Call for applications for QTEM Master programme 2013-2014

Department of Economics and Finance

Students enrolled in Academic Year 2012-2013

A. General rules

The QTEM (Quantitative Techniques for Economics and Management) Programme offered by LUISS is organized in cooperation with Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management (SBS-EM); University of Amsterdam (UVA); Goethe-Universitat Frankfurt am Main (Goethe); Université de Lausanne (UNIL, HEC); BI Norwegian Business School (BI N.); National Taiwan University; and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (TBC).

Students enrolled in the first year of the Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Finanza, including the Major in Financial Economics, in the Academic Year 2012-13, will be considered eligible to participate.

Participating students will have the possibility to attend second year courses and respective exams at two universities among the QTEM partners mentioned above. Selected students will spend the first semester (Fall) and the second semester (Spring) abroad, in two different partner universities, obtaining the final Master’s Degree issued by LUISS plus the QTEM supra-national certificate issued by the QTEM network.

Courses will be held in English both at LUISS and at the partner universities.

Students selected for the QTEM Programme will be registered at LUISS during their stay at the partner universities, being exempt from taxes, while continuing their regular fees and payment at LUISS.

Selected students, in order to achieve the supra-national QTEM certificate, will have to be in compliance with both partner universities’ rules and conditions, as for credits envisaged, attendance, deadlines etc..

B. Available slots

The total number of available slots for A.Y. 2013-2014 for QTEM is up to five.

The Academic Commission might decide, by its not disputable evaluation, to assign none or all of the slots available.
C. Eligibility and selection requirements

The selection of students is made through the not disputable evaluation of an Academic Commission nominated by the Dean.

The Program is open to students enrolled in 2012-2013 in the first year of the Laurea Magistrale in Economia e Finanza, including the Major in Financial Economics. Applicants will be required to select at least 4 destinations among the QTEM partner universities.

Pre-requisites: The above mentioned students will be able to participate and are therefore considered eligible only if, within the official Winter examination session A.Y. 2012/2013 (December - February 2013):

- they will have passed at least a total of 2 exams, out of four, during their first semester;
- they hold a weighted average grade of 26/30;
- they hold a minimum Bachelor Degree in the field of Economics, Business Administration, (while other Bachelor Degrees will be taken into consideration by the Academic Commission) with a final grade equal or above 100/110;
- they hold a C1 in English language knowledge proved by International Certificates (TOEFL min. 90/120 IBT, IELTS min. 6.5). The mentioned certificates should not be older than two years: older certificates will be evaluated before being accepted. In case a student does not hold one of the requested proofs of English language knowledge, he/she will have to pass an ad hoc test, to be held at LUISS on March 9th 2013 TBC (therefore this type of student is requested to register for the test at the IDO by March 6th) during the test the use of vocabulary or other translation tools is not permitted;
- they will have to hand in to the International Development Office by May 20th the GMAT certificate with a minimum score of 650/800.

The selection follows a 4 step process:

Step 1: The eligible candidates will be ranked after the analysis of their academic performance (credits and average grade, each weighting 50% and 50% of the academic score obtained at the end of the first semester examination session), the Bachelor Degree final grade, the English language proficiency and the analysis of the motivation letter and curriculum vitae. Previous international experiences will be positively considered. The Academic Commission will rank eligible students and create the short list for the next step.

Step 2: The interview, which will be held in English, will be carried out by a member/members of the Academic Commission and the International Development Office Staff on March 19th 2013 (TBC); additional members from the QTEM Corporate partners may take part to the interview. The interview will focus on motivation and student background and is a key part of the selection process. In case a candidate is not considered suitable for the Program, he/she will not be selected regardless of the academic performance, the positioning in the applicants ranking and the number of available slots.

Step 3: LUISS will select up to 5 students and the names of these students will be communicated to QTEM’s Central Office (QTEaM) that will rank students considering also the names of students selected by the other QTEM university partners received. QTEM Central Office (QTEaM) will assign
by the end of March 2013 to selected students the destinations for the Fall semester (A.Y. 2013-14) whereas the Spring semester (A.Y. 2013-14) will be assigned by the end of May 2013.

**Step 4:** Selected students will need to submit by May 20th a GMAT certificate with a minimum score of 650/800. **This is to be considered as a necessary condition to access the Programme.** In case a selected student will not meet this requirement by the established deadline, he/she will not be admitted to the Programme.\(^1\)

**D. Incompatibility**

**D.1 Erasmus Programme or Bilateral Exchanges**

The application to this Programme is **compatible** with the application for the Erasmus Programme or Bilateral Exchanges. Students participating to both Calls, who will be **selected** for the QTEM Programme, will have the opportunity to confirm their participation to the Programme within **March 21st at 12.00 TBC**

- If they confirm their participation to the QTEM Programme, they will automatically **decay** from the Erasmus or Bilateral destination they might be selected for. In such case, QTEM Programme selected student must also formally withdraw from the Erasmus/Bilateral destination, giving written notification to the Student Exchange Office **by April 4th 2013**.

- If they do not confirm their participation to the QTEM Programme, they **will not automatically decay** from the Erasmus or Bilateral destination they might be selected for.

**D.2 Double Degree Programme with NOVA**

The application to this Programme is **compatible** with the application for the Double Degree Programme with the University of Nova:

- Financial Economics Students selected for the Double Degree with Nova automatically **decay** from the QTEM programme.

- Financial Economics Students selected for QTEM and in waiting list for Nova automatically **decay** from the Double Degree Programme with Nova.

- Financial Economics Students in both waiting lists, if recalled for one of the programmes, will **automatically decay** from the other program’s waiting list.

Students that completed an Erasmus or Bilateral exchange in the previous academic years are eligible to participate.

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\(^1\) Pay attention to the fact that GMAT Official Score Reports are available within 20 days after the test date, so selected students must take the test before May 1st.
E. Details on the QTEM Programme

Applicants will be required to select at least 4 destinations (maximum 7) among the QTEM universities partners. The ranking of the 4 destinations, and the assignment of the final destinations, will also depend on the academic offer of the selected universities. Indeed, LUISS students are expected to cover abroad the second year core courses requested by their study plan and, therefore, they will need to agree an ad hoc study plan with the Academic Coordinator before departure.

Students can check the courses offered by the partner universities on the QTEM database and rank the destinations on the basis of such courses. The ranking will be checked by IDO and the Academic coordinator and, in case, a new ranking may be agreed between the student and the Academic Coordinator during the dossier analysis.

The QTEM Programme requires selected students to take 60 ECTS during their whole mobility period (minimum 30 ECTS during the Fall semester and minimum 30 ECTS during the Spring semester, A.Y. 2013-14) and maximum two qualitative courses (maximum one qualitative course during the Fall semester and maximum one qualitative course during the Spring semester, A.Y. 2013-14). Among the 60 ECTS credits, students will need to take minimum 20 ECTS in one of the QTEM Elective Modules or they will not be awarded the QTEM supra-national certificate. The available Modules, in all 16, are the following:

1. Business Intelligence
2. Controlling & Accounting
3. Entrepreneurship
4. Finance - Actuarial Sciences
5. Finance - Banking and Management of Financial Institutions
6. Finance - Corporate Finance
7. Finance - Financial Markets and Derivatives
8. Macroeconomic Models and Forecasting, Computational Economics
9. Marketing and Sales
10. Microeconomics, Contract & Auction Theory
11. Policy-Making, Regulation and Pricing
12. Quantitative Techniques & Tools
13. Risk Management
14. Strategy; Industrial Organization; Applied Game Theory
15. Supply Chain, Operations and Logistics Management
16. Tax Management and International Optimization Strategies

In order to obtain the QTEM certificate, students will also need to undertake an internship of minimum 8 weeks which can be carried out either in a top multinational company from the QTEM Corporate Partners’ network, or in any multinational corporation proposed by the selected students. Students undertaking the internship, which can be carried out in Italy, in a QTEM country
Partner or in a country outside the QTEM network, will need to deliver a final report, necessary for the obtainment of the QTEM certificate. Please note that, according to the QTEM rules, the internship might be carried out during or after the 2 years of the master with at least 2 consecutive weeks, but the final definition of the type of collaboration will be agreed between the company and the QTEM participant.

Finally, the Final Degree Thesis according to LUISS Student Office rules will be validated also as QTEM activity and will be necessary for the issuing of the QTEM certificate.

F. Application Procedure

The application deadline for participating to the selection, by handling the application form to the International Development Office (viale Romania, 32 – Borghetto), will be:

► March 6th 2013 at 12.00 for LUISS students who need to register for the ad hoc English language test (the entire documentation must be submitted by the deadline indicated below);

► March 11th 2013 at 12.00 for LUISS students who hold the English language certificate

Students will be able to participate only if their administrative position is regular and have no pending administrative issues with LUISS.

G. Publication of results and orientation for departure

The selection results will be published by March 20th (TBC). Selected students will be required to confirm their acceptance through written notification by March 21st (TBC). In case of refusal or missing notification by the established deadline, the following candidate in order of waiting list will be recalled.

Recalled students will be requested to confirm their participation by written notice one working day. After this timing, the following candidate in order of waiting list will be recalled. No students will be recalled after March 22nd (TBC).

Every refusal received after this deadline, with the only exception of documented circumstances beyond one’s control, will be transferred to the Dean of the Department for the relevant disciplinary measures, which can include the exclusion from the following examination session.

The orientation meeting for departure during the Fall semester will take place on April 9th (TBC), whereas the orientation meeting for departure during the Spring semester will take place on June 11th (TBC). During the meetings the study plan will be agreed with the Academic Coordinator.

H. Additional Points

The successful participation to this programme will provide, according to the LUISS rules, an additional point to the students’ final Degree score.
I. Further information

Students can refer to the International Development Office (Ms. Lisa Giovannitti – international@luiss.it – 0685225511 – 646 please, write to fix an individual appointment) for administrative issues and to Prof. Giovanni Ponti (gponti@luiss.it) for academic issues.

I. Checklist and dates to remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to register for the English Language Test</td>
<td>March 6th at 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>English language test</td>
<td>March 9th TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline to apply for students who hold the English language certificate</td>
<td>March 11th at 12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews for the short list of candidates</td>
<td>March 19th TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection Results</td>
<td>March 20th TBC</td>
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<td>Confirmation of participation</td>
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<td>Deadline for recall from waiting list</td>
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<td>Confirmation of the destinations for the Fall semester A.Y. 2013-14 from QTEM Central Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation meeting for the Fall semester</td>
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<td>Submission to the IDO of the proof that students took the GMAT examination before May 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of the GMAT certificate to the IDO</td>
<td>May 20th</td>
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<td>Formal admission at the QTEM Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmation of the destinations for the Spring semester A.Y. 2013-14 from QTEM Central Office</td>
<td>June 3rd TBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation meeting for Spring semester</td>
<td>June 11th TBC</td>
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