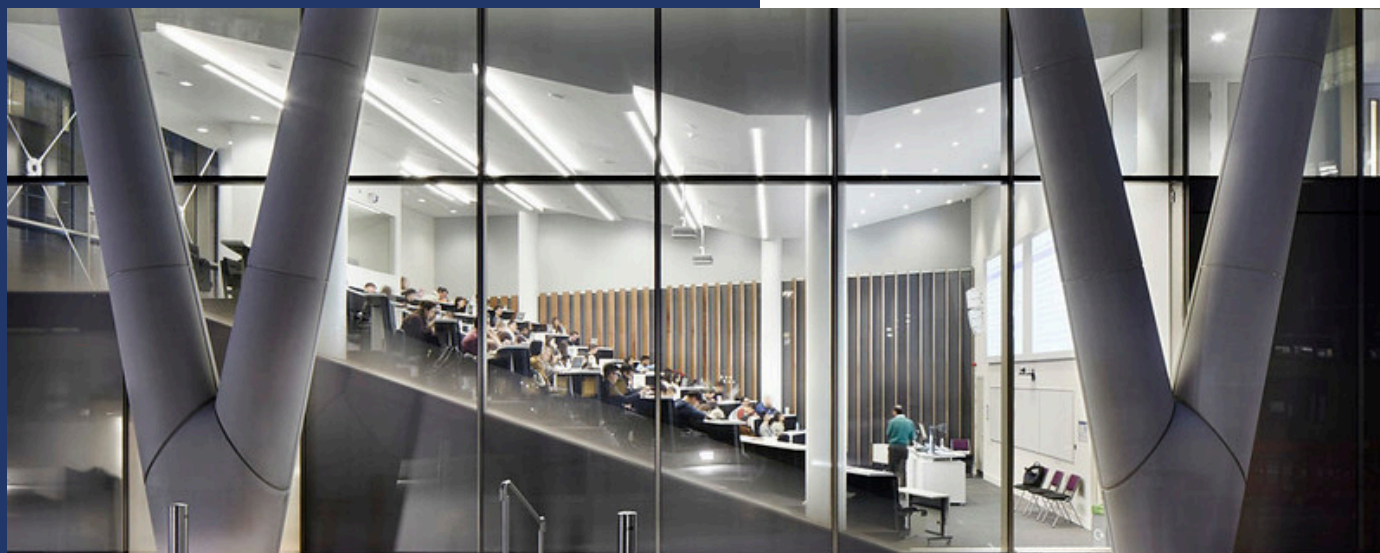


SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 31, February 2026



A message from the Head of School

Welcome back to all our students and staff. I hope you're ready for an exciting and productive second semester. A special welcome to our new January starters. We're delighted to have you join the School of Economics and Finance and look forward to supporting you throughout your studies.

We're also very pleased to have several new colleagues at the School of Economics and Finance. Milena Vu has joined us as PGR Programmes Officer, Rhea Elliot as Undergraduate Student Support Officer, and Ruth Nwosu as Degree Apprenticeships Assistant. We are also delighted to welcome Sharon Cording as Research Grants Manager and Dhash Ramanathan as School Institute Business Coordinator.

In addition, Sajida Rahman has joined the team as PGT Student Support Officer, Anita Molla as Operations Administrator Apprentice, and Nam Nghiem as Content, Outreach and Events Coordinator.

We're thrilled to have them all on board and look forward to the expertise and energy they bring to the School.



Professor Alp Atakan
Head of School



Celebrating Our Past, Shaping Our Future

This year, we are proud to celebrate 60 years of the School of Economics and Finance. For six decades, SEF has educated generations of students who have gone on to make a meaningful impact around the world. To mark this milestone, we'll be hosting a series of special events, including the much-anticipated return of the Peston Lecture. See [page 5](#) for more information.



The 5th annual Hot Topics Lecture

In December, we were delighted to host our annual Hot Topics Lecture, titled Advances and Challenges in Labour Markets. Our distinguished speakers, Simon Franklin, Associate Professor in SEF, and Dr Effie Achtsioglou, Member of the Greek Parliament and former Minister for Labour, shared their insights, followed by an engaging Q&A that gave students and staff the chance to join the discussion.

More news

- **Dr Veronica Veleanu wins at last year's Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's Prizes.** Dr Veronica Veleanu received an award for her exceptional contribution to postgraduate education within the School of Economics and Finance. Through her leadership of employability-focused initiatives, Dr Veleanu has reshaped the School's approach to careers support, embedding new opportunities into the curriculum and ensuring postgraduate students are effectively prepared for their future careers.
- **We're getting ready for Rise Up 2026, our annual event connecting young women to the world of business and finance.** Hosted by the School of Economics and Finance and the School of Business and Management, this event offers a unique opportunity for young women in years 10-12 to explore the world of business and finance. [Learn more here.](#)
- **New student blog from Emma Chapeland, a second-year Economics, Finance and Management student.** In this blog Emma reflects on her experience as Marketing Director of the Queen Mary Banking and Finance Society (QMBFS) during the 2024/2025 academic year. [Read the full blog here.](#)
- **We caught up with Demilade, recipient of the BP Finance Scholarship, which supports aspiring Black leaders in financial services.** In a recent Instagram Reel, Demilade shared his application journey and the steps that have led him toward success. [you can watch it here.](#)
- **Thinking about studying a master's with SEF?** The School of Economics and Finance is offering Progression Scholarships for UK (Home fee-status) QMUL students graduating in 2026 and alumni from the Class of 2025. [Learn more here.](#)



Celebrating our winter Graduates

We're thrilled to honour all the students who graduated in December. Your commitment and achievements are truly inspiring, and we can't wait to see the incredible paths you'll take next.

Next up, we look forward to the Spring Postgraduate Ceremonies, where we'll continue celebrating the success of our talented students.

qNomics news

QNomics we had a vibrant first term with our postgrad and third-year students on the Client Advisory Programme, working with nine different clients on a variety of guidance, from market research to financial forecasting. In addition, first and second-year students collaborated closely with the Zero Waste Shop using Design Thinking to assess economic viability. We are excited to extend this project by partnering with two East London charities, Mile End Climbing Centre and Made in Hackney. Follow us on LinkedIn for updates!

National Grid Internships

Generating Genius is a UK-registered STEM talent development charity who are working alongside National Grid to run a Pathways to Progress programme. They are providing paid summer internships and spring and summer insight weeks in Engineering, Technology and Finance for Home BSc students graduating in 2028. The programme offers three fantastic opportunities: Spring Insight Week, 2-day application preparation programme and summer internships.

- **Spring Insight and Preparation Programme** - Taking place the week commencing March 30th, 2026, this week will give you insight into the different business areas of National Grid, as well as the chance to visit the National Grid headquarters and take part in a mock group assessment exercise marked by National Grid staff.
- **Get Hired 2-day Application Preparation Programme** - Taking place online on September 9th and at National Grid headquarters in Warwick on September 10th, 2026, this programme will go through the end-to-end job application process and practice exercises for most graduate roles. This includes a mock interview and a case study task with a National Grid employee and receiving feedback from them.
- **Exclusive, paid summer internships with National Grid** - The summer internships are exclusively for those on the programme. You will have to go through a selection process for this. You will have a high chance of being selected as there will be 90 students and 15-25 roles available.

To learn more [click here](#) - please find the full eligibility criteria on the application form page.



President and Principal's prize winners

The QMUL Apprenticeship team was commended for its contribution to Queen Mary's recent Ofsted success. Staff from SEF played a central role in preparing for and supporting the Ofsted inspection, during which the University achieved the highest possible rating of Outstanding across all areas.

[Read more here.](#)



Festive celebrations for PhD Students

In December, PhD students came together for a festive "dress-up" Christmas lunch hosted by Dr John Morrow at Middle Temple. Held in an Elizabethan Hall where Twelfth Night was first performed, the afternoon featured a roast dinner, Christmas crackers, and plenty of lively conversation. It was a memorable way to celebrate the season in a truly historic setting.

Research news

- SEF's Dr George Skiadopoulos and former PhD student, Cheng Xue (now with Nanjing Agricultural University), produced the following publication: Skiadopoulos, G. and Xue, C. (2025). [Climate-triggered institutional price pressure: Does it affect firms' cost of equity?](#), Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, forthcoming.

HSS staff award winners 2025

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:

- Education and Student Experience Award: **UG Assessment Team**
- Student Pathways and Employability Award: **Nguyen Phillips**
- Research Support Award: **Sarah Smith**
- Commendations for the Student Support Award: **Rachel Henry**
- Commendation for the Excellence in Employability in the Curriculum Award: **Manolis Noikokyris**
- Commendation for the Excellence in Programme Leadership Award: **Professor Sujoy Mukerji, Professor Thomai Filippeli and Dr Daniele Bianchi**
- Excellence in Student Experience Award (Academic Advising): **Richa Dave**



Celebrating 60 years of SEF

The Peston Lecture

We are proud to host the SEF 60th Anniversary Peston Lecture, a special evening bringing together our students, staff, alumni, and partners to reflect on our past and look ahead to the future.

This year's keynote speaker is the internationally renowned economist Professor Nicholas Bloom (Stanford University) on "The economic impact of Brexit: should we have listened to the experts?" Using massive new micro and macro data from a project involving the Bank of England, Nottingham and Stanford we will see the full impact of Brexit on GDP, investment and employment, and compare that to the predictions made a decade ago. [Register for the Peston Lecture here.](#)



First Alumni Social of the year

Thank you to all our alumni who attended our first Alumni Social of the year. We also bid a very sad farewell to Alumni Engagement Officer, Kaity Briscoe, who will be dearly missed by staff, students and alumni alike. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the time, care and energy she put into building such a wonderful community.



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!

