Graduate School of Finance Newsletter 2/2026

Graduate School of Finance Newsletter

As the new academic year begins, we're happy to welcome a new cohort of doctoral students in Finance. This year, 10 students from the GSF member universities are starting their doctoral journeys by following the GSF curriculum.

Topical Course on AI in Research - Record Number of Participants!

Professor Ingar Haaland (NHH) with some of the students of the "Transfroming Economic and Financial Research with AI" course.

AI is revolutionizing research across disciplines, and the fields of economics and finance are no exception. Professor Ingar Haaland (Norwegian School of Economics) taught a new, innovative doctoral course on "Transforming Economic and Financial Research with

AI" in May. The course explored how AI can be applied to drive breakthroughs in economic and financial research. The course provided critical insights into the practical use of AI tools, including machine learning and data analysis, alongside their theoretical underpinnings. The course equipped students with the knowledge and skills to harness AI's transformative potential in addressing real-world challenges. The course attracted a record number of participants; a total of 45 students registered for the course. In addition, a good number of junior faculty members also attended the lectures.

The course was funded by the Nasdaq Nordic Foundation.

Summer Workshop in Finance in Lappeenranta

Professor Mika Vaihekoski (University of Turku) discussing Maryam Nasiri Kheshtmasjedi's (Hanken) paper "Do Sustainability Reporting Regulations Affect Firm Value? Early Evidence from the Omnibus Simplification Package" at the Summer Workshop in Finance in Lappeenranta.

GSF's annual Summer Workshop in Finance returned to Lappeenranta after 11 years. The workshop was organized in June at the Lappeenranta University of Technology, where 12 doctoral students presented their research. All papers were discussed by professors either in person or online. The next Summer Workshop in Finance in 2027 will take place in Vaasa. Hopefully "It's always sunny in Vaasa" is true once again.

You can find the Summer Workshop program on the GSF workshop page.

Interview with Visiting Distinguished Professor David McLean

Professor David McLean (Georgetown University) has been a Visiting Distinguished Professor at the Aalto Department of Finance since last year. This August David taught a new GSF doctoral course on "Finance and Growth: The Roles of Financial Development, Institutions, and Shareholder Primacy". We spoke to David about his academic career and research, his thoughts on economic growth, and his book "*The Case for Shareholder Capitalism: How the Pursuit of Profit Benefits All*."

You can read the full interview on the GSF website.

News from the Nordic Finance Network (NFN)

Professor Mike Burkart (LSE) giving a keynote at the 20th PhD Nordic Finance Workshop in Lund.

20 Years of Nordic Finance PhD Workshops!

This year’s Nordic Finance PhD Workshop was the 20th annual PhD workshop organized by the NFN. The workshop was organized at Lund University and featured presentations by 15 doctoral students from Nordic universities. To mark the 20th workshop, the keynote “Bankruptcy Law and the Market for Corporate Influence: Extending the Creditors’ Bargain to Distress Investors” was given by Professor Mike Burkart (London School of Economics). In the early days of the NFN, Mike (then professor at Stockholm School of Economics) was one of the key people in developing NFN's various activities as they are now. He is one of the founding members and served later as the chairman of the NFN board for many years.

The next NFN workshop is the Young Scholars Nordic Finance Workshop taking place at the Norwegian School of Economics at the end of November.

In 2026 NFN member institutions organized 10 intensive Finance PhD courses that were offered to Nordic Finance PhD students via the NFN. On top of Nordic students, we were happy to see that the courses have attracted students from other European countries and beyond.

During 2026 the NFN activities have been funded by grants from the Nasdaq Nordic Foundation and the Jan Wallanders och Tom Hedelius Stiftelse (Handelsbanken). We are especially grateful for the Nasdaq Nordic Foundation as it has extended its funding for the NFN also for 2027.

The next GSF newsletter for alumni will be sent out at the beginning of 2027.

If you have suggestions on what you would like to read about in our future newsletters, please feel free to send us suggestions at gsf@aalto.fi.