



Economics and Finance Newsletter

Economics and Finance Society , Brunel University

Volume 2, Issue 4

January 2011

HI ALL,

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Welcome to the January issue of your monthly newsletter—hope you had a great time this Christmas holidays and are having a great new year.

Once again we come to that part of the year when you start getting your mid term results—lectures resume and you are back to the uni humdrum — I like to call it the ‘twilight zone’ of the academic year :) It’s a great time to catch up and develop some good habits (forget those impossible new year resolutions — I have already given up on mine) .One handy tip : make sure you get feedback on your coursework and exam results.

We have a lot to share with you in this issue—we really hope you enjoy it. Do not forget to sign up and take the Bloomberg Aptitude Test—they have added some new dates for January and February – when you can take this test free of cost. Having taken this test myself I can not stress enough how useful this test is in determining you strengths and weaknesses in terms of academic sub-

jects—also based on your results—the test also helps you determine the career field (particularly in finance) that you are most suited for.Since it’s a pilot version of the test your results are NOT going to be submitted to any employers and you can get some great practice without going through too much stress and preparation. Email me for further details.

Once again I’d say please email me your contributions that could be in the form of ideas, articles, comments, opinions, cartoon strips, news or pretty much anything that you feel should be included in your newsletter.

It would be great to get your feedback too on various features of this issue – please feel free to write the conventional ‘Letter to the Editor’ about anything you particularly liked/disliked and how we can improve ourselves for the future. Your opinion is much appreciated and goes a long way in helping us improve the services we provide to you.

Also please take part in the various events organised by the Economics

and Finance Society and send your feedback at my e-mail : pankhuri310@gmail.com. The nominations for E&F Society Committee positions for academic year 2011-2012 are now open.See page 5 for further details and to apply. Also for all my level 3 friends whose disso deadlines are coming near—make sure you proofread your work before submitting—also make use of the presentation opportunity offered by the E&F department and touch point team to get some valuable feedback on your work.

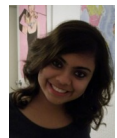
Have a happy 2011,

Cheers

Pankhuri Editor and Vice President

pankhuri310@gmail.com

Economics and Finance Society



Dear all
Happy New Year – I wish you all a very happy and successful 2011. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas holidays and the adverse weather did not affect you too much. Have you made your New Year’s Resolutions? Our New Year’s resolution is to keep working for you and with you.

Academic staff worked hard throughout the Christmas holidays to complete marking and provide feedback for the tests/assignment within the deadline. Hope you have now received your test grades and feedback. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact your lecturer.

Dr Aris Kartsaklas has joined us in the New Year to strengthen our teaching in Accounting and Finance. We are in the process of employing two Academic Tutors to strengthen our academic support to our students, who are due to join us before the end of the month. Further news will follow in the next newsletter

We have again obtained ACCA Accreditation for our graduates this year. An extra exemption is obtained this year for Module MG3027 Taxation following amendments in the module outlines and assessment, which was emphasized in our correspondence with the ACCA representative. In addition, we have gained accreditation not only to ACCA fundamental papers but for three different qualifications. For example, Finance and Accounting graduates are fully exempted from all Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) papers and all Foundations in Accountancy (FIA) papers as well as exemption from up to 7 out of 9 ACCA fundamental papers.

Wish you have a very successful term

Best wishes,
Sarmistha

Editor and Touch Point Team

Sarmistha.Pal@brunel.ac.uk

Economics and Finance Department



Brunel Economics and Finance Society UG/PG Essay Competition 2011

How does the Financial Crisis 2007-2010 affect the economy? What are the likely Remedies?

Deadline: 4 pm 15 February 2011

The competition is only open to Economics and Finance UG/PG students.
Submit UG essays to UG Admin office MJ103 and PG essays to Linda Birch, word limit being 2000 words

There will be two winners, one each from UG and PG groups, each winning £50.

Indicative references

[The Credit Crisis: Conjectures about Causes and Remedies](#)

Raghuram Rajan with Douglas Diamond
AEA Presentation

Raghuram Rajan, Chicago

<http://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/raghuram.rajan/research/>

[The Real Effects of Banking Crises](#)

Rajan with Giovanni Dell'Ariccia, Enrica Detragiache
Journal of Financial Intermediation, 2008, vol 17, 89-112

Stijn Claessens

[Lessons and Policy Implications from the Global Financial Crisis](#), IMF Working Paper No. 10/44,
February 01, 2010

David Blanchflower

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~blnchflr/OPED.html>

Development Research Group, World Bank. (2008). Lessons from World Bank Research on Financial Crisis. *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 4779*, 1-31.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/12/16/000158349_20081216093241/Rendered/PDF/WPS4779.pdf

DISTINGUISH YOURSELF WITH THE BLOOMBERG ASSESSMENT

/// TAKE PART
Take the TEST before it goes live by taking part in this unique opportunity, with results that can be included in your résumé.
Starting in 2011, the exam will launch globally – paving the way for a new generation of students to make their mark on the job market.

/// ABOUT US
Bloomberg knows finance. As the world's premier provider of financial information, we have leveraged our network of successful financial professionals to discover what they need to know when finding the best applicants from universities around the world. Based on their need to make the job search process more transparent, we have created the Bloomberg Assessment, covering around 12 different topics that aspiring financial professionals should know.

The test has been designed to help bank recruiters and other financial professionals screen for the best job applicants based on the skills value.
In 2010, we are offering students at select universities the unique opportunity for a sneak peak of the exam: **this opportunity allows students to take the test at no cost to themselves until the end of this year.**

ARE YOU READY?

CONTROL YOUR DESTINY
YOU CONTROL ACCESS TO YOUR DETAILS

FIND YOUR MATCH
WITH TOP OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

BOOST YOUR SELECTION CHANCES WITH THE WORLD'S LEADING RECRUITERS

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OF YOUR SKILLS TO THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS
TO DISCOVER WHAT ROLES SUIT YOU BEST

/// VISIT
www.bloomberginstitute.com
to learn more and take part!

Bloomberg

Bloomberg has added some additional dates in January 2011 to take these tests free of cost and these are

24 January 2011

31 January 2011

2 February 2011

Since this is a pilot version of the real test - you do not require any special preparation for this - however it will be a good opportunity get an idea about the questions and get some practice.

For more information, sample questions, and to sign up, please go to

www.bloomberginstitute.com.

For further information email : pankhuri310@gmail.com

WOMEN INTO BUSINESS SERIES—BY THE PCC

The *Women into Business series* is a number of workshops aimed at inspiring and motivating female students, and the launch event is next *Tuesday evening, 25th January, 17.30-18.30 (approximately)*. The launch will bring all the speakers together so that they can introduce themselves and give a short promotional talk about their individual workshop. This will be followed by 5 (possibly 6) individual workshops on a range of topics, with a final session in March when all the speakers will come together again to dot the i's and cross the t's. At the final session we will also have a keynote speaker - Dr Joanna Kennedy who is a Director at Arup - and an opportunity for some networking over refreshments.

Details of the launch event are below:

Women into Business - launch (25th January, 17.30-18.30)

Women into Business is a series of workshops designed to inspire and motivate female students who have their sights set on a senior role within their chosen career or who are interested in free-lancing/self-employment as an alternative option.

The launch event brings together the speakers from across the series to give an introduction to themselves and the topic they will be covering in their workshops. Topics will include understanding how to compete in a male dominated workplace (men's styles and women's styles and how you build a bridge between them), communication skills, managing your reputation, goal setting, leadership and transferable skills, and the practicalities and pitfalls of setting up your own business (i.e. how to breathe when your head is under water).

Guest speakers include:

Jane Atkinson, a public relations consultant who has worked with a range of clients at Executive and Board level, including being media advisor to the late Diana, Princess of Wales

Ria Barnabas, the owner and Managing Director of a prestigious company in the telecoms research industry

Susie Barron-Stubley, Managing Director of Castalia Coaching - a highly respected and sought after coach and trainer who works with some of the highest level and influential Executive PAs and Assistants in the corporate, government and celebrity fields

Sue Coles, Director, Learning & Development, Indigo Blue - Sue was formerly the UK Graduate Recruitment Manager for HSBC

Claudia Crawley who offers a specialised coaching service for women to empower them to overcome the barriers (internal and external) that can hold them back.

Many thanks

Pauline

Pauline Seston
Entrepreneurship & Employability Consultant
Placement and Careers Centre, Bannerman Centre
Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 3PH
Tel: 01895 267057

Acknowledgements : Stephanie Darking, Brunel Placements and Careers Centre

Dates for your diary

E&F Society Public Lecture on 2nd February 2011 4-6 pm LC-A:

‘Saints or Sinners? Foreign Banks During the Crisis’

Presented by Ralph de Haas, Senior Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Deadline for UG/PG essay competition : 15 February 2011

How does the financial crisis 2007-2010 affect the economy? What are the likely remedies?

End-of-term workshop on presentation skills 23 March (date to be confirmed)

ASK about Maths, Numeracy and Statistics!

The Academic Skills (ASK) team based in the Library ground floor have expanded their service to support you with maths, numeracy and statistics. We offer a wide range of weekly workshops, drop-ins, one-to-one appointments and events where you can improve your maths, numeracy and statistical skills and discuss related issues with experienced tutors. Dr Christine Gregory works part-time teaching statistics and quantitative research (including SPSS and Excel) and Dr Inna Namestnikova works full-time teaching maths and numeracy. They can both be contacted via ask@brunel.ac.uk<mailto:ask@brunel.ac.uk>.

Workshops can be viewed and booked via our online calendar <https://bit.ly/ASKWorkshops>. PDF copies of timetable are available on the ASK U-link webpage and if you did not book in advance, please come along anyway.

We also run drop-ins during term time in the ASK Teaching room

Statistics Friday 12-1

Maths and Numeracy Tues-Thurs 12-1

Appointments are also available outside these hours and can be booked via email.

We look forward to seeing you.

Emily Danvers, ASK

What is NSS

This is a *National* survey of students' university experience

The NSS starts at Brunel on Monday 17 January 2011

Open to all final year undergraduates

Go to the Brunel homepage and click on NSS,

or go to www.thestudentsurvey.com and log on (you just need *date of birth, name of institution, student id, 1 letter from first name and 4 letters from surname*).

Last year 65% of students took part – we want to go higher this year!!

Things to think about beforehand

Reflect on your time at Brunel

What were the positives? Overall, was it OK?

Teaching

Learning resources

Assessment and Feedback

Academic support

Personal development

Organisation and management

What does the survey ask me?

The core NSS has 22 statements related to your university experience; for each statement you choose one of 5 options to indicate how much you agree/disagree with the statement

Example NSS statement: 'Overall, I am Satisfied with the quality of the course'

The NSS takes around 5 minutes to complete

How is the 5-point scale interpreted?

The midpoint is '*Neutral*' or '*No opinion*' – it represents neither agreement nor disagreement!

If, on balance, you agree with the statement – i.e. you feel it is '*OK, but could be better*', mark the box to the left of the midpoint.

If, on balance, you do not agree with the statement and feel your experience was '*poor, but could be worse*', mark the box to the right of the midpoint.

If you *clearly agree (or disagree)* then mark the box on the far left (far right).

Economics and Finance Society 2011 Election Nominations Roles and Responsibilities

President:

To motivate and inspire individuals on the committee, as well as providing assistance when help is required to committee members when required and oversee the work of the committee members. The vision of the society is to bridge the gap between employers and students and provide a platform for students to reach their goals. The aim of the president is to see through the vision by ensuring members of the committee are dedicated to produce for the benefit of members.

Vice President:

The vice president works closely with the president also there to assist committee members when facing difficulties. Importantly the role of the vice president is also to drive the message across to members of the committee when the president is not there.

Secretary:

The secretary plays a vital role in the functioning of the Society. The secretary must produce minutes every meeting and email a copy to all committee members as soon as possible. The secretary must also deal with any queries regarding the society and call members reminding and informing them of meetings. As well as committee members the secretary must also type up general letters for the society and be a point of contact. To add to this the secretary must also log when someone cannot attend meetings and, or is late to meetings. Reliability is key; if this becomes an issue then there will be consequences (3 strike rule).

Treasurer:

The role of the treasurer is to control the society's finances, this means working closely with the event's organiser to create budgets for events and holding responsibility of receipts.

Event's Organiser:

Will ensure events are planned smoothly and inform other members of the committee if something needs to be done that fits in with their role when an event is upcoming. The event's organiser will hold full accountability for events.

Liaisons Officer

The liaison officer must bridge the gap between the committee, ambassadors and the students. For example if an event is being held it is the responsibility of the liaison officers to contact students, whether it be announcements in lectures, emails via the head of schools, advertisements required and overseeing the head of ambassadors to ensure the ambassadors are getting our message across to students.

Please e-mail me (pankhuri310@gmail.com) your nomination stating your interest and suitability in the particular role and your contribution you have made or would make to the society in this role. The closing date for these nominations is 20th February 2010. There will be elections this year for all the positions as per the Brunel Students' Union guidelines and the nominees must be members of the societies for **at least a month**. Please feel free to e-mail me in case of any questions.

AGENDA FOR THE YEAR

Trading event

Want to learn how to trade stocks and bonds on the financial markets through a simulated trading environment....here is the Trading game....

This would be running through the first term. If interested email economics.finance.placement@gmail.com stating Trading event in the subject line immediately.

Buddy Scheme

Aimed at providing assistance and mentoring of all kinds to economics and finance students by fellow students, alumni, committee members etc. The scheme will run through out the year but you are encouraged to enlist as early as possible.

Placement Advice

To be offered by current and Past Placement Students in the form of lectures, informal talks, networking events and mentoring.

Monthly Newsletter

Your monthly update to news, information, articles from around the world of Economics and Finance Society. You are welcome to contribute in the form of ideas, articles, comments, opinions, cartoon strips, news or pretty much anything that you feel should be included in your newsletter. Contact : pankhuri310@gmail.com

Networking Event

Gives you the chance to network with industry professionals and to know a more about future career streams

TBA

Public Lectures

By professionals and lectures on current economic and finance issues to be held throughout the year.

Public lecture 2nd February 2011: "Saints or Sinners? Foreign Banks during the Crisis" presented by Ralph de Haas, Senior Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Student Ambassador Scheme

A good platform to get involved in the running of the society by becoming the society ambassadors for your level and conducting marketing activities for our events and promoting membership .If interested email covering letter to pankhuri310@gmail.com.

Master Workshops—skill building

Career presentations, cv and covering letter writing, Excel and MS Office workshops.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at economics.finance.society@gmail.com