



# SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Issue No.19 September 2017

**SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

## Welcome



I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very warm welcome and to look back at a few glimpses of the past school year and let you know what is ahead. This has been a lively and productive year in many dimensions.

In January SEF moved into the new QMUL Graduate Centre, since then we have held prestigious events relating to inaugurating our new home. On 11th May the 200-seat Peston Lecture Theatre, named in honour of the late Lord Maurice Peston, founder of the School of Economics and Finance at QMUL was inaugurated by his son, Robert Peston, the noted British journalist. As part of the that event, there was a, "conversation with Robert Peston: Brexit Britain," where he was joined by QMUL alumnus Daniel Trinder (postgraduate Economics, 1998), Managing Director and Global Head of Regulatory Reform at Standard Chartered Bank, and Professor Philip Cowley, Director of the Mile End Institute and Professor of Politics in the School of Politics and International Relations at QMUL. The event attracted huge interest, with students, staff, and alumni. On 13th June HRH The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, officially opened the new Graduate

Centre. The Princess, accompanied by university President and Principal Prof. Simon Gaskell was shown around the building. She unveiled a stone plaque at the entrance of the Graduate Centre and met with students and staff from SEF.

Let me tell you some news, now, about our post-graduate programmes. EFinancialCareers rankings had placed the MSc in Investment and Finance within the top 30 Masters in Finance programmes in the world for getting a job in investment banking. I am pleased to see the first in-take to the new MSc Investment Banking, building on the successful portfolio of postgraduate degrees the School offers. The MSc in Investment and Finance was ranked in the eFinancialCareers top 20 for gaining employment in hedge funds, private equity and asset management.

Last year we had 12 out of 87 QMUL Chevening Scholars joined SEF for Economics and Finance Degree at QMUL. QMUL hosts one of the largest communities of Chevening scholars of any UK university.

There is satisfying news on the undergraduate front too. The School is ranked 14th nationally and 2nd in London according to the Guardian University Guide 2018. This is an acknowledgment of the School's commitment to supporting and enhancing the students' learning experience. But we are not resting on this success. We are planning for the launch of the two new degrees BSc Economics and Finance with a Year in Industry and BSc Economics and International Finance that will receive the first intake of students in September 2017. Following on from students' feedback and market trends, we also plan to introduce from 2018/19 four-year variants of all our existing undergraduate degree programmes in which students will have the opportunity of spending

one year at a university abroad. During summer many of our students are busy with internships, charity work and other types of work experience. Some notable examples are Kajal Kumar and David Pakozdi who are engaged in a four weeks research internship at CEMFI, University of Madrid. Another example is Asjad Khan who is volunteering as a consultant in Ghana to provide business and economic analysis to local startup companies.

In other news, joining us this year are several new members of academic staff: Alp Atakan joins as Professor of Economics, Alessandra Bonfiglioli joins as a Reader in Economics, Gino Gancia joins as a Professor of Economics, Sarolta Laczo joins as a Reader in Economics, Anna Raute joins as a Lecturer in Economics and Jason Sturgess joins as Professor of Finance. A very hearty welcome to all our new colleagues!

A recent research funding success include a Nuffield Foundation research grant awarded to Dr Francesco Fasani in collaboration with a colleague at University of Milan to assess the effectiveness of asylum policies in reaching their stated objectives, but will also investigate other unintended, but potentially relevant, longer term consequences. The combined findings will provide policy-relevant evidence on the role of asylum policies and with new opportunities expected in the near future for our undergraduate degrees too.

Our MRes and PhD programme go from strength to strength, and news about recent successful vivas are included inside. You will also read later just a few examples of the school's commitment to providing excellent teaching, being active in research and supporting students of which I am proud.

I look forward to being able to meet some of you at forthcoming events.

**Professor Sujoy Mukerji**  
Head of School



## Our new home in the Graduate Centre

QMUL Graduate Centre new home for the School of Economics and Finance, including a 60-seater seminar room, new computer lab and the Bloomberg trading lab. There is also a new open-plan office for teaching assistants, and academic offices. The innovative teaching and learning spaces, including a mock trading room, have transformed the School. In addition to being the home for the School of Economics and Finance, the Graduate Centre also provides work areas and social spaces tailored specifically to the needs and working patterns of our postgraduates. It has Seminar rooms- including a lecture theatre in a horse-shoe (Harvard-style) layout. On the seventh floor we have a Postgraduate reading room and 2 group study rooms. There is also a new postgraduate common room, which opens out onto a wooden deck terrace area with stunning views of Canary Warf and the City.

Sarah Riley, Postgraduate Programme Manager, said 'It was a significant move from the Queens' Building to the Graduate Centre. If not in terms of distance, certainly in terms of logistics! I have worked in the Queens' Building for the last 13 years so it was very exciting to see the administration team's new office. We have settled in and we are enjoying the new facilities, the terrace area opposite our office is a particular hit with me. A real sun spot!'

## In Conversation with Robert Peston: Brexit Britain

To celebrate our new building, and to inaugurate the Peston Lecture Theatre, we hosted 'In Conversation with Robert Peston: Brexit Britain' on Thursday 11 May 2017.

This 200-seat Peston Lecture Theatre, named in honour of the late Lord Maurice Peston, founder of the School of Economics and Finance at QMUL and an economist of national and international renown.

The event began at 6pm when Robert Peston was joined in conversation by QMUL alumnus Daniel Trinder, Managing Director and Global Head of Regulatory Reform at Standard Chartered Bank, and Professor Philip Cowley, Director of the Mile End Institute and Professor of Politics in the School of Politics and International Relations at QMUL. Professor Sujoy Mukerji, Head of the School of Economics and Finance, chaired the event. The event was well attended with over 200 guests.



*Prof. Sujoy Mukerji  
introducing the panel*



*Robert Peston conversing  
with Daniel Trinder*



*Lady Helen Peston attended the event.*

# Royal visit for official opening of new Graduate Centre

HRH The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, officially opened the new Graduate Centre at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) on Tuesday 13 June 2017.

The party was then introduced to Dr Francesco Fasani, a lecturer at the School of Economics and Finance whose research is focused on labour and migration. Dr Fasani spoke about the catastrophic situation in Syria, which has forced more than 12.5 million people to leave their homes. He said that while half of those who fled are still in Syria, the 6 million who left the country are mostly now living in neighbouring countries. This he said, is putting significant strain on the region amid an already turbulent period in Middle Eastern politics.

One of the meetings involved several SEF undergraduates, led by Dr. Guglielmo Volpe, taking her through a demonstration of how games and game theory can be used to enliven economics teaching. The Princess apparently truly enjoyed that session.

The Princess was then given a real-time demonstration of the new economics trading lab, which uses software to simulate a trading floor environment.

The party then moved to the Peston Lecture Theatre and concluded with a stone plaque unveiling in the entrance of the Graduate Centre and a reception where the Princess met staff from across the university.



*The Princess Royal meets Elisabetta Pasini, Andrea Calef, Bruno Nogueira Lanzer and Christopher Tyson*



*Princess Royal signs Queen Mary University's visitors' book at the new Graduate centre.*



*Princess Royal touring the building*

## Spring 2017 Workshop in Economic Theory

On Wednesday 24 May 2017 the School hosted the seventh annual Spring Workshop in Economic Theory at QMUL. This event brought together scholars and PhD students from in and around London for an afternoon of short talks and discussion on various topics in economic theory. Topics of Speakers for 2017:

Tomasz Strzalecki (Harvard): "Dynamic random utility" joint with Mira Frick (Yale) and Ryota Iijima (Yale)

Ricardo Alonso (LSE): "Coordinating sophisticated investors" joint with Konstantinos Zachariadis (QMUL)

Marzena Rostek (Wisconsin-Madison): "Decentralized market games" joint with Ji Hee Yoon (Wisconsin-Madison)

Manuel Mueller-Frank (IESE Business School): "Quasi-Bayesian updating in social networks" joint with Claudia Neri (St Gallen)

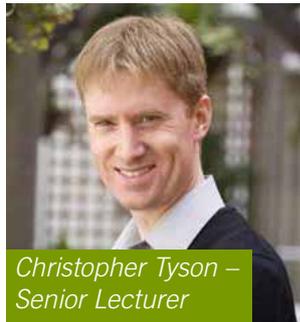
Piotr Dworzak (Stanford GSB): "Mechanism design with aftermarkets"

Erik Eyster (LSE): "Heterogeneous priors, private information, and trade" joint with Tristan Gagnon-Bartsch (Harvard) and Matthew Rabin (Harvard)

The Event was successfully organised by:



Anja Prummer - Lecturer



Christopher Tyson – Senior Lecturer



Ludovic Renou -Professor

## CEPR/IZA Annual Labour Economics Symposium



This event was co-organised by Prof. Barbara Petrongolo

The CEPR/IZA Annual Symposium in Labour Economics 2017 will take place on 14-15 September, and it is hosted by Queen Mary University of London (UK).

This year's symposium features a keynote talk by Stefano Della Vigna, UC Berkeley.



## Bounded Rationality in Choice (BRIC 5)

The fifth annual Bounded Rationality in Choice conference (BRIC 5) took place at Queen Mary University of London on 5-6 June 2017. The organizers were Christopher Tyson – Senior Lecturer and Marco Mariotti – Professor.

BRIC stands for Bounded Rationality in Choice, the name of the first conference that Paola Manzini and Marco Mariotti organised in St Andrews in 2013. It has now turned into an annual meeting, welcoming papers on topics related to bounded rationality in choice. The now usual format has no parallel sessions or invited speakers. Apart from the first year, in which Marco and Paola acted as benevolent dictators, it now has a proper scientific committee, which (in addition to the local organisers) consists of Jose Apesteguia, Miguel Angel Ballester, Andrew Caplin, Paola Manzini, Marco Mariotti, Yusufcan Masatlioglu, Efe Ok, Ariel Rubinstein, and Yuval Salant, the core, enthusiastic supporters of the project since the very beginning.



# PG Annual Summer Party @Patch East

To end the academic year, all SEF staff & PG students were invited to come along to the Summer Party. This year the venue was Patch East, a stylish cocktail bar, eatery and club with outlandish and flamboyant design, bespoke cocktails, eclectic food fare, award winning house DJ's. Our students enjoyed from late evening until midnight.



## QUMMIF Awards and Dinner 2017

Every year Queen Mary Master Investment Fund and School of Economics and Finance proudly presents an exclusive evening of awards to congratulate students for their achievement towards the QUMMIF success.

QUMMIF is an actively managed Postgraduate student-led investment fund with £35.5 AUM, with inception in March 2012. It aims to generate further attractive returns, with dividend and profit reinvestments.

This year with over 150 members we had a QUMMIF Students Investment Competition and we had six teams winning the competition. On 19th June QUMMIF awards and dinner was organised at Chiswell Street Dining Rooms, Along with a three course dinner, cash reward to the winning team and certificates were presented during the evening. Member of staff, QUMMIF alumni and current students were present to grace the event.

## CISI Educational Trust Awards 2017



Senior Lecturer Yioryos Makedonis congratulating Nihit Joshi

The CISI Educational Trust Awards annually celebrate achievement amongst students studying CISI accredited courses around the UK, of which Msc Wealth Management is one. Nihit Joshi was nominated by the School based on excellence in his studies

In addition to his nomination, Nihit was invited to submit an essay of 400 words for the opportunity to attend an interview with the Educational Trust and chance to achieve a further financial award based on interview performance, general knowledge test, and knowledge of the CISI. The essay title for 2017 was: "From the customer's

perspective what are the advantages and disadvantages between using a Robo-advisor and a human-advisor?"

Following an intensive interview process, we are delighted to congratulate Nihit, who was awarded by the CISI as one of the top performing postgraduates.

The three top performing students were invited to attend the CISI Annual Awards Ceremony on 15th March 2017 at Mansion House to receive an Award. Nihit was also offered a one week work experience placement in London during the summer with a CISI member firm.

Nihit's Experience *"I have had a truly positive experience at Queen Mary University of London. On the CISI awards day I was able to meet and interact with other participants of high calibre and with the panel of industry professionals who challenged me during the interview. Overall I am delighted to have gone through the various stages of the CISI Educational Trust Award process and would like to thank both QMUL and the CISI for giving me this opportunity"*.



## Undergraduate Class of 2017

Congratulations to all our BSc finalists who graduated on 19 July 2017. The following received a **College Prize**, an award based on academic excellence:

### **Drapers' Company Prize:**

David Pakozdi (BSc Economics and Finance)

Luigi Crucil (BSc Economics)

Laura Truong (BSc Economics)

### **Principal's Prize:**

Sara Labbate (BSc Economics and Politics)

Edward Field (BSc Economics)

### **Leverhulme Prize:**

Usman Azhar (BSc Economics)

The following received a **School Prize:**

**Corry Prize** (for the best 3rd Year Economics Project)

Shalin Patel (BSc Economics)

*Bernard Corry was a professor in the Department of Economics from 1966 until his retirement in 1996, and died in January 2001. He was always a strong advocate of projects, and to mark his many contributions to the Department of Economics, QMUL, and the economics profession in the UK, his colleagues established an annual prize for the best project. The first award of this prize was made in 1997.*

**Coddington Prize** (for improvement in 1st year mathematics and statistics)

Iman Taghaddosinejad (BSc Economics)

*Alan Coddington taught first year quantitative methods in the School and one of his students in 1966 impressed by the skill and humour which he brought to the task, established a prize of £100 in his memory to be awarded to the student showing the greatest improvement during their first year in quantitative modules.*

**Kieran Dhaliwal Prize** (for second year student based on a combination of academic merit and charity work)

Asjad Khan (BSc Economics)

*The School of Economics and Finance has set up an annual prize in honour of Kieran Dhaliwal, who was tragically killed in 2014. Kieran was a good student and also contributed to society through some charity work: in his spare time he used to teach mathematics and economics to students from a disadvantaged background. The prize intends to reflect these two characteristics of Kieran's life and is awarded to the second year student who meets the following requirements (1) excellent academic performance in the second year; (2) evidence of contribution to society through some form of charity work.*

**Krystyna Renner Prize** (awarded to the outstanding 2nd Year Economics and Politics student)

Lav Minic (BSc Economics and Politics)

*This prize was established by Mark Renner in 1994 in memory of his mother, and is awarded to a second year student on the basis of both effort and performance, with first preference being given to students on the Economics and Politics programme*

**Language Learning Scholarship for 2017/18.**

Evgenia Kotsyuba (2nd Year BSc Economics)

Lisa Quach (2nd Year BSc Economics, Finance and Management)

Joshna Aloor (2nd Year BSc Economics)

Mohammad (Hasan) Hoque (1st Year BSc Economics, Finance and Management)

Filippo Lorillo (2nd Year BSc Economics and Politics)

## Hey Buddy Scheme



The Buddy Scheme is a peer mentoring programme that was created exactly for this purpose! A collaboration between Queen Mary Students' Union (QMSU) and the School of Economics and Finance (SEF) will help you to really find out what it is like to be a student at QMUL.

Once you sign up you will be matched with a 'Buddy' who is a 2nd or 3rd year student also studying in SEF who will be equipped to give you a wide range of information from tips about your course and navigating around campus to finding the best food in the area. They will also be the first port of call for you if you are having any problems during your time here, be that with your flatmates, issues with your course or personal issues that you may be facing. Mentors have been trained to support you during your time at QMUL and signpost you to the relevant services that are available here. And all this whilst also creating fun activities throughout the year.

The scheme has been running for 3 years so far with many successful friendships created through the process so if this is something that you think could be of interest to you please find more information on our website [www.qmsu.org/buddy](http://www.qmsu.org/buddy) and sign up to be a mentee here <https://www.qmsu.org/buddy/mentee/>. There are limited spaces so sign up as early as possible.

# MSc Programme Overall Student Prize winners 2015-16

School of Economics and Finance offers number of prizes to reward, in each compulsory module, those students who have excelled in coursework, by achieving the highest overall grade for their MSc programmes.

A cash prize is awarded for the highest midterm/coursework mark per compulsory module. If more than one student achieves the same highest mark, the prize money is split between the students.

A cash prize is awarded for the best overall college mark for each MSc Programme.

## The MSc Programme Overall Student Prize winners for 2015-16 were

- Simon Taylor - MSc Economics:
- Henrik Brodtkorb - MSc Finance and Econometrics
- Stephanie Petrakis - MSc Behavioral Finance
- Vincent Kalmes - MSc Wealth Management
- Martin Nygaard - MSc Business Finance (Shared Prize)



**Alibek Zhambyl- MSc Business Finance Overall Student Prize winner 2015-16 (Shared Prize)**

"The program was very intensive and interesting, which

I can unhesitatingly recommend to anyone, who has a keen interest to finance. I do strongly believe that the knowledge and experience obtained in school of economics and finance of QMUL would help me to achieve even higher results in my professional career".



**Anna Semenova- MSc Banking and Finance Overall Student Prize winner 2015-16**

"I realized that here analyzing, understanding and applying the given

material in practice is valued far more than remembering and reproducing it. You are also encouraged to do your own research if you are interested in something beyond the curriculum and you will be provided with all support you need. Be sure: your potential will be unlocked here!"



**Mohammed Shakul Islam – MSc Investment and Finance Overall Student Prize winner 2015-16**

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time

at Queen Mary and benefitted from a very well structured programme; it was especially beneficial to be taught by a mixture of both academics and practitioners, who bring academic expertise and a wealth of hands-on experience, respectively. The lecturers were very supportive and some on hand out of office hours to help facilitate my needs, as I was pursuing the part-time masters whilst working full-time. The challenging yet well-administered"



**Anik Islam MSc Finance Overall Student Prize winner 2015-16**

"Studying in QMUL and living in London has been the highlight of my

life during 2016. Reflecting back, I think about the first time I sat in the Bloomberg Room filled with a diverse group of people, listening to the Finance Trading Program lecture. That was the moment when I realized that I was well and truly starting my education at this great institution. From then onwards, I can honestly say that I learned a lot throughout my time at QMUL."



**Bao Chi Huynh Msc Banking Overall Student Prize winner 2015-16**

"Being a student at Queen Mary is definitely one of the most unforgettable

times in my entire life. I have a chance to experience my student life under an inclusive, supportive and professional learning environment. From a girl who firstly felt unconfident about her English and was afraid of challenges that may arrive when living in a totally new country, I am now proudly saying that I am a Queen Mary's Alumni who confidently faces with any problems and dares to be challenged.

Thank you very much, Queen Mary!"

## Research News

### Nuffield Foundation Grant



Dr Francesco Fasani (Lecturer) was awarded a Nuffield Foundation grant (£138,000) for a two-year research project

on "Asylum policies in Europe and the refugee crisis". Dr Fasani will act as Principal Investigator in collaboration with Dr Tommaso Frattini from the University of Milan. The grant starts on the 1st of April 2017 and will fund a post-doc position.

### SEF encourages its doctoral students to attend a number of leading research events such as the AFA meetings.

Konstantinos Gkionis 2nd year doctoral student in Finance, was awarded a travel grant by the American Finance Association (AFA) to participate in the annual meeting held in Chicago, IL in January 2017. Konstantinos mentioned "This has been a very rewarding experience as I had been given the chance to meet leading academics of the field and fellow PhD students from around the world, and participated in sessions where papers highlighting the contemporary research trends in financial economics were presented". Konstantinos thesis is on Empirical Asset Pricing and he is supervised by Professor George Skiadopoulos.



**CREMFi**  
Centre for Research in  
Macroeconomics and  
Finance

## QMSU Education Awards

Well done to the following members of staff recognised in the QM Students' Union Education Awards 2017

### Academic Support Award- Winner Innovative Teaching Award- Nomination



Dr Luigi Ventimiglia Di Monteforte  
**Postgraduate Research Supervisor  
of the Year Award**



Prof. Haroon Mumtaz  
**Postgraduate Teaching Award**  
Claudio Vallar- Teaching Assistant

The Teaching and Curriculum Development Committee has decided on the 2016-17 teaching prizes for teaching assistants. The TAs for the prizes are as follows:



Alexander  
Kontoghiorghes



Daniele Caliari



Elisabetta Pasini



Meeting with our Course Reps over a cuppa!!! Some wonderful suggestions poured in.



Educational tour to Bank of England with our postgraduate students

## PhD Conference 2017

In June 2017 the School held its annual PhD conference, where research students had the opportunity to present their latest research

### **Econometrics, Macro and Micro Theory**

Chair: Alessio Volpicella

**Jayeeta Bhattacharya** – A Quantile Approach for Ascending Auctions under Asymmetry

**Daniele Caliari** – Inferring Welfare Rankings from Choice Observations - A General Analysis

**Dogukan Isik** – Macroeconomic Forecasting with Big Data

**Iacopo Varotto** – Does big size matter for the Business cycle?

### **Applied Microeconomics**

Chair: Edoardo Palombo

**Simone Marco Ferro** – Exploiting Chinese Popular Beliefs to Study Cohort Size Effects on Students' Performance in California

**Marco Ovidi** – Measuring research and school quality in the UK

**Maddalena Ronchi** – Managers' daughters and gender discrimination in hiring

### **Finance**

Chair: Konstantinos Gkionis

**Valerio Della Corte** – Trade relationships and international equity portfolios: a closer examination

**Kazuhiro Hiraki** – Asset (mis-)pricing with frictions

**Chuanping Sun** – Model Selection with Spurious Factors in an SDF Setting

Congratulations also to the following who have successfully completed their PhD

### **Carlos Uribe Teran**

'Essays on Fiscal Policy and Incomplete Markets' (June, 2017)

Supervisor- Xavier Mateos-Planas

### **Nils Gudat**

'Essays on the Economics of Heterogeneity' (June, 2017)

Supervisor- Xavier Mateos-Planas

### **Stefania Simion**

'Empirical Essays on Youth's Labour Markets and Education' (May, 2017)

Supervisor - Marco Manacorda

### **Fabrizio Venditti**

'Essays on Models and Time-Varying Parameters for Forecasting and Policy Analysis' (Apr, 2017)

Supervisor - George Kapetanios

### **Mikhail Timonin**

'Axiomatizations of the Choquet integral on general decision spaces' (Jan, 2017)

Supervisor - Chris Tyson

### **Katerina Petrova**

'A Quasi-Bayesian Local Likelihood Approach to Time-Varying Parameter Models' (Sep, 2016)

Supervisor - George Kapetanios



## Vietnam Social Event

### **Nick Owen, Research and Joint Programme Manager**

"In March 2017 I visited Southeast Asia on a recruitment trip, and managed to catch up with SEF postgraduate alumni now based in Hanoi, Vietnam. It was exciting to hear about their work, how their Masters programmes had helped them in their careers and generally chat about their time in London. It was also a great opportunity for former students to re-connect with other alumni living and working in the area".



## New Staff Profile

### Academic Staff:



**Alp Atakan** joins QMUL as Professor of Economics from Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey. He previously was an Assistant professor at Northwestern

University and holds a PhD from Columbia University. His research interests are Microeconomic Theory and Game Theory and his current research focuses on information economics, auction design, search and bargaining, and dynamic games.



A former Assistant Professor at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, **Alessandra Bonfiglioli** joins the School of Economics and Finance at QMUL as a Reader (Associate

Professor). Her main research interests are in International Trade, Growth and Income Inequality, and Political Economy. She has ongoing projects on the interplay between trade, finance, firms' heterogeneity and wage inequality.



**Gino Gancia** joins QMUL as Professor of Economics. Gino held the positions of Senior Researcher at CREI (Barcelona) and Affiliated Professor of the Barcelona

Graduate School of Economics. He is specialised in international trade and macroeconomics. His work focuses on the effects of economic integration on economic growth, technological change, wage inequality, firm heterogeneity and the size of governments.



**Sarolta Laczo** joins QMUL as Reader from the University of Surrey. She previously held post-doctoral positions at the European University

California Los Angeles, and the Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE-CSIC), after receiving her PhD from the Toulouse School of Economics. Her main field of interest is Macroeconomics, and her research focuses on risk sharing and optimal taxation.



**Anna Raute** will join QMUL in January 2018 as Lecturer in Economics from the University of Mannheim. Anna holds a PhD from University College London.

Her research interests are in applied microeconomics, with a main focus on labour and public economics.



**Jason Sturgess** joins QMUL as Professor of Finance from DePaul University. His research interests lie in the boundaries of corporate finance and financial intermediation. Jason

holds a PhD in Finance from London Business School.

### Admin Staff:



**Buse Guralp** joins the team as Finance Manager

"I have just joined SEF as the Finance Manager. I am an alumni from MSc

Accounting and Management, Queen Mary University of London and ACCA finalist. I have worked in QMUL Central Finance department and School of Business and Management for the last 2 years. It is a pleasure to join SEF and I am looking forward to work with lovely SEF people".



**Poppy Brooks** joins the team as Undergraduate Student Support Officer

**Shahnaz Shahid** joins the team as Web/IT Officer

"I am very pleased to have started my new role as Web/IT Support Officer in the School of Economics and Finance earlier this year. I graduated in 2013 with a BSc (Hons) degree in Computer Science with Business Management and Accounting. Later that year I joined the university's IT Services department whereby I provided 1st and 2nd line support for students and staff regarding various software and hardware systems. I also created self-help guides and other material for the Support section of the website. My role now mainly focuses on web editing and providing technical support for the staff and students of the SEF.

I look forward to working with the SEF team".

## Peer Assisted Study Support scheme in SEF

As every year, the School's Peer Assisted Study Support scheme will be up and running from September 2018. Coordinated by the new PASS organisers, Dipika Subha and Sofia Panagiotidi, the PASS mentors are available to meet with year 1 students who are in need of some help or are just in search of some good friends whom to share their experience.

PASS is a great way to benefit from the experience of students in higher years that have been in your position and are giving up their own time to make sure that you too can do well while at QM. The broad areas where you can get support are:

- Academic Support: Mentors can provide advice for lectures, assistance on problem sets and how to prepare for midterms/final exams
- Social Support: Financial issues, personal issues, opportunities for growth and further advice/counselling are all available. We take personal matters seriously and want the very best for you
- Careers Support: Mentors (with experience in banking and government) can guide you with personal experiences and advice for ensuring that you get the very best advice for your future careers

Check the PASS posters around the School and on the School's TV screens for details about the days and time the mentors are available to meet with you. If you would like more information about the PASS scheme please contact Dipika ([d.j.subah@hss15.qmul.ac.uk](mailto:d.j.subah@hss15.qmul.ac.uk)) or Sofia ([s.panagiotidi@hss15.qmul.ac.uk](mailto:s.panagiotidi@hss15.qmul.ac.uk)).

## IMC Advantage agreement

The School has recently renewed the Investment Management Certificate (IMC) Advantage Agreement with the Chartered Financial Analyst UK. The agreement, that originally applied to the BSc Economics and Finance and BSc Economics, Finance and Management degrees, has now been extended to include the two new degrees, BSc Economics and International Finance and BSc Economics and Finance with Year in Industry that will welcome their first intake of students in September 2017. The renewal of the agreement underlines the undergraduate programmes' relevance to working practice in the UK and can help improve the immediate employability of our graduates.

Members of the CFA UK will visit the School at the start of semester to promote the benefit of IMC qualification and to address any query that interested students might have.

## The School of Economics and Finance among the top 15 Economics Schools in the UK

The 2018 Guardian University league table, which focuses mainly on indicators of student's experience and success, ranks the School 2nd in London and 14th in the country specifically for the quality of teaching and the students' overall experience.

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Nick Vriend, said: "The School's ranking in the Guardian University league tables 2018 is the reflection of a long-term strategy aimed at creating an engaging, lively and stimulating learning and supporting environment for our students. The investment in careers resources, with three dedicated careers advisers supporting students' careers choices, is leading more students to secure graduate jobs. The investment and engagement with innovative learning technologies is helping more students achieving good degrees. Investment in further resources, such as free trading and investment courses run by city practitioners, is not only supporting students' careers and learning but also confirming the School's commitment to increase spending whenever value can be created. Of course, underpinning this strategy is an atmosphere of positive and friendly engagement between staff and students of which the School is very proud."

## New Undergraduate Degrees

Two new undergraduate degrees will receive their first intake of students in September 2017. The BSc Economics and Finance with Year in Industry is a four year degree that offers students the opportunity of spending the third year on a year-long placement. Students will be supported by a dedicated placement officer that will help them liaise with businesses in order to secure a placement in the broad fields of economics, finance and banking at the end of their second year of study. The work experience will prove an invaluable opportunity to practice what learned at University and to develop a professional profile.

The BSc Economics and International Finance is a three years degree that offers students the opportunity to acquire a thorough understanding of economics and finance with a particular focus on the open economy with the introduction of new modules such as International Trade, International Financial Strategy and Finance of Emerging Markets. The degree will be of interest to students who are interested in pursuing a career in areas such as currency trading and international financial development.

## Careers

The School of Economics and Finance's Careers Team would like to welcome all new and continuing students to the academic year 2017/2018. An exciting careers programme is in place for the coming year, including a wide range of activities and events which we hope you will all benefit from during your time here at QMUL. Our aim is to support you in achieving your career goals, and we are looking forward to working with you all this year! The School of Economics and Finance has two dedicated Careers Consultants – Cathy Balfe and Serena Spöndlin – and an Employer Engagement & Internships Coordinator – Nicola Persue-King. A range of activities and events are arranged on your behalf, including one-to-one careers guidance sessions, careers workshops, employer fairs and events and alumni events.

### The Team



**Employer Engagement & Internships Co-ordinator**  
**Nicola Persue-King**

I have enjoyed meeting many new faces over the past year and

working with you all. As your Employer Engagement & Internships Co-ordinator I am here to support you with employers, finding work experience and applying for jobs and giving feedback on your applications and interviews. I source internships and jobs exclusively for SEF students, run work experience schemes, and work with employers to collaborate and raise the profile of SEF students.

There have been many successes over the course of the last year. Several of you had the chance to participate in an exclusive dinner with JP Morgan which was organised by us on behalf of JP Morgan who were interested in QMUL students exclusively. Many of you made lasting impressions with JP Morgan, and we will continue to work to build the interest of these employers in order to connect them with our students. As well as this, our first exclusive Economics focused event in January was headlined by the Government Economics Service as well as several SEF alumni who were part of the brilliant panel. We are pleased that this Focus on Economics event is set to return and hopefully expand for 2018. As well as this, we have continued to increase the number of employers engaging with QMUL Economics & Finance students, with the expansion of the Careers Taster Scheme (insight sessions at company offices) to 8 different companies. The scheme will now be entering its third year and will be returning for the 2017/18 academic

year. This year we will be engaging with even more employers from a wide range of industries and sectors to help students make informed choices and gain worthwhile networking experiences and opportunities.



**Careers Consultant**  
**Cathy Balfe**

I joined SEF as a Careers Consultant in April 2016. I have experience of working across a wide range of

financial industries, including investment banking, corporate finance and stock trading. More recently I have focused on economics research, completing a PhD in Economics at University College London in 2015. This PhD study was funded by Cemmap, a research institute located within the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a leading independent economics think-tank. Prior to joining Queen Mary, I worked as a research economist at the Bank of England. I am currently studying for a post-graduate diploma in Careers Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education at the University of Warwick.



**Serena Spöndlin**  
**Careers Consultant**

I joined SEF in December 2016 and have since enjoyed working with many of you, offering support

through one-to-one guidance sessions and careers specific workshops. I am looking forward to be working with all of you in the upcoming academic year.

Prior to joining Queen Mary, I have worked for Bloomberg LP as an Account Manager/Project Manager for both sellside and buy-side clients in mainly Switzerland, Germany and France. I will soon start my post-graduate diploma in Careers Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education at University of Warwick.

Cathy and Serena's role at SEF is to support SEF students throughout their career development. The support we provide ranges from guidance around career choice, help in finding work experience, advice on how to write stand-out CVs, application forms and cover letters and how to demonstrate your skills and competencies at interview and assessment centres. We have one-on-one appointments available from Tuesday to Friday every week, so do book in with any questions you may have.

We also deliver a 1st year Careers Module throughout Semester A, and we are aiming to host guest speakers from various industries and institutions on a regular basis which will be open to all students at the School of Economics and Finance. In addition to that, we will run regular careers workshop, as well as CV, Cover Letter, and Application Form Clinics in both Semester A and Semester B.

