School climbs the ranks for graduate prospects

Economics at Kent has again been recognised for its excellent employability record in two national university league tables. We are ranked 2nd for graduate prospects in *The Guardian University Guide 2017* and 5th for graduate prospects in the *Complete University Guide 2017*. According to the ‘Destinations of 2014/15 First Degree Leavers from HE’ statistics (published in 2016), 92% of Kent Economics students found graduate-level employment or went on to further study within six months of graduation.

Dr John Peirson, the School’s Director of Employability, said “We are proud of these statistics, but we are certainly not complacent. It is important that students not only get a good degree in economics, but also prepare for life after university. We place great importance on ensuring that our students leave us with the necessary skills to succeed in the job market, the workplace or further study.”

With this in mind, the School’s employability team — Dr Sylvain Barde, Director of Placements, Katie Marshall, Employability Co-ordinator and Dr John Peirson — offers a programme of talks and workshops on what students can do with a degree in economics, how to find the right job for them (not just the job with the highest salary), how to succeed with job, placement and internship applications, plus regular one-to-one support and advice for students throughout their time at Kent and afterwards.

The University’s Careers and Employability Service also holds a number of events each year.

For further information on employability, visit [www.kent.ac.uk/economics/employability/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/economics/employability/)

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A look back at the Autumn term 2016

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Dr Zaki Wahhaj has been appointed a visiting research fellow at the STICERD research centre of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for 2016/17. During the year, Zaki will be working with Professor Maitreesh Ghatak on a research project to look at organisational behaviour in the presence of intrinsically motivated agents and the normative implications for private firms and organisations in the public sector. This term Zaki also took part in a live discussion on BBC World News on ‘Global marriage trends’, part of the 100 Women series. The panel debate was hosted by the BBC’s Matthew Amroliwala, with Dr Brienna Perelli-Harris, Associate Professor in Demography at Southampton University and Karen Cinnamon, a wedding blogger. Zaki spoke about his research on marriage patterns in South Asia, highlighting the finding that despite sharp declines in fertility and increased female schooling, the process of marriage has changed relatively little for rural women in the region over the last three decades. You can watch the whole debate on You Tube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wLSeXIhibk&feature=youtu.be

Rural jobs and the Common Agricultural Policy

Given the slow recovery from the financial and economic crisis, the provision of employment or, in the case of self-employment, enabling the creation of economically active occupations, is of primary and immediate interest to millions of EU citizens – rural and urban. Against this backdrop, the Centre for European Agricultural Environmental Studies (CEAS) at the School of Economics, together with the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development at the Polish Academy of Sciences, organised a seminar of the European Association of Agricultural Economists on ‘Rural Jobs and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)’. The topic raised a lot of interest among researchers and more than 40 academics from 14 countries participated, including the School’s Professor Sophia Davidova and Dr Alastair Bailey. One of the main issues that was discussed was the trade-off between employment and productivity, data gaps and whether the CAP is an adequate instrument to create or maintain rural employment. Research in the UK suggested positive spillovers of CAP payments to non-farm employment. Although the magnitude of the effects is small, it is economically significant especially for the rural labour market. The seminar concluded with a high-level panel discussing the future challenges. The Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI), Czeslaw Siekierski, addressed the participants in a personal letter.

Structural Transformation and Macroeconomic Dynamics

On 9 and 10 December, the School hosted a workshop on ‘Structural Transformation and Macroeconomic Dynamics’ co-funded by the Royal Economic Society and the School’s Macroeconomics, Growth and History Centre (MaGHiC). The workshop, organised by Professor Miguel Leon-Ledesma and Dr Alessio Moro (University of Cagliari), brought together a top team of researchers working on issues related to long run growth and the transition between manufacturing and services. Several papers discussed issues related to barriers to labour reallocation between sectors (Duernecker and Jindal), the growth consequences of structural change (Leon-Ledesma and Moro, and Valentinyi), the relationship between growth and job polarisation (Rendall, Siegel), and the consequences for the allocation of household’s time (Ngai, and Otsu and Satchi). The workshop puts Kent Economics at the centre stage of debates on long-run macroeconomic analysis, and served as a very successful platform for future collaboration between MaGHiC and leading world researchers in the area.
A new seminar series titled ‘Behavioural Insights from Economics and Psychology’ begins on 15 December, featuring four speakers who conduct exciting research at the intersection of economics and psychology.

The series is a collaborative initiative between the Schools of Economics and Psychology at Kent, funded by the Inter-School Networking Fund of the Faculty of Social Sciences. For further details, email Z.Wahhaj@kent.ac.uk.

Research round-up

Professor Miguel Leon-Ledesma was a visiting professor at the National Graduate Institute of Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan. Miguel’s research during his visit was related to the role of structural transformation on the returns on capital, and the effect of financial constraints on the optimal allocation of capital between traded and non-traded sectors. During his research visit he presented seminars at the universities of Tokyo, Keio, Kyoto, GRIPS, and the Canon Institute. Miguel’s visit reinforces the excellent links that Economics at Kent has developed over the years with the academic community in Japan.

Professor Tony Thirlwall gave a keynote lecture at the Cornivus University, Budapest, Hungary on 30 September at a conference to celebrate the life and work of (Lord) Nicholas Kaldor on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his death. Tony’s paper (available on request) was entitled ‘Nicholas Kaldor’s Insights into the Applied Economics of Growth (or Why I Became a Kaldorian)’. Tony is Kaldor’s biographer and literary executor.

Dr Bansi Malde presented work on ‘Family Networks and Infant Health Promotion’ at the AERC-DEGRP conference on ‘Economic Opportunities for a Better Future: Leveraging Agriculture, Innovation and Financial Inclusion’ in Nairobi on 28-29 Oct 2016. She also presented two papers at the LACEA-LAMES conference in Medellin, Colombia from 10-12 Nov 2016: ‘Risk Sharing and Heterogeneous Preferences’ (with Orazio Attanasio (UCL) and Elisa Cavatorta (KCL)) ‘Socially Close and Distant Connections in Risk Sharing’.

Visitors
We have welcomed a number of visitors to the School this term including: Professor Buly Cardack, La Trobe University, Melbourne visited from 17 August to 7 October. He gave a seminar in October on ‘Evidence on Credit Constraints and University Attendance’. Professor Alexandre Nicolella, University of São Paulo, has returned this year as a visiting professor. He is also an Academic Fellow of the Centre for European Agri-Environmental Studies (CEAS).

Professor Gani Aldashev, Université Libre de Bruxelles, spent a week with us as a Thirlwall Visiting Research Fellow. While at Kent, he gave a seminar on ‘Private and Public Firms in the Shadow of Coercive Power’ (with Giorgio Zanarone).

Professor Bart Cockx, Ghent University, visited for a week to look at partnership opportunities between our two universities. He gave a seminar on ‘Contracting Out Mandatory Counselling and Training for Long-Term Unemployed: Private For-Profit or Non-Profit, or Keep it Public?’ (with Stijn Baert).

Takeki Sunakawa, University of Tokyo, returned to the school for two days in November to collaborate on his work on monetary economics and business cycles.
Graduation and prizewinners 2016

It was a pleasure to celebrate with our new graduates and their families at receptions held after the graduation ceremonies in July and November.

The School awarded a number of prizes for outstanding achievement.

**Outstanding Performance Prize in Economics in the undergraduate final year and MSc:**
- Toby Sakata and Danny Fellowes
- Kris Gjini (MSc)

**Undergraduate Dissertation Prize** for the best overall performance in the dissertation:
- Desislava Lazarova and Toby Sakata

**MSc Dissertation Prize** for the best overall performance in the dissertation:
- Mikihsa Shiratori and Joshua Course

**Thirlwall Prize in Development Economics:**
- Ashley Diggins; Jamie Moore; Lilly Moore

**Walter Hagenbuch Economics Prize** for the best Stage 2 performance by an undergraduate and the best postgraduate degree performance:
- Ishika Audit
- Valentin Leire (MSc)

**Nick May Economics Prize** for the best Economics degree result:
- The winner asked to remain anonymous

**Best Stage 1 performance by an Economics undergraduate:**
- Robert Hazard; Zi Hsin Kong; Amy Fang Ting Hau; Emma Cochard

**Daniel Trotter Prize** endowed in memory of Daniel Trotter who graduated from Kent with a First Class Honours degree in 2015. This prize is awarded for excellence in performance, commitment and progression:
- David Sewell

**Faculty Prizes**
- Toby Sakata; Danny Fellowes and another student who asked to remain anonymous.

The receptions, held at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge and the Marlowe Theatre respectively, were a fantastic way to mark the achievement of all our students, and we would like to wish all our graduates the very best of luck for the future.
Welcome Week 2016

The beginning of the Autumn term seems like a long time ago now, but we kicked off Welcome Week with a School barbecue for our ‘freshers’. The turnout was excellent, with great weather to match!

The School also held talks for students on their return to Stage 2 and 3.

Employability Festival 2016 – Working in finance

The School held a successful evening during this year’s Employability Festival when three of our Economics alumni came to talk to current students about how they got their jobs, what it’s like to work in the financial sector and their own experiences since graduating. Luke Bewley from ENSO, Yesmean Luk Yee Chen from Deloitte, who’s also doing an MSc in Management at LSE, and Sophie Weavers from Smith & Williamson returned to Keynes on 25 October to give informative, interesting and revealing talks, followed by a lively question and answer session. We would like to extend our thanks to Luke, Yesmean and Sophie for giving up their time in coming to talk and making the event such a success.

MicroTyco Competition 2017/
Launch Night

Exercise your entrepreneurial skills in our MicroTyco competition!

- Start with just £1 (provided with your Econ Soc membership)
- Money raised goes to charity
- Fantastic Prizes for top 3 teams!!!

Find out more at our launch!
Monday 16 January at 6pm in GLT2
FREE refreshments provided!
Society non-members welcome
Pub quiz

We held our annual pub quiz in Origins Bar on 24 November with over 100 people playing in 20 staff and student teams, some with interesting and quirky names such as ‘Horizontal Integration’, ‘Collision Delusion’, ‘Tequila Mockingbird’ and ‘Our Drinking Team has a Quiz Problem’! The teams played three rounds: General Knowledge; Food and Drink; and Music. This was then followed by a picture round and a bonus round of Hungry Hippos where the winning team gained 10 points. John Peirson made an excellent MC for the event and all teams who entered had a fun-filled and entertaining evening.

The prizes, provided by the School, were:

- 1st Prize – £100 Nandos’ vouchers and a School of Economics Hoodie for each member awarded to ‘John Maynard Brains’
- 2nd Prize – £50 Amazon Vouchers awarded to ‘Keynes Beans’
- 3rd Prize – Chocolate Hamper awarded to ‘Say My Name’

The School would like to congratulate the winning teams and thank John Peirson for his compering and Lisa Jones for putting the quiz together.

You can take a look at the photos from the evening on our Facebook page.
Aydan wins best PhD thesis prize

Dr Aydan Dogan, who completed her PhD at the School of Economics in 2015, has been awarded a prize by the Turkish Economic Association for the best PhD thesis of 2016. The prize will be officially awarded on 17 December at a ceremony in Ankara to mark the 87th year of the Association’s establishment.

The Turkish Economic Association has organised a contest for research prizes each year since 1990. Following this contest, prizes are awarded to young Turkish economists who have successfully completed either a Masters or a PhD thesis in the last year.

Aydan will receive a monetary prize for her thesis titled ‘Two Sector Models of the Real Exchange Rate’. She has decided to donate the prize money back to the Turkish Economic Association to use for scholarships for outstanding students in economics.

Since graduating, Aydan has been working for the University of Barcelona as a post-doctoral researcher.

The School would like to congratulate Aydan and wish her all the very best for the future.

Staff news

New staff

The School would like to extend a very warm welcome to a number of new colleagues this term:

Nizar Allouch will be joining us as Professor of Applied Microeconomic Theory in January 2017. Nizar is currently at the School of Economics and Finance, Queen Mary, University of London where he has been since 2003.

His research interests are mainly in microeconomics and public economics. In addition to his work on no-arbitrage conditions and short-selling in asset markets, local public goods/club economies with spillovers and multiple memberships, he works on the private provision of public goods in networks.

Nizar received a PhD from the University of Paris I-Panthéon Sorbonne, and has held visiting researcher positions at Warwick and Cambridge universities and MIT.

Bansi Malde joined us in October as a Lecturer in Economics and also holds a position as Research Associate at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, in London. She obtained a PhD in Economics from University College London, an MSc in Economics for Development from the University of Oxford and a BSc in Economics and Econometrics from the University of Bristol. Prior to joining us, she worked as a Senior Research Economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Anirban Mitra also joined us in October as a Lecturer in Economics. Anirban obtained a PhD in Economics from New York University in May 2012, an MA in Economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a BA in Economics from the University of Delhi. Before coming to Kent, Anirban worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of Oslo.

Christian Siegel has joined us as a Lecturer in Macroeconomics. Christian gained a PhD and MRes in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Previously he worked as a Lecturer in Economics at the University of Exeter.

Charlotte Ransom has joined the administration team as Learning and Teaching Officer. Charlotte has worked at Kent since 2013 and has held various positions within the International Recruitment and Partnerships team and the Academic Division.

Goodbye

We will be very sorry to say goodbye to Stefano Grassi at the end of this year as he is taking up a new appointment at Tor Vergata in Rome. However, we are pleased that Stefano will be continuing his collaboration with the School on research and PhD training.

PhD success

Congratulations and good luck for the future to the following PhD students who have passed their vivas this term:

Alessandro Cusimano
Francis Darko
Jonathan Hughes
Cheul Jang
Denise Lovett
Joshua Sebu
James Warren
For further news about the School of Economics, our staff and their research interests, see: www.kent.ac.uk/economics/

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