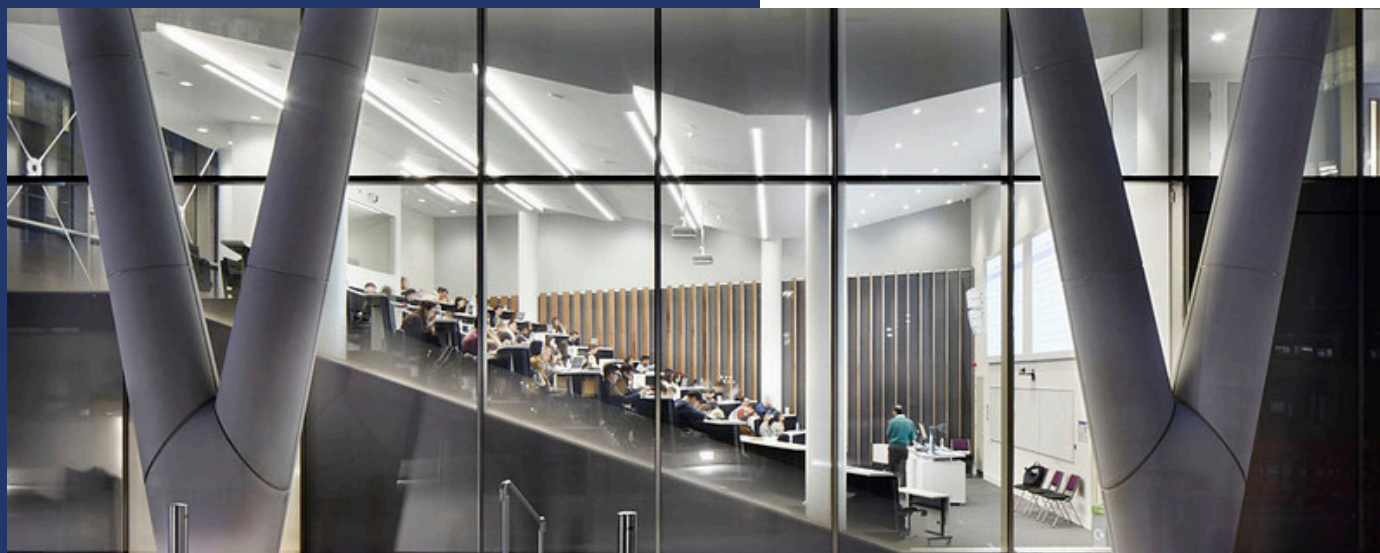


SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 33, September 2026



A message from the Head of School

A warm welcome back to all students and staff!

This year, over 1000 new students have joined the School across our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. With new opportunities, fresh perspectives, and plenty of events ahead, it promises to be a productive year for our whole community.

Alongside welcoming new students, we also celebrate the outstanding achievements of our staff. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Camille Terrier on being awarded a €1.5 million European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant.

I'm also pleased to welcome a few new colleagues to the School of Economics and Finance. Bansri Bantwa has joined the team as the new Alumni Engagement Coordinator, and Luena Ricardo has joined as the new qNomics Project Officer.

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



Professor Alp Atakan
Head of School



Successful completion of our very first PGT Dissertation in Industry cohort

We are thrilled to celebrate the successful completion of our very first PGT Dissertation in Industry cohort. This opportunity, led by Dr Thomai Filippeli, allows successful applicants to conduct research for their dissertation at a company in the financial industry.

[Watch this quick video](#) to hear directly from academics, financial industry partners, and our students on what makes these collaborative dissertations so impactful.



EMAP Campus Week

During the last week of July, we welcomed apprentices from the Economics Master's Apprenticeship Programme for our twice-yearly Campus Week. It was a great week of learning, discussion and collaboration, giving apprentices the chance to dive into academic content, build their professional networks, and spend time with colleagues and fellow apprentices from across the programme.

A big thank you to our guest speakers, Heloise Dunlop from the Institute for Government and James Richardson from the Climate Change Committee, for sharing their expertise and perspectives on some of the key policy and economic challenges facing the UK today.

More news

- **The School of Economics and Finance launches its career starter pack!** SEF career advisors put together [a collection of articles](#) to support home and international students in preparing for future careers. The pack includes information on the UK job market, CV guidance, visa information and much more.
- **MSc Economics: My study experience**
Kirubele, an MSc Economics student at Queen Mary University of London, discusses why he chose to study here and what other MSc students can do to get the most out of their studies. [Read the full blog here.](#)



Dr Camille Terrier awarded a €1.5 million ERC Starting Grant

The highly competitive award will support ELEVATE, Camille's new project investigating why students from disadvantaged backgrounds remain underrepresented in higher education and what can be done to address these inequalities.

Drawing on evidence from 14 countries, ELEVATE will explore the university access process and identify practical ways to make access to higher education more equal and improve student success. [Read more about Camille's research here.](#)



Meet your new Alumni Engagement Officer

I'm Bansri, and I'll be working on creating opportunities for alumni to stay connected with the School and our students through events, networking, mentoring and activities alike. If you're interested in getting involved with our alumni activities, or have any questions or suggestions around alumni engagement, feel free to reach out to sef alumni@qmul.ac.uk or find me [on LinkedIn](#).

2026 Teaching Awards

Congratulations to our colleagues who have been recognised with this year's undergraduate and postgraduate teaching prizes at the School of Economics and Finance.

Undergraduate prizes

Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Core Teaching awarded to **Thomas Schmitz**

Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Elective Teaching awarded to **Liudas Giraitis**

Special Commendation for Outstanding Assessment and Feedback awarded to **Felipe Merlano**

Special Commendation for Services to Undergraduate Education awarded to **Jinu Lee**

Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Class Teaching awarded to **Sergio Infrerrera** and **Haiqa Ali**

Postgraduate prizes

Prize for Excellence in Postgraduate Core Teaching awarded to **Claudio Vallar**

Prize for Excellence in Postgraduate Elective Teaching awarded to **Darren Cullen**

Prize for Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching awarded to **Konstantina Mari**

These awards recognise the dedication, expertise, and commitment our academics bring to undergraduate and postgraduate education. [To learn more about each award winner's contribution, please read the full article.](#)



Work as a SEF Student Ambassador

Make new friends, gain skills and experience, and enjoy flexible, £14.98 per hour employment to fit around your studies.

Student Ambassadors are our most powerful brand advocates. You are role models and use your personal experiences to support and advise prospective students on university life.

How do I apply?

The opportunity is open to both undergraduate and postgraduate students! To apply, please fill in this [application form](#) by 4 October 2026.

Have questions? Please email: sef-studentrecruitment@qmul.ac.uk



qNomics applications are open

[qNomics](#) brings economic theory to life, delivering vital legal, business, financial, and tech advice to real communities and businesses.

If you're looking to gain hands-on experience and drive meaningful change, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

How do I apply?

Both undergraduate and postgraduate students can apply for qNomics. To apply, please [complete this form](#) by 27 September 2026.

Have questions? Please email: econ-qnomics@qmul.ac.uk



Welcome dinner for all PhD students

Whether you are just starting your PhD journey or returning for another year, we would love for you to join us for our PhD Welcome & Welcome Back Dinner! It's a great chance to catch up, meet new faces, and kick off the term over some fantastic food.

Event details

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 18:00 (6:00 PM)

Venue: Andu Cafe (Vegan Ethiopian Cuisine)

Cost: £15 per person (Cash only)

Drinks: Bring Your Own Beer/Wine (BYOB)

Please contact Dr John Morrow (john.morrow@qmul.ac.uk) if you can make it so we can confirm our final numbers with the restaurant. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



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!

