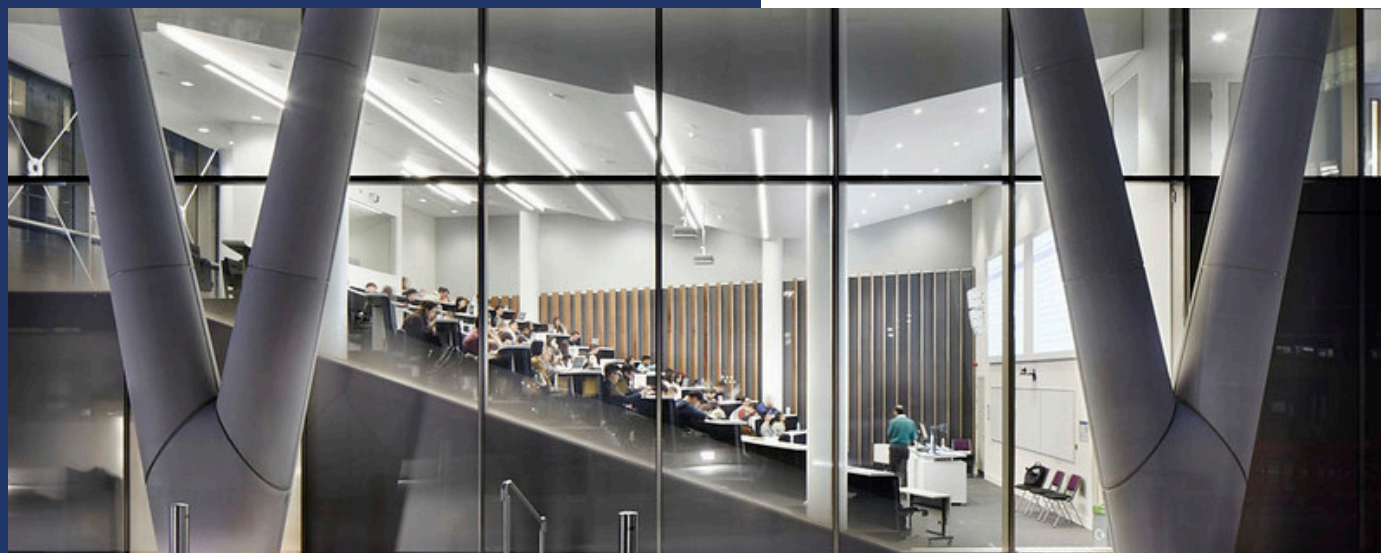


SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 32, May 2026



A message from the Head of School

As we approach the end of the academic year, I hope you are all keeping well and managing the busy final weeks of term.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of our students who graduated in April. For those currently completing exams and coursework, I wish you the very best for the remainder of the assessment period.

2026 marks a proud milestone for the School of Economics and Finance as we celebrate our 60th anniversary. To honour the occasion and the community that has shaped SEF over the years, we've created a commemorative video for you to watch on the next page.

I'm also pleased to welcome a few new colleagues to the School of Economics and Finance. Emelyn Tan has joined the team as Student Professional Development Coordinator and Emma Hughes has joined as PGT Student Support Officer.

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



Professor Alp Atakan
Head of School



60 years of SEF

A Special Anniversary Peston Lecture

In March the School of Economics and Finance at Queen Mary University of London celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special edition of the prestigious Peston Lecture, bringing together students, staff, alumni, and partners for an evening of reflection and forward-looking discussion.

The School was honoured to welcome Nick Bloom of Stanford University, who delivered a lecture titled “The Economic Impact of Brexit: Should We Have Listened to the Experts?” Drawing on new micro- and macroeconomic data, the talk examined how forecasts made a decade ago compare with the realised effects on GDP, investment, and employment. The lecture sparked a lively and insightful discussion during the Q&A session. The Q&A was hosted by Robert Peston, Political Editor of ITV News and son of Lord Maurice Peston, the founder of the School. His expert perspective added depth to the discussion and provided valuable context to the themes explored in the lecture.

The event was opened by Dame Colette Bowe, one of the School’s earliest students, who shared reflections on her distinguished career and her personal connection to the founding years of the School of Economics and Finance. The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on the School’s achievements over the past six decades, while also looking ahead to the future of economics and finance education and research. As part of the celebrations, we also created a commemorative video, which you can watch below.





Celebrating our spring Graduates

We were delighted to celebrate all the students who graduated in April, especially with the sunshine making the occasion even more memorable. Your achievements continue to inspire us.

We are now looking ahead to the Summer Graduation Ceremonies, where we will come together again to celebrate our talented students!



AmplifyME Simulations

The School of Economics and Finance recently welcomed back a group of alumni working across the finance industry to share their career journeys and advice with current students. The panel featured graduates now working across a range of leading organisations and sectors within finance, including portfolio management, data analytics, risk analysis, and investment management. Following the panel discussion, students took part in a hands-on Private Equity Simulation led by AmplifyME trainers, gaining practical insight into careers in finance.

New MSc Year in Industry starting September

The School of Economics and Finance at Queen Mary University of London is pleased to launch a new MSc Year in Industry opportunity, offering postgraduate students the chance to combine advanced academic study with valuable professional experience. Available across selected MSc programmes, the new pathway allows students to undertake an industry placement as part of their degree, helping them develop practical skills, build professional networks, and gain first-hand insight into the workplace. Students will have the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge in professional settings across sectors such as banking, finance, consulting, fintech, investment, data analysis, and wider business operations.

The initiative reflects the School's ongoing commitment to enhancing student employability and preparing graduates for successful careers in a competitive global market, combining academic excellence with real-world experience. To support students joining the programme, current home-fee status undergraduate students who meet the entry requirements for the Year in Industry MSc programmes will be eligible for a progression scholarship. International students who meet the entry requirements will be eligible for Global Scholarships worth up to £7,000. [Learn more about the Year in Industry.](#)



Students and faculty enjoy scenic Dorking hike

Students and faculty from Queen Mary recently joined peers from universities across London, as well as visitors from Tilburg and Munich, for a scenic group hike in Dorking.

The outing offered spectacular countryside views, plenty of fresh air, and an opportunity to connect with fellow researchers and students from across institutions. The day ended on a memorable note with freshly baked muffins, prepared by our own Sam Altmann, enjoyed at sundown overlooking the hamlet.

QMUL-City Workshop in Economic Theory

The School of Economics and Finance will host the QMUL-City Workshop in Economic Theory on 8-9 June 2026, bringing together researchers and scholars to discuss current developments in the field. All graduate students and faculty members are warmly invited to attend. Further information, including dates and the workshop programme, can be found on the workshop website: [QMUL-City Workshop in Economic Theory](#).

School of Economics and Finance climbs global rankings in QS Subject Rankings 2026



The School of Economics and Finance at Queen Mary University of London is celebrating a significant achievement in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject, rising to 87th globally for Economics and Econometrics, up from 100th last year. The School has also secured its place as 10th in the UK, further strengthening its national and international standing.

This upward movement reflects the School's continued commitment to excellence across research, teaching, and external engagement, as well as its growing global reputation in the field of economics.



Career Catalyst

For Postgraduate SEF students

Postgraduate students are invited to attend Career Catalyst, a dedicated transition-to-work event designed to help you prepare for the next stage of your career. Taking place on Friday 5 June, from 2:30pm to 6:00pm in the Colette Bowe Room, Queen's Building, the event will provide practical advice, career support, and opportunities to connect with leading employers.

The programme includes:

- A Transition to Work careers workshop
- CV and LinkedIn profile checks
- Post-study visa advice
- An employer panel and Q&A
- Employer networking opportunities

This is a valuable opportunity to gain insights into the recruitment process, strengthen your professional profile, and build connections with employers in the finance sector. [You can register your attendance here!](#)



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!

