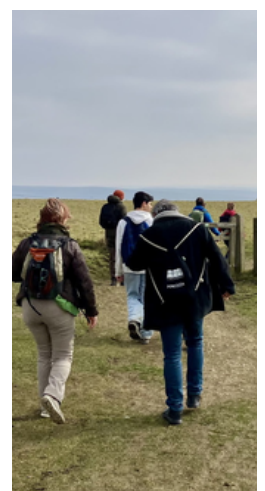
We're excited to share that our doctoral student Cheng Xue has successfully passed her PhD viva with no corrections and has officially been awarded her PhD degree.

Cheng has also accepted a permanent faculty position at Nanjing Agricultural University in China, where she will begin her new role this summer. We wish her all the very best in this exciting next chapter of her academic career.

## Adventures with the London Economists

This spring, a group of SEF students brought together by a shared love of the outdoors and organised by Dr John Morrow have been exploring some of the UK's most picturesque spots.

Recent walks included a visit to historic Henley, a windswept but rewarding route from Lewes to Saltdean ending at the sea, and a beautiful spring hike through Box Hill, where the trails were filled with bluebells and the scent of wild garlic. The group crossed streams, climbed woodland steps, and enjoyed the peaceful beauty of the countryside together. These student outings are a wonderful way to unwind and experience a different side of life in and around London.





## SEF Academics Contribute to Policy Brief on Corporate Voting Reform

Professor Konstantinos E. Zachariadis and Dr Moqi Groen-Xu from the School of Economics and Finance have contributed to a newly published Queen Mary policy brief titled **Enhancing Representation in Corporate Voting**. The brief explores ways to improve shareholder representation and engagement in corporate governance, with a particular focus on institutional investors and voting mechanisms. It offers practical recommendations to strengthen accountability and inclusivity in corporate decision-making. Read the full article on the [Queen Mary Policy Hub](#).



## Workplace Childcare Key to Closing Gender Gaps, Says Queen Mary Economist

Workplace childcare can play a transformative role in closing gender gaps in employment and earnings, according to Dr Anna Raute, Senior Lecturer in Economics at Queen Mary University of London.

In a recent blog post, Dr Raute explores how employer-provided childcare helps mothers return to work more quickly after childbirth and mitigates long-term career penalties associated with motherhood. Drawing on data from Germany, her research highlights how practical workplace support can promote gender equality in the labour market.

Dr Raute presented these findings at Women Economists: Shaping Policies, Shaping Lives, an event hosted by the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance to mark International Women's Day. You can read the full article here: [Workplace childcare key to closing gender gaps, says Queen Mary economist](#).





## qNomics

### Where students turn theory into impact

qNomics, part of the SKETCH programme and established in 2015, continues to provide SEF students with invaluable opportunities to apply their academic learning to real-world business challenges. From advising SMEs to developing ESG investment proposals, qNomics allows students to gain hands-on experience in problem-solving, stakeholder engagement, and professional communication.

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*The qNomics program is not just a simulation of real-world work—it's a platform that prepares you for the industry's challenges. I was able to draw on my knowledge at every stage of client and stakeholder engagement. It provides hands-on experience, mentorship, and the skills necessary to thrive professionally. I am truly honored to have been part of such a transformative experience.*

Rima Bhattacharjee, MSc Investment Banking

This year, students in the Client Advisory Programme supported 18 SMEs, offering tailored advice on financial planning, marketing, and business development.

Through the ESG Impact Fund project, qNomics and qLegal students collaborated to design and pitch a fund proposal to Delancey, tackling complex legal, economic, and environmental issues. Meanwhile, the Financial Literacy Project culminated in a website prototype created in partnership with qTech, providing peer-driven career guidance for finance students. All qNomics projects are overseen by SEF's Leon Vinkour and supported by expert volunteer supervisors from the industry.

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*It's been great to see students getting so involved in qNomics this year. They have taken on real challenges and learned a lot through working directly with clients. I'm really glad they've had the chance to gain this kind of experience. It's valuable, practical, and something they can take forward with them.*

Leon Vinkour, Director of qNomics

#### How do I take part?

If you're a current student interested in joining qNomics for the 2025/26 academic year, [please fill in this application form.](#)

Any questions, please email: [econ-qnomics@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:econ-qnomics@qmul.ac.uk)



## Understanding Financial Derivatives in a Changing World

Patrick Boyle teaches the Financial Derivatives module at SEF and brings over 25 years of industry experience across hedge funds, derivatives trading, valuation, and quantitative investing. In this exclusive webinar, Patrick will explore the role of financial derivatives in today's markets and why they remain essential in a rapidly evolving financial system.

Date: Thursday 26 June

Time: 13:00 - 14:00

[Register your place online](#)

## City-QMUL Theory Workshop 2025

A collaborative event between City, St Georges University of London and Queen Mary University of London, co-organised by Professor Jan Knoepfle.

Taking place over two days, this workshop will feature a series of talks by leading academics in the field of economic theory, offering Queen Mary **MRes and PhD students** an exceptional opportunity to hear cutting-edge research and engage with some of the top minds in the discipline.

This event is exclusively open to **Queen Mary MRes and PhD students in Economics**, and attendance is strongly encouraged for those interested in theoretical research.

Date: 9-10 June 2025

[Register your place online](#)



## 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!

