

2023⁺

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REFLECTIONS

We started our journey into the 2022/23 academic year with a clear mission to reignite the passion for economics among our students and mark a turning point for student engagement after the long-lasting disruption of the COVID pandemic.

Purely based on the noise along the ECO corridors, the lively discussions during office hours and in our study spaces, and the high attendance at School events, this mission has been accomplished and we can proudly say that our community spirit is back! To this end, I need to acknowledge the dedicated effort of this year's Economics Society president, Brian Kenemo, to foster connections between economics-lovers across all stages of study; and the fantastic work of this year's School Convenor, Alice Ocraft, who ensured that the student voice was heard in academic decisions, and who therefore became the well-deserving winner of the ECO Bridge Champion of Community Engagement Award. Of course, this would not have been possible without the academics in the School for whom this was yet another busy year of re-designing their learning material and assessments to fit with the University Blended Learning Policy and the launch of some new modules – Behavioural Economics of Inequality, Behavioural Consumer Analytics, and Programming and Analytics

for Behavioural Economists – that all build on our world-leading expertise in the area of Behavioural and Experimental Economics.

We also must celebrate the growth in diversity in our ECO Community. Our students and staff are coming together in Norwich from all five continents, and we have never had a more widely spread representation of the global nations. We are also proud of having more members of our community with declared disabilities and with a lower socio-economic background. We know that an economics degree boosts career prospects at all levels. We also know that our discipline is better informed when it builds on a broader range of talent and experiences. We therefore celebrate the widening participation of aspiring young economists among our community.

Our community is set to grow further in the new academic year with the launch of our new MSc Economics and Data Science degree. We are also very excited about the introduction of several new modules – Current Economic Affairs, Current Financial Affairs, Global Trade, Regional Economic Integration, and Economic Applications of Data Science – that have been designed with input from prospective employers, current students, and growing academic expertise in the School. These new learning opportunities should equip our students better for the world of professional economists and open new doors. This world is changing fast with the fast adoption of adaptive AI technologies, and we must take notice. Our challenge in the new academic year is to keep up with these changes and utilise adaptive AI technologies to support tailored learning and to upskill our students with the effective and ethical use of these technologies. It will be an exciting year where we look forward to seeing a boost in success and productivity. 2023 has seen some departures from ECO. From all of us at ECO, thank you and the best of luck to Mike Brock, Boon Han Koh, Joel Clovis, Laura Harvey, Mohamed Doukali, Mich Tvede and David Hugh-Jones, for all of your future endeavors.

Emiliya Lazarova
Head of School



HARTE UEA:

DAWN OF A NEW CHAPTER

Our School's Blog exemplifies the potential for growth. Since its inception in 2015, the audience has surged, increasing by over 300%. One single entry, 'The behavioural economics of Parkrun', boasts over 6000 views.

Time for a fresh perspective

Growth invariably demands transformation and, as is well-known, we at UEA Economics excel at embracing change, evolving with every hurdle that we encounter. Our academic team now gravitates towards publishing in *The Conversation*, and students are presented with alternative pathways via *Norwich Economic Publications*. The study of economics at UEA is an ever-flexible journey that keeps pace with shifting demands and contexts.

Therefore, after much invisible sweat and gusto, we are excited to announce that, for the new academic year, the blog will evolve with the launch of a completely new platform: HARTE UEA.

You may have questions, let's fire away!

To begin the conversation, a little about its origins. We were looking for a vital and strong label to unite students and staff; a title and a tag which conveyed, at a glance, the character of the department; 'Heart' seemed an obvious choice. That it could become an acronym for the 'Hub of Academic Research and Teaching in Economics' was serendipity.

Now, let's delve deeper, and find its core. It stands as a testament to our achievements and gives us all a centralised and consolidating voice. UEA Economics has a robust legacy steeped in diverse research. It has a history

of generating practical and innovative solutions for society. It offers a carefully curated learning experience that converts this expertise into essential tools for exploration and transformation. This is the place where we start to shout out about it. We hold a core belief that our discipline is critical for navigating societal complexities, and our students are key agents in confronting future challenges. By amalgamating the School of Economics' Research and Teaching, HARTE UEA offers a fresh lens onto our unique methodology of imparting economics education, a methodology that has enabled us to excel at the pinnacle of Higher Education practice.

Why 'Hub'? Simple

It will navigate a conventional discipline in inventive directions. We recognise the multiplicity of our success and the diversity of our audiences. So, we have created a hub as an inclusive platform where pioneers in Economic Research, Teaching and Enterprise meet congenially and creatively. Our Research is extensive, now you will find news of it in one place. Our Teaching is vibrant and responsive, from here we can reach out to the Higher Education sector and share our success. Our Enterprise, well that too will be constantly evolving as engagement with businesses expands, developing internship and placement opportunities and enhancing employability.

Dissemination is key to achieving a more extensive impact on our society. Stay tuned to witness how HARTE UEA matures and aids UEA Economics in solidifying its stance at the vanguard of economic know-how.

Duncan Watson

ZIGGURAT CHALLENGE 2023

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Ziggurat Challenge and what a year it has been for our School! We started the year with good recruitment of sport activators and ended the year celebrating unprecedented success at the awards dinner.

This was the first year we competed as a single School having previously, and successfully, competed as joint ventures with Norwich Business School and, more recently, with the School of Global Development (previously known as the School of International Development), consistently achieving top 5 finishes. We are the only school in the faculty, and only one of three teams overall, who now compete without support from other Schools.

Our achievements this year has been built from the top, with Emiliya coming joint first in the Head of School Category. Emiliya was also the fastest female Head of School in the cross country 2-mile race. In my role as Staff Champion, I came joint top for the second year running (and let's be clear about this, it simply involved me turning up to all the events!). We won three events, all in the second semester – netball (in January), dodgeball (February) and pool (March) – and placed consistently in the top 3 in several others across both semesters (2nd place in short tennis and walking football and 3rd place finishes in boccia, darts, ten pin bowling, tour de Ziggurat (cycle challenge), tug of war and the walk around the lake).

Overall, we came second in the standings behind perennial winners BIO. (Who have

now won the competition for what seems like forever!) Thank you to everyone that came along to spectate or participate – you all contributed to our success! Next year (2023-24) we are, in Emiliya's words, 'going all out' to finally topple BIO and, as ever, we need your support. Everyone is welcome to join, including alumni, so if you are on campus or in the Norwich area on Tuesday evenings (from around 5pm) between October and March (and some Wednesday afternoons) do get in touch. If you want to learn more about the Ziggurat Challenge, how you can get involved, and the timetable of events, check out the following link: ueasport.co.uk/activity-and-sport/ziggurat-challenge/ (where you can also see some 'action shots' in the scrolling photo banner including Emiliya and me playing Boccia!).

Pete Dawson

Ritchie Woodard, Shane Joseph, Brian Kenemo, Rachel Tomes, Peter Dawson, Emiliya Lazarova





STAFF AND STUDENT SUCCESSES

BUDDEY

The UEA Change Makers Final took place in March this year at the UEA Enterprise Centre. The UEA Change Makers is a programme that helps students turn their ideas, passions and talents into viable businesses that can help save the world.

ECO Student, Oliver Wanless, and his teammates, Braxton Manzambi (PPL), and Shehroze Dogar were one of the UEA Change Makers finalists with their app Buddey. Buddey is an app that attempts to address the mental health epidemic among university campuses. The app connects students with similar interests for them to create a sense of community.

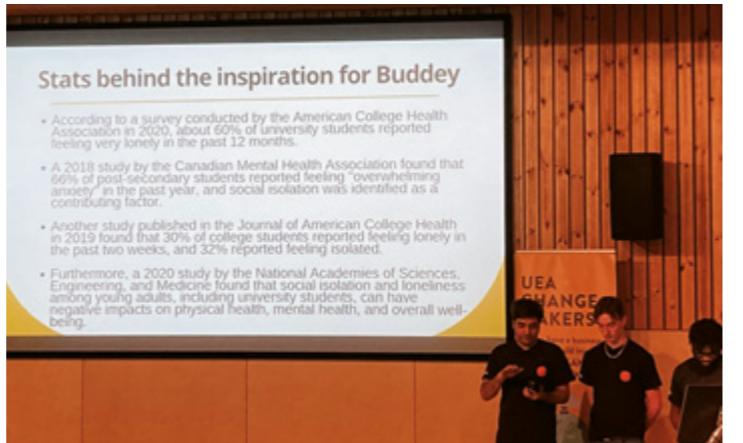
There were some amazing ideas in this year's final, and although Buddey didn't win this year, Buddey is a fantastic idea and it is a huge achievement for Oliver and his team to make it to the final, especially in their first year at University.

We know that Oliver is still hoping to progress the idea of Buddey, and we look forward to following Buddey's journey from here!

It was also great to see ECO alumni and previous UEA Change Makers winner, George Bailey who was the guest speaker for the event! A great evening all round. Well done to all involved!



Oliver Wanless



LAURA HARVEY

EDE HIGHLIGHTS

The School of Economics and the Equality and Diversity in Economics (EDE) Committee had a successful year in 2022-23, marked by several notable events and initiatives. Included here are some of the highlights:

Successful Outreach Activities:

Throughout the year, we engaged in successful outreach activities, including participation in the Discover Economics Student Champions Programme. Undergraduate students played a vital role in delivering subject taster sessions at local schools, providing valuable insights into economic issues such as panic-buying and the cost-of-living crisis. The positive impact of these initiatives was evident, and we look forward to expanding our outreach efforts in the coming academic year. Thanks to the undergraduate students who have worked on this project.

Looking Ahead:

The EDE Committee has had an exceptionally active and productive year, and we are committed to embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion into the fabric of ECO in the upcoming year (2023-24) and beyond. We extend our gratitude to all the individuals who have contributed to these successes this year and we are looking forward to what next academic year has in store!

Celebrating Diversity in Economics for Black History Month:

To kick off the academic year, we organized an afternoon to celebrate diversity in economics during Black History Month. This included research presentations on topics related to diversity and discrimination, a discussion highlighting the contributions of black economists, and an informal panel on decolonizing the curriculum. We extend our gratitude to Dr Joel Clovis, Dr Farasat Bokhari and Dr Shehryar Banuri for their great work in organizing this event.

Introduction of the 'Behavioural Economics of Inequality' Module:

This spring, we introduced a new module titled 'Behavioural Economics of Inequality,' led by Dr Boon Han Koh. The module offers students an opportunity to explore various topics related to inequality and discrimination across different populations, utilizing diverse tools such as survey data and lab experiments.

Women in Economics Webinars:

Continuing our efforts to promote gender equality, we once again hosted the Women in Economics Webinars to coincide with International Women's Day. These webinars were specifically designed for young female students in years 10 to 12, aiming to challenge stereotypes in economics. Participants had the opportunity to delve into the subject, gaining insights into the Gender Pay Gap and hearing from successful alumni of the ECO program. These events empowered young women and encouraged them to consider careers in economics.

Renewed Bronze Athena Swan Award:

We are pleased to announce the successful renewal of our Bronze Athena Swan Award. This represents an important milestone, and we are now actively working towards applying for the silver award in the future. We extend our gratitude to Gina Neff and Dr. Christa Brunschweiler for their diligent work on the application.



STAFF AND STUDENT SUCCESSES

JOHN TOMER AWARD

A big congratulations to ECO's Andrea Marietta Leina who was awarded the first John Tomer Award for Best Project in the Early Career Research Workshop at the SABE Meetings in Nice. An amazing and well deserved achievement!

Andrea's experimental project aims at finding which reputational mechanism better sustains indirect reciprocity in a lab setting.

Andrea Marietta Leing



TALENT DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The British Academy announced nine Talent Development Awards for researchers and we were delighted to see that ECO's Dr Martin Bruns has been named as one of the awardees! The Talent Development Awards are for researchers across the UK to support innovative research methods in the SHAPE disciplines. The awards are designed to promote the acquisition of new skills in areas such as data science, digital humanities, and languages.

Dr Martin Bruns has been named as an awardee for *Heteroskedastic Proxy Vector Autoregressions*. You can read Martin's working paper, alongside Helmut Luetkepohl, via this link: lnkd.in/ge5mAMUn. Congratulations Martin!

Congratulations Martin!



READ MORE FROM THE
BRITISH ACADEMY HERE:
lnkd.in/gKZtBaz9



Emiliya Lazarova, Vice Chancellor David Maguire, Onkarabile Marumo, Amaia Lakidain and Amir Jafarzadeh.

WELCOME TO ECO, VICE CHANCELLOR DAVID MAGUIRE!

This year we welcomed a new Vice Chancellor to the University of East Anglia and in July, we had the pleasure of a visit from the VC to the School of Economics. The visit was a great opportunity to introduce the Vice Chancellor to some of our amazing students, Amaia Lakidain, Onkarabile Marumo and Amir Jafarzadeh; exhibit some of the great work that our students and staff are doing, and to show just how brilliant our ECO community is. The students were wonderful hosts, and we'd like to thank them for taking the time to join us, and for being such inspiring ambassadors for ECO!



STUDENT BLOGS

We've had some brilliant students blogs this year, including our new Meet the Students blogs!

CHECK THEM OUT HERE
economics.wordpress.com



ECONOMICS SOCIETY

ANNUAL EVENTS

The Economics Society has had another successful year, planning some great events to ensure that the community within the School of Economics continues to thrive. Events like the annual Winter Ball and ECO Society/Staff Pizza Event saw the staff and students at the School of Economics come together and are a highlight during the year for both the staff and the students. The ECO Society also organised a 5-a-side Charity Football Event to help raise money for The Benjamin Foundation.

Another great year for our Economics students – we can't wait to see what exciting events next year's ECO Society has in store for our students!



STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC)

STUDENTS ARE VALUED AND LISTENED TO...

I became a course rep in my second year of my BSc Economics degree in 2021; the year everything was meant to slowly start getting back to normal after the pandemic. I became a course rep to try and find my place within the ECO community after the lockdowns had so rudely got in the way, and what an amazing community I ended up finding. ECO has proven itself to be a place where, above all else, the students are valued and listened to. Student input has been at the heart of every decision that I've seen the School make whilst I've been a part of ECO's Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC).

Over the past year I have had the honour of being the ECO School Convenor and chairing the SSLC meetings. I am incredibly grateful to have been elected by the students to do this and it has been an incredible experience. With the support of the School and the SU, we have managed to have some great SSLCs this year and have, once again, ensured that the student voice is always listened to. Course reps have been able to be even more visible this year with some snazzy new lanyards kindly provided by the SU, which appears to have increased the amount of feedback that they've been given by their fellow course mates.

SSLC has achieved a lot in the past year. Those who attended the Module Choice Fair this year may have seen a new pathways resource that the SSLC and EPIC, another student committee, pushed for. The aim of the Employment Pathways is to help students who are unsure of which modules they'd like to take and

I am incredibly grateful to have been elected by the students

help them to make an informed decision. We received some great feedback about the Employment Pathways following this year's Module Choice Fair and although it may be a small addition, these pathways will have a big impact on our students in years to come.

It's no secret that the University has seen some struggles this year, with the industrial action and financial situation impacting students across most Schools. At the SSLC we have ensured transparency between staff and students on this matter and pushed for assurances that the School will do whatever it can to mitigate any potential impacts. So far, the School has been incredible with this and have even made efforts to let us know what Schools with joint honours with ECO are doing as well, ensuring that the students are as informed as possible.

I would like to take the time to thank everyone who has been involved with the SSLC this year, both staff and the student course reps. This job would have been so much harder without all your support and input. A particular thanks should go to Duncan, Emiliya, and James for the huge amount of effort that they put in, but every member of the committee has been invaluable this year. My hope for next year is that the Student Staff Liaison Committee can once again be an excellent example of what the student-staff relationship should look like and I wish all those involved the best of luck.

Alice Ocraft (School Convenor)



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Norwich Economic Publications is an open-access resource that is led by students, for students. The NEP aims to provide everyone with an insight into the world of economics, as well as providing support and guidance for their peers, and becoming a forum that fosters the real-world application of diverse economic approaches via students' perspectives.

Each year the Norwich Economic Publications run a competition for the students at the School of Economics which sees students submit either an essay or a poster on a variety of topics. We are pleased to congratulate this year's winners and want to thank everyone who submitted an entry for this year's NEP Competition. We look forward to seeing what our new editorial board brings us next year!

Congratulations once again to all of the winners!

WINNERS:

Essay Competition

- 1st Place Prize – Sylvia Njogu
- 2nd Place Prize – Evren Denktas
- 3rd Place Prize – Daisy Groet

Poster Competition

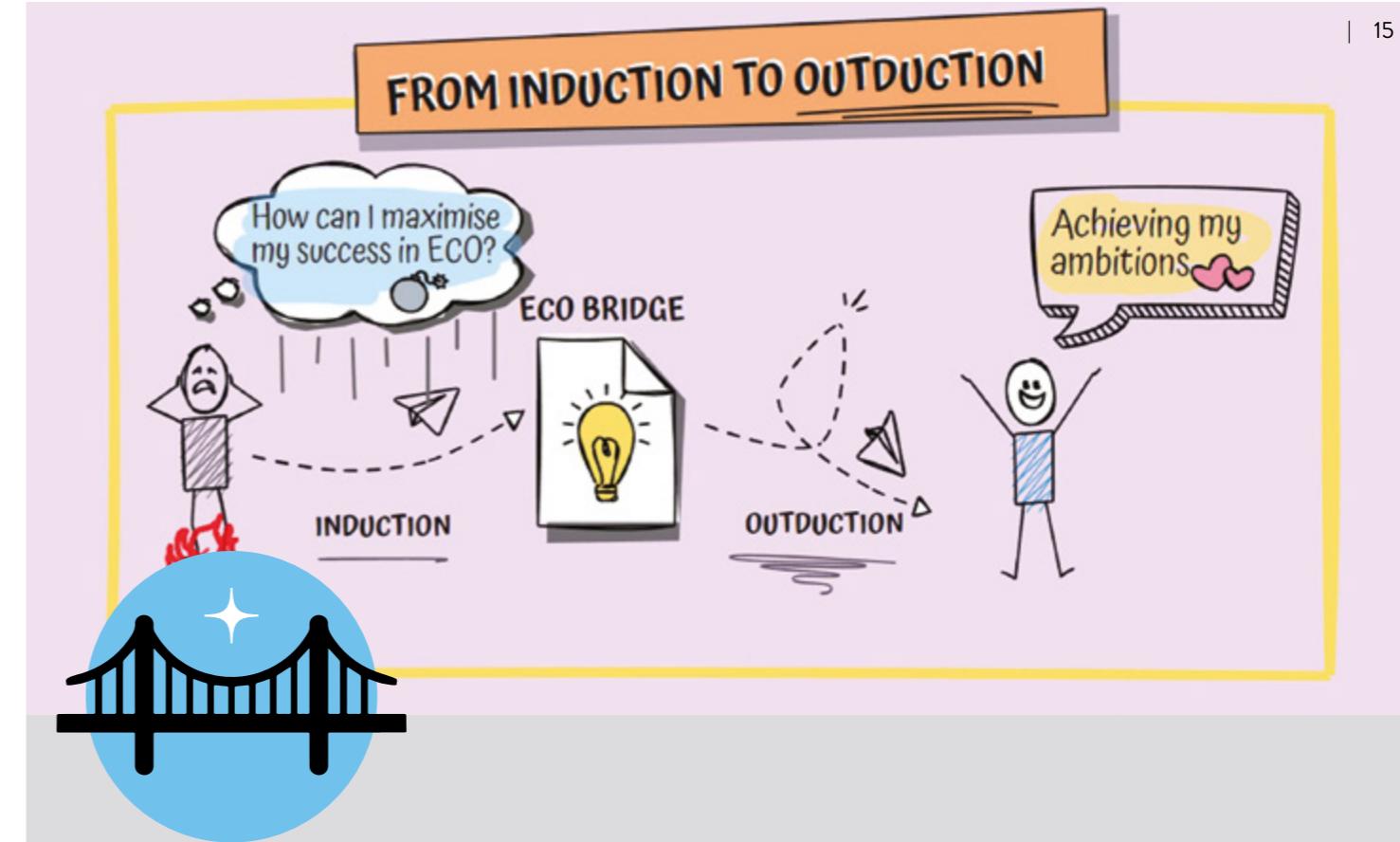
- 1st Place Prize – Tamzin Freeman
- 2nd Place Prize – Lucas Yew



READ THE NEP JOURNAL
www.uea.ac.uk/about/school-of-economics/norwich-economic-publications/volume-archive



LISTEN TO THE NEP PODCASTS
www.youtube.com/channel/UCyHVUxtx8zPtNA9D2EcjA



ECO BRIDGE AWARDS

ECO Student Engagement Awards (SEA's)

Within our ECO Bridge, the Student Engagement Awards stand as a testament to our students' outstanding contributions. These awards emphasise the value we attribute to active participation and teamwork in our academic community.

We firmly hold that the vitality of our academic environment is gauged by the enthusiasm and involvement of its participants.

To all our winners, your efforts go beyond mere academic accomplishments; they embody a zest for inquiry, partnership, and a genuine passion for learning. Your profound influence has enriched our community, fostering inspiration and progress. A sincere thank you for your invaluable inputs, and congratulations on this truly deserved honour.

Congratulations!!

WINNERS:

Course Rep of the Year:

For unparalleled contribution to student voice:
Eleanor Clarke

Blog of the Year:

For 'Ofsted or Overstated? Examining the UK's Education Watchdog':
Ben Stanley

Champion of Community Engagement:

For exceptional contribution to the ECO community:
Alice Ocraft

Student of the Year

For outstanding engagement with ECOBridge:
Deborah Fajuyitan

GRADUATION

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



5 days, 12 ceremonies and
4,801 graduates later...



In July, nearly 5,000 students joined us for their graduation ceremony at UEA's Sportspark. It was lovely to see so many families and friends come out to support our amazing students. ECO's graduation ceremony took place on Tuesday 18th July and we invited our ECO students and their guests to join us for a drink and a chat in EFRY ahead of their ceremony, which was

a great opportunity to catch up and celebrate their amazing achievements. A special mention to Katherine Koetsier who was awarded the prize for Distinguished Performance in the Final Assessment and to Ayomide Oyewusi who was awarded the Tosin Olusoga Prize.

CAMPUS MASCOT

Sylvester merch

If you've ever been to the UEA campus, you'll know that Sylvester the cat is famous among the UEA students and staff and has his own army of fans. Sylvester, who has been adopted as the UEA campus cat, is a regular visitor and makes himself right at home in many of our campus buildings, bringing joy to everyone who has the pleasure of stumbling by him. This year, Sylvester finally made his way down to the Elizabeth Fry Building to visit all our ECO staff and students and made himself comfortable in the foyer. Although he always appears to be on campus, Sylvester does in fact have a loving home nearby and you may even spot his family driving by to pick him up and take him home when he hasn't been home for his dinner!

Due to his friendly disposition, boundless wanderlust, and distinctive stub tail, a range of t-shirts and hoodies have even been designed with Sylvester as the focus! The merchandise was designed and developed by Alice Ladbrooke, Divisional Marketing and Communications Manager for Sport and Commercial Services at UEA and sold out within 15 minutes of launching. The Sylvester merchandise can be purchased via the UEA Store or in the UEA Shop, with 10% of all profits going to Norfolk and Waveney Mind Charity.



28TH JUNE 1948 – 4TH AUGUST 2022

After the sad passing of our dear colleague, teacher and friend, Steve Davies last year, Steve's daughter Charlotte, alongside some of Steve's much-loved colleagues, planted a memorial Hawthorn tree on the grounds of the University of East Anglia.

We hope that when family, friends and colleagues visit the tree and watch it grow over the years, that it gives them the opportunity to remember all the fond memories that they had the pleasure of sharing with Steve. The tree can be found on the Broad's side of the cluster of trees close to the footpath leading from Suffolk Road to Bluebell Road.



ALUMNI CASE STUDY

NAME:

Wayne Nouricce

COMPANY NAME:

Central Bank of Seychelles

ROLE:

**Economist in the Research
and Statistics Division**

Mr Wayne Nouricce studied MSc Quantitative Financial Economics and graduated in 2017. He is currently working as an Economist in the Research and Statistics Division at the Central Bank of Seychelles. He sat down for an interview with Dr Bahar Ghezelayagh in March 2023.

Tell us about your background before you joined UEA

I have 3 A-levels in Business Studies, Computing and Geography, and a BSc in Economics from the University of Manchester. I was working at the Central Bank of Seychelles as a Financial and Risk Analyst in the Financial Markets division, and I went on study leave for the duration of my time at UEA.

What have you been up to since graduating?

I went back to work within the same division, and shortly after my return I got promoted to the Senior Financial Risk Analyst. Since October 2021, I have been working as an Economist in the Research and Statistics Division, specifically in the Policy and Research section.

The work for the team within the Financial Markets division was very much an everyday routine, such as checking market prices, calculating the risks associated with banks' trade, and interact with different sectors of the bank (and lots of meetings). I used quite a lot of microeconomics using commercial data, whereas in my current role within the Policy and Research section, I am dealing more with macroeconomics. I am more involved with price dynamics, the balance of payments, gauging the future trends, and more recently exchange rates. The work on exchange rates is very exciting as in Seychelles we import quite a lot of products. We have had a floating exchange rate regime since 2008.

Could you share with us your experience studying at UEA? Why did you choose UEA?

It was very important for me to study at a university with a high student satisfaction rate, and I was telling my colleagues about UEA and its high rankings even before I arrived in Norwich. The very first activity we did as a student in the School of Economics was to meet other students and lecturers over some drinks and I knew from that point that there is a very close interaction between staff and the students. I really appreciated this, and this culture made my experience a whole lot better. I could approach my lecturers easily and ask them follow up questions.

The campus is also very beautiful and green. I wanted to be somewhere where I could concentrate on my studies, and not be in the middle of a crowded city centre.

The courses are very well designed and the degree I chose was well suited to what I needed. I wanted a good balance between theory and the application of economics to the real world, specifically in financial economics.

What are skills did you learn at UEA that you now use in your work?

I use a lot of what I learned – for example, I deal with a lot of large data sets, and I remember doing that a lot in the course within workshops and as part of my assessments.

The different types of assessments at UEA really helped, specifically the coursework. When I am writing a report for the senior management team, I keep the same standards that I was taught. The course-works at UEA were very clearly laid out and I took a lot of that back and apply it to my job.

Studying economics also prepared me for thinking critically and I have been applying that every day since, even more so recently. With the rare events such as COVID-19, and the war between Russia and Ukraine, we need to think critically about these situations and how these will affect policies and our lives.

What are you most proud of in your professional work?

I consider myself very lucky as the International Monetary Fund Training Institute invited me to join their team for several projects. I was part of this team helping the Central Bank of Botswana and the Central Bank of Mauritius with financial market analysis and liquidity forecasting, as well as how those feed into the daily operations of the bank. I was also part of the same team delivering a project for the Central Bank of Madagascar. As well as sharing the practices and the experiences from the Central Bank of Seychelles, I critically analysed the policy and operational framework of the Central Bank of Madagascar.

I also coordinated the follow-up visit of the Peer-Learning Program at the Central Bank of Seychelles. It is great that the Central Banks of neighbouring countries connect and share their research and practices. The work was relentless, but I am very proud of what I did, and it was a great opportunity.

Do you have any advice for students who are looking to study at UEA?

There is a lot to think about in terms of where and what to study. My advice is to think of a comfortable accommodation while considering your budget. Make friends and learn from other people from different countries. Get close to your lecturers and ask as many questions as you can! Also, research the climate! Luckily, Norwich was very sunny, and the winter wasn't very cold.

More importantly, follow your passion and dreams. I followed mine and became an Economist at the Central Bank of Seychelles.

Nouricce has helped with arranging a summer internship at the Central Bank of Seychelles for an Undergraduate student who will be joining the School of Economics in September 2023. At ECO, we love it when alumni and students connect, and we thank Nouricce for his help. When you become a student at ECO, you build relationships for life and become part of a global community.



TIME SERIES WORKSHOP

The first edition of the UEA Time Series Workshop on June 1-2 2023, brought together academics and policy makers from a variety of European institutions such as the Freie University Berlin, University of Padova, University Tor Vergata (Rome) and King's College London, as well from the European Central Bank and the Bank of England. The event provided a forum to investigate the methodological research frontier of a number of time series methods with a focus on vector autoregressions. At the same time, policy issues such as the effects of monetary policy shocks or the time-varying nature of oil price shocks were discussed. An award for the best presentation by a junior researcher was awarded to Alessio Volpicella (University of Surrey, see picture).

Organiser: Martin Bruns



BINOMA WORKSHOPS

On the Economics of Networks

University of East Anglia co-organises with the University of Malaga and the University of the Basque Country annual BiNoMa workshops on Economics of Networks. This year, a special 5th edition of the workshop took place at the International University of Andalusia in Sevilla on the 6-7 of June 2023. As in the past, expert presenters in the field of network science and economics had the opportunity to present and discuss their recent contributions to the field.

From its modest beginning as a platform for few European universities, BiNoMa workshops have developed to an important event that attracts renowned researchers from around the world.



3RD DISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

The School of Economics (ECO) and Centre for Behavioural and Experimental Social Science (CBESS) has once again organised an incredibly successful Discrimination and Diversity workshop on 21 and 22 June.

Keeping true to its objective of being an inclusive workshop, scholars from (literally) around the world tuned in to outstanding presentations on issues relating to gender in education and the workplace, socioeconomic outcomes of LGBTQ+ individuals, leadership and role models, violence against women and minorities, as well as race and ethnicity. Five paper sessions were dedicated to each of these themes and chaired by experts in the respective areas, and our program featured presenters from as far as Bogota, Texas, and Tennessee (to the west), and Tokyo, Melbourne, and Beijing (to the east)!

The workshop also featured two special sessions by prominent senior researchers. Professor J. Aislinn Bohren from the University of Pennsylvania presented her recent work on the theory and empirical evidence of systemic discrimination, while Professor Patricia Cortés from Boston University discussed the implications of automation on occupation segregation and the gender skill gap.

The workshop also presented two Outstanding Paper Awards, jointly sponsored by both ECO and CBESS, with the aim of recognising the outstanding work by early-career researchers. The recipients of the two awards are:

- 1 Samuel Mann from Vanderbilt University, who uses a robust difference-in-differences approach exploiting the staggered anti-discrimination law rollout in the United States to document a positive effect of the law on the mental health of male sexual minorities, and
- 2 Madina Kurmangaliyeva from the University of Brussels, who (together with Matteo Sostero) explores the random nature of pedestrian crashes in the United States to investigate whether there is a systematic racial bias in hit-and-run incidence.

Given the number of high-quality submissions, we also awarded two Honourable Mentions to:

- 1 Margaux Suteau from the London School of Economics and Political Science, who evaluates a national program in France providing households with laptops and documents causal evidence that the program increased girls' likelihood to enter STEM tracks by increasing their exposure to technology, and
- 2 Julia Seither from Universidad del Rosario, who (together with Sofia Casabianca, Catalina Durán, and Megan Lang) provides compelling evidence that self-employment mentoring schemes can reduce intimate partner violence, and that flexible mentoring schemes can also enhance women's economic autonomy.

Finally, building on the amazing success of the past three iterations of the workshop, the organising committee are pleased to announce a special issue at the Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization in conjunction with the workshop. The special issue will be guest edited by the organizers (i.e., Oana Borcan, Laura Harvey, and Boon Han Koh), as well as Professor Ernesto Reuben from NYU Abu Dhabi and Professor Laura Gee from Tufts University.

The introduction of the special issue is a testament of the workshop's success and reputation, and the organisers are looking forward to the next iteration of the workshop. With the departure of the founding organisations from UEA in August this year, the next iteration of the workshop will expand to be a collaboration between UEA, the University of Exeter, and Loughborough University!

Organisers: Oana Borcan, Laura Harvey, and Boon Han Koh



9TH BEHAVIOURAL GAME THEORY WORKSHOP

Our 9th workshop on Behavioural Game Theory was held at The Enterprise Centre on 3 and 4 July 2023. This year's conference featured 3 plenary talks and 14 excellent presentations by researchers from the United States, Israel, Australia, and Europe.



The presentations covered a variety of topics at the intersection of behavioural economics, game theory, and experimental economics. Our plenary speakers presented highly interesting and innovative work in this area. Terri Kneeland (University College London) presented a general experimental analysis of heterogeneous sophistication levels in normal form games. Agnieszka Tymula (University of Sydney) presented exciting experimental work on risk attitudes under backward looking reference points. Vince Crawford (University of Oxford and University of California, San Diego) talked about the application of the k-level thinking model to games with private information, such as auctions or bilateral trade games.

Presentations by remaining participants covered a wide array of topics and methodologies. There were exciting talks on belief formation in games, backward induction by participants in TV shows, how to estimate quantal response equilibria, the estimation of risk attitudes, motivations behind cooperative behaviour, the effect self-awareness on adjudication bias in cricket, naïve estimation procedures and dynamic decision making, as well as the relation between the neolithic agricultural revolution on inequality.

The workshop was a great success and talks were very well attended, giving rise to many lively discussions. The conference provided a great opportunity to exchange ideas and broaden networks. We look forward to hosting the next iteration of the workshop!

Organisers: Ariel Gu, David Cooper and Mark Le Quement



NORWICH REPLICATION GAMES

In July 2023, the School of Economics at UEA, in association with the Institute for Replication (I4R), had the pleasure of hosting the Norwich Replication Games on the University of East Anglia campus.

The Institute for Replication was created to form a permanent network of scientists interested in reproducibility and replicability, including graduate students, academics, and individuals working for governmental agencies and research institutes. The institute aims to promote and generate reproductions and replications of experimental and (mostly) non-experimental studies.

Reproducibility and replicability are vital to science as it helps make science a self-correcting system, allowing us to assess the reliability and validity of the empirical result. Put differently, the purpose of scientific publishing is the dissemination of robust research findings, exposing them to the scrutiny of peers. Replication can improve credibility within empirical research, representing a key input in economic policy design.

The Norwich Replication Games aimed to promote and generate replications and disseminations, strengthen the visibility of researchers at the University of East Anglia and the network of social scientists, and advance the training of the next generation of young economists. The event was a great success with over 45 national and international participants joining together to replicate 11 papers. The findings of the workshop will be summarised in a published meta-paper where

all participants of the workshop will co-author the paper. Additionally, Economic Inquiry has issued a call for papers for a special issue, *On the Reproducibility and Replicability in Economics* which will be co-edited by Abel Brodeur (abrodeur@uottawa.ca), Michalis Drouvelis (m.drouvelis@bham.ac.uk) and Farasat Bokhari (F.Bokhari@uea.ac.uk).

To find out more about the Institute for Replications, and any future Replication Games, please visit <https://i4replication.org/> and for further information on the special issue, see <https://weai.org/news/view/50>





EVENTS

NUDGEATHON



This year the School of Economics at UEA hosted a Nudgeathon event in association with Norfolk County Council. A Nudgeathon is a behavioural science hackathon, where participants work in teams to solve a given behavioural challenge within a limited time frame.

The goal for our teams was to develop an implementable solution that was not only innovative and creative, but also feasible, realistic, and having potential to be tested, adopted, and scaled (if



impactful) within Norfolk County Council. The Nudgeathon was hosted at the University of East Anglia and spanned over two days.

The participating teams had the chance to design and propose the behavioural change intervention that they developed, and from there, a panel of friendly judges deliberated before selecting the winning proposal.

The event was a great success, and it was amazing to see what our teams had achieved over the two days! Thank you to Norwich County Council for the collaboration and we hope to continue to build and work together with the council in the future.



“

Acting with integrity is a conscious decision. Integrity and anticorruption training can equip young people with the practical skills to help them make that decision every day. Furthermore, they also need to believe they are not alone in that choice. For this reason, integrity training initiatives need high visibility in the public space.

OANA BORCAN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ECONOMICS, CENTRE FOR BEHAVIORAL AND EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, UK



UNODC AND USAID SUPPORT ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITIES IN UKRAINE

ECO's Oana Borcan was invited to speak at an online launching event organised by the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC represented by Bianca Kopp) and the USAID Justice for All program in Ukraine (represented by Mr Artem Shaipov). The event introduced the Ukrainian translated UNODC higher education modules on integrity, ethics, and anti-corruption. It was attended by over 300 participants, including from important national Ukrainian institutions (The national Agency of Corruption Prevention, and the Ministry of Education).

Oana presented her study 'Moulding the Middleman: A Field Experiment On The Role of Ethics Training and Norms In Combating Corruption' in which a team, including Oana's PhD student Nikita Grabher-Meyer, Amrish Patel (ECO), and Stephanie Heger (University of Bologna), evaluated the impact of an online integrity training based on the UNODC modules on ethical decisions of law students in Ukraine.



FOLLOW THE WEB STORY:
<https://grace.unodc.org/grace/en-news-and-events/unodc-and-usaid-support-anti-corruption-education-at-universities-in-ukraine.html>



BLENDED LEARNING

After a strange and remarkable couple of years the 2022-3 academic year brought a semblance of 'proper' normality back to campus. (Although really this started a bit earlier, with a wonderful graduation event in July 2022, when it was great to see not just our most recent cohort of finalists and master's students graduate, but also returning students from the 'Covid years'.)

I have to say this academic year didn't start out feeling much different for me. In late September I finally succumbed to Covid – almost certainly caught during our various Welcome Week activities(!) – and had to deliver my week-1 classes online. So, it was the second week of the autumn semester before I could finally enjoy the new-found normality – and what a pleasure it was to have a room full of enthusiastic new master's students, many of whom had themselves had their undergraduate studies so unfairly disrupted.

This was also the first academic year that started out in our new home – EFRY building. And it is both great and now really quite normal to be able to walk down to the spacious ground floor area and bump into ECO students working or just hanging out. Not getting to know our students quite so well has been one of the most frustrating parts of the last few years.

A real highlight for me this year was our Alumni Event in London. The last event of this type – planned for March 2020 – was the one of the first things we had to cancel when the seriousness of the pandemic started to become clear. This year we were back in London, where it was wonderful to catch up with former students we had taught over the last decade or more. One of the very best things about this job is hearing about the wonderful and diverse careers our former students

have now embarked upon. (Although secretly(!) my favourite part of the alumni event was the coach journey there and back with our current students. Some quality time to catch up with the students I have got to know since September.)

Anyway, back to business, and the challenges as we come out of the pandemic continue. We will continue to listen to our students, as well as each other, and work towards a pedagogic balance. The pandemic accelerated a shift towards a more blended approach to the way we deliver our teaching. As things continue to settle down, we need to listen, contemplate, and evolve, to ensure ECO remains the great place to be a student we are confident it will continue to be.

And finally, the School continues to look forward, and we are very excited as we start to recruit for a new BSc in Economics, Behaviour, and Data Science (EBDS). Our first EBDS students will be joining our new course in September 2024, plans for which include new undergraduate modules in behavioural finance and programming in the coming years, as well as a revamp of our econometrics provision. These are enhancements that will benefit students on all our ECO UG courses, complementing the enhancements made in recent years to our programme of master's courses.

With invaluable help along the way from our Staff Student Liaison Committee (SSLC), our student-led Education Practice & Innovation Committee (EPIC), and of course all the responses to our module and course surveys, you all form a part of our continuing effort to make the ECO experience the best it can be. We can't do that without you – so thank you for your continued support!

See you around campus soon.

James Watson (Teaching Director)



POSTER EVENT

BRINGING ECONOMICS TO THE PUBLIC

In May 2023, our third-year undergraduate students enrolled on the Government, Welfare and Policy module once again presented their economic policy analysis posters to the public in The Forum in the centre of Norwich. Students were tasked by the module organiser, Dr Christa Brunschweiler, to form groups and research a public policy of their choice – local, national, or international – from an economic viewpoint, minus the economics jargon.

They then had to bring together their findings and recommendations in an eye-catching poster, explain it and answer questions from the public. The event was supported by two representatives from Risk & Policy Analysts (coincidentally two alumni of ours) who gave feedback to each poster group and offered a fantastic prize to the group members behind the winning posters of a fast-track job application to RPA.

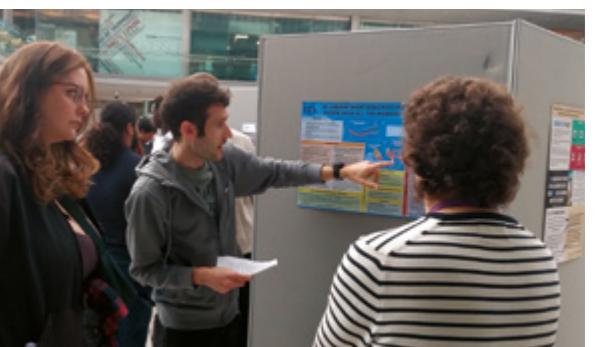
The event was a big success thanks to the hard work and overwhelming enthusiasm of our students. They did themselves and UEA proud! We had colourful and creative posters, impassioned explanations, an engaged audience of students, faculty and the general public, and many new insights. This year's hot topics that

attracted more than one group were climate change policy and the transition to electric vehicles, and the benefits and dangers of the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare.

It was only the second time since the Covid-19 pandemic that we were able to hold the event in person again, but this year's event was special for other reasons, too. It was the largest yet not only because of the big cohort of over 100 students, but also because our Admissions Director Dr Bahar Ghezelayagh organised a team of UEA master's students to film the event and interview participants. The whole event was also livestreamed on the internet to prospective students in Asia with commentary and interviews by a member of the UEA marketing team! The film and photo material will be used to explain to high school students from diverse backgrounds what economics is, what they might be studying if they choose economics, and what economists do. There is a misconception that economics is just about understanding how the economy of a country works, but we know it is far more than that!

Here's hoping that the great work of the students at the School of Economics shows more young people how they could make the world a better place to live in as economists and inspires them to choose our subject for their future studies.

Christa Brunschweiler and Bahar Ghezelayagh



REPRESENTING ECO AT THE UEA INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Just as THE ranked UEA amongst the global top 40 universities on sustainable development goals (SDGs), the UEA International Forum invited students and staff from across the University to engage in a dialogue about international opportunities and global engagement with SDGs.

Mya represented ECO students, and together with Liliana introduced our recent COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning COIL) projects. Mya worked this academic year along with a group of students from the University of Navarra and the University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne on a semester-long research project grounded in 'Climate Action', while following global trade links.

COIL might be still an unfamiliar term, but it can range from student engagement with international guest speakers, to more elaborate forms of curriculum and assessment matching. The project presented at the International Forum was closer to the latter variety and brought together students from the UEA (on our global trade module), Navarra (on a course regarding political economy of sustainability) and



Illinois (studying environmental economics). A series of synchronous and asynchronous activities included lectures on sustainability, trade and the environment, as well as online student exchanges. A final piece of assessment benefited from discussions with peers and academic feedback from three leading global institutions. Participating ECO students conducted research over five weeks in mixed global teams and shared their findings via an interactive discussion board. Mya's group chose to illustrate the links between trade and environmental concerns starting from the global production chains that give us 'Electric Vehicles: Not as Perfect as We Think.' Her team project was selected as the best collaborative output of the COIL, and the video presentation is now accessible as a NEP podcast via YouTube. (Mya's contribution is from cca min 7.42).

Fast forward to the 'International Forum' and its quest to foster international dialogue between staff and students at the UEA. We shared our experience and challenges of COIL within a student panel and a 'soapbox conversation' – with the vice-chancellor Prof David Maguire amongst the guest speakers, too. Other questions arose on the day, such as: 'What does international mean to our students at UEA?'; 'What global engagement and international opportunities are there for students at UEA to globalise their outlook, and how could we do this better?'

Mya reflected on how she has been rapidly immersed into various dimensions of the international experience – first as an ECO student from Myanmar/Burma, and very soon after entering her undergraduate course as a representative of the School, in a global COIL project and last but not least as a voice on the International Forum. Though daunting at times, she has stood up to the task – yet raising the question of how we could bring more ECO students on board as well. As the International Forum was opening this for discussion, we invite you to do the same, perhaps starting by clicking here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=9d3KIMFhTYU>

Liliana Harding and Mya Thant Kyaw

INFORMATION, BELIEFS, AND ECONOMIC DECISION MAKING

Outreach / Taster Session at National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam

In September 2022, our ECO lecturer, Dr Boon Han Koh, visited the National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi, Vietnam to give a taster lecture session centred on the topic of "Information, Beliefs, and Economic Decision Making".

The event was a great success, attended by about 50 undergraduate students majoring in business and economics at the School of Advanced Education Program at NEU. The students were introduced to some of the stimulating research conducted at ECO on how information and beliefs can shape (or distort) decision making in economics environments. They also took part in a simple game which helps to illustrate

how communication may help sustain cooperation in situations where free riding incentives may occur.

The excited cheers and shouts coming from the crowd highlighted the high level of engagement the students had during the taster session!

Importantly, the event marked the start of a long-term collaboration between NEU in Vietnam and the School of Economics at UEA. A memorandum of understanding is now in place to facilitate greater exchange of students between the two institutions. We very much look forward to welcoming more students from NEU in the coming years!

Boon Han Koh



YEAR ABROAD

WASEDA UNIVERSITY, TOKYO

Tokyo, a captivating amalgamation of tradition and innovation, a bustling metropolis whose residents, much like a clock's hands, move with purpose and precision. A labyrinth-esque city, with multiple layers of convoluted passages, for once being lost is not indicative of panic but of serene tranquillity.

Inexplicably, the mind falls silent, the constant drumming thoughts dissipate along with your worries, and the senses readjust or rather heighten. You become a wanderer, slowly encountering temples and shrines, enchanted by their structural beauty you are left in awe, contemplating a cultural heritage site that is a testament of collective human effort and diligent dedication to honing one's craft. As you continue the excursion, you pass by several small businesses, often owned by a humble and welcoming individual or family, specializing in no more than a handful of goods. Each establishment is meticulously decorated in great detail, reflecting its importance to the owner, and capturing a piece of their mind. Nestled between this jungle of wonders, (found) in the ward of Shinjuku, is the world-renowned Waseda University.

Being fortunate enough to have the means and being presented with the opportunity, for me going to study abroad was a must and it's a decision I will forever be grateful for. With an endless list of destinations at my disposal, I resolved to travel to Japan, a place with profound richness in culture, exceptional culinary delights and possessing academic institutions with very strong economic programs. At the time of writing this, I have resided in Japan for nine months and to put it briefly, the experience has been eye-opening on many levels. From an academic perspective, I chose to challenge myself while simultaneously exploring other disciplines - this was out of interest and to acquire

additional skills that would benefit me later on in my career - choosing courses from multiple fields: law, computer science, economics, finance, and politics. In hindsight, I could have reduced the intensity of my academic choices, since the workload and complexity of some of the courses kept me frequenting the library on a daily basis, leaving less room for leisure.

Nevertheless, the people I met along the way, including passionate students with tremendous work ethic and professors of the highest calibre with years of experience in their respective field, proved to be an invaluable source of inspiration. The friendships forged and subsequent memories created, be it in the classroom or whilst exploring Japan, has undoubtedly further improved my objective reasoning and global vision of reality.

It's hard to vocalise just how life altering my experience abroad has been, something that can only be understood if experienced first-hand. For those uncertain about studying in another country, if there is ever a better time to go, it is now. Take risks and make mistakes, but most importantly learn from them.

UEA's 'Study Abroad Team' is composed of highly competent professionals, who have been readily available throughout my time abroad and made the application process - an arduous task - surprisingly simple.

Adrià Ramoneda



**READ MORE YEAR ABROAD
BLOGS BY UEA STUDENTS**
<https://ueaontheroad.wordpress.com/about/>

It's hard to vocalise just how life altering my experience abroad has been, something that can only be understood if experienced first-hand.





EMPLOYABILITY TEAM

REFLECTING OVER THE PAST YEAR

Over the last year we have witnessed changes and new challenges: the rising of inflation and the beginning of the so-called cost-of-living crisis, the continuation of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and substantial macroeconomic uncertainty (hindered economic growth and the prospect of higher interest rates).

This uncertainty has unfortunately impacted both university life and the job market. However, while the unemployment rate (3.8% in April 2023) remains below pre-pandemic levels, when only considering 16-24 years old working population, it reaches 10.9%, very near to a record low. After hitting an historical peak between March and May 2022 (1,302,000), the number of job vacancies from March to May 2023 lowered to 1,051,000, still well above the pre-pandemic figure (826,000 between December 2019 and February 2020). These figures point to a relatively healthy job market, but the declining trend of the number of job vacancies may affect next year's employment prospects, as witnessed by the fact that the growth rate in vacancies continued to slow down, according to Labour Market Overview, released by the Office for National Statistics in April 2023, albeit this is unclear, as youth unemployment rate remains below the long term average (please see the figure below), probably due to the demographic transition.

In the post-pandemic world, recruitment is still running in a hybrid way with a mix of virtual and face to face interviews and assessment centres. However, both demand and supply for flexible/remote working persists and this will probably remain as the "new normal" for most of the sectors of interest of our economics graduates. This trend requires the development of new skills, and, in this sense, ECO has engaged with the ECO Advisory Board members to continue to revise both curricular and extracurricular offer. In order to meet employers' demand for digital literacy and coding skills, we adapted the syllabus of existing modules, introduced new modules, and offered an ECO

Python Workshop, attendance was high and showed the willingness of students to adapt to the current job market requirements. Together with employers, we offered activities to strengthen soft skills, such as effective oral communication, empathy, and networking etc. Moreover, together with UEA, we also continued to offer free access to LinkedIn Learning's video courses to all our students to support them in enhancing skills and improve their employability prospects.

As usual, we had a very busy and diversified list of employability events, hosting alumni, employers, career coaches with a blend of training sessions, panel discussions, and guest lectures. This culminated the with ECO Alumni Networking Event, which took place on 28th April 2023 in London. It was a great ECO community moment, during which ECO students had the opportunity to meet and connect with our Advisory Board members, alumni, and staff. Next year, we will replicate that event, this time in Norwich, reaching our extended community both locally and in London.

As an additional source of student support, we maintained the ECO Mentoring Scheme for Economics students, with around 50 successful matches between students and Economics Alumni, providing a valuable source of practical advice and guidance to students. We also had our spring and summer ECO Internship scheme, providing students with feedback at each stage of the hiring process, and the chance for 12 successful candidates to work alongside academics on cutting-edge projects with great learning opportunities.

While the pandemic is over, its legacy remains. Students need to get used to networking and developing face-to-face contact. For this reason, all our employability events, albeit recorded for those who could not join in person, have been provided on campus with a good attendance rate and satisfactory development of skills. We will keep on working in this direction.

Andrea Calef and Rui Silva

PLACEMENT CASE STUDY

NAME:

Loving-Grace Mawire

COMPANY NAME:

Microsoft

ROLE:

Account Manager

Why did you decide to do a placement?

I thought it'd be a fantastic way to get some real-world work experience under my belt. Plus, doing a placement was a great way to try out a career area that I was interested in, without fully committing to a graduate role right away.

Can you tell us a bit more about the organisation, your role, and the skills you learned?

I did my placement year at Microsoft working as an Account Manager. It was a somewhat similar role to that of a project manager. Lots of meetings and keeping tabs on project progress. I learned how to communicate more effectively and work with diverse teams. Not to mention, I got a solid grasp of the industry and learned to navigate the latest technologies and software. All in all, it was an eye-opening experience that boosted my confidence and set me up for success in my final year and beyond!

How did you find the transition back to UEA and your final year more generally?

Honestly, transitioning back to UEA and my final year was a breeze. It was so fun being back with my friends and having more free time was a major bonus. Surprisingly, I found myself procrastinating less, which was a pleasant surprise. Maybe the discipline I picked up during my placement rubbed off on me!

What are your plans after graduation?

I'll be going back to Microsoft and working as a consultant. My placement year was essential in my securing the graduate role. The people I met along the way also encouraged and inspired me to go for the role. I am really looking forward to the future.

What advice would you offer to students for a placement?

My advice? Apply for roles even if you're not entirely sure about them. You never know what might pique your interest once you dive in. And while you're on your placement, make sure to network as much as possible and grab every opportunity that comes your way. Embrace the chance to try new things and expand your horizons within the company!



TOM'S PLACEMENT CASE STUDY

<https://ueaeconomics.wordpress.com/2023/07/26/placement-case-study-tom-henau/>





PLACEMENT CASE STUDY

NAME:

Hattie Weatherley

COMPANY NAME:

PA Consulting Group

ROLE:

Industrial Placement

– Sourcing, IT, and Strategy

Why did you decide to do a placement?

I wanted to do a placement for several reasons. Mainly to increase my employability, but also to experience the working world, find out more about what sort of jobs I like/don't like, and to expand my network.

Can you tell us a bit more about the organisation, your role, and the skills you learned?

I did my placement year at a firm called PA Consulting Group. PA are a technology consulting firm with over 4000 employees. They work across several sectors including defence & security, financial services, consumer & manufacturing, and public services, and deliver several services such as procurement & IT, delivery, and operation modelling. You might recognise some of their projects including the invention of the Guinness can widget. PA are particularly proud of their contribution to helping the UK during COVID-19 when the government asked for help to produce ventilators. PA produced over 30,000 ventilators in just 8 weeks, co-ordinating with companies all over the world such as Ford and Rolls Royce.

I worked mainly in defence & security delivering sourcing, IT and corporate services. During the year I worked on 2 large projects.

My first project was delivering a procurement transformation for the University of Cambridge, where I assisted my colleagues across seven different streams of the project. This gave me a lot of experience to typical sourcing and procurement processes, and I learned how organisations can run a procurement department to ensure they source supplies sustainably, cost effectively, and maintain relationships with suppliers. Specifically, I ran workshops, created toolkits, and analysed data using excel to produce several pieces of work for the client.

My second project was Procuring and implementing a new ERP system for the Ministry of Defence (ERP stands for enterprise resource planning, and an ERP system is a suite of IT applications that allows a business/organisation to carry out essential business functions). As I was more experienced, I had more responsibility on this project, and I led the Comms & Engagement part of the project, supporting the ongoing development of a 'one team' culture following the merger of three teams with strong individual cultures (approx. 60 people).

This allowed the team to work effectively as one, and cope with structural change whilst working on a high-pressure project.

To do this I...

- planned, coordinated, and delivered several team building workshops to address, voice, and escalate client concerns within the programme.
- Produced and presented project dashboards using Excel and presented updates to client teams.
- Installed a regular drumbeat of communication through the team with a biweekly bulletin of programme updates.

Throughout my entire experience at PA, the most important skill I developed was building strong, trusting relationships with clients.

How did you find the transition back to UEA and your final year more generally?

Before I came back to UEA for final year I was concerned I wouldn't enjoy it as much as a lot of my friends graduated the year before. However, I made lots of new friends and still had a great time. Also, my productivity improved massively during my placement year which helped me to study far more effectively. I'd say my final year was my favourite year at university!

What are your plans after graduation?

I am going back to PA to be a Business Transformation Graduate!

What advice would you offer to students for a placement?

Applications:

- Definitely do it! A placement is one of the best things I've ever done for my career and self-confidence.
- Have a plan: Plan some time for internships, make a LinkedIn, start practising interviews etc.
- Don't give up hope during the application process, I was rejected by about 25 jobs before I landed PA- you will be successful if you keep applying!
- Be open minded. I hadn't really considered consulting as a career as I wanted to be an economist for the civil service, but I got rejected by the GES and now I think I'm far more suited to the role I eventually ended up in.

While on placement:

- Ask questions! You are not expected to know anything, if you are not sure what's going on, just ask and you will learn so much. Your experienced colleagues want you to clarify your understanding, and you will receive positive feedback for this.
- Be keen. Enthusiasm will make you an enjoyable person to work with. You will receive more opportunities and maybe even an offer to return as a graduate.
- Reach out if you need help. There are various layers of support at your fingertips: Advisors, Lecturers, Employability Team, older students, Economics Society, CareerCentral.

OUR GOALS FOR 2024

**SUPPORT
STAFF AND STUDENT SUCCESS**

**CELEBRATE
OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

**EMBRACE
INNOVATION AND CHANGE**

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
NORWICH RESEARCH PARK NORWICH
NR4 7TJ, UK
T +44 (0) 1603 592941

WWW.UEA.AC.UK/ECONOMICS

 ueaeconomics  [linkedin.com/in/ueaeco](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ueaeco)  www.instagram.com/economicsuea

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