Since 1987, hundreds of undergraduate business students have had the opportunity through the Leeds School to immerse themselves in the business and financial issues of Europe through the London Seminar in International Finance and Business.

Students spend five weeks during the summer in London, including a four day trip to Paris, attending lectures presented by executives, economists, business journalists and officials from financial and governmental organizations; visiting financial and business institutions; and conducting personal interviews with experts for their research report.


“The biggest success of the seminar is that it opens students’ eyes to markets overseas and other ways of thinking about issues and problems. Students learn that the world clearly is globalized,” says Professor Michael Palmer, director of the London Finance Seminar since 1987.

In preparation for the seminar, students meet in the spring with Palmer, whom they describe as “insanely knowledgeable and experienced,” to select and begin research on a topic. While in London, students conduct personal interviews with experts and combine the secondary and primary research into a report in the fall.

“When we started the program, I thought most research topics would be on commercial banks and the stock market, but students proposed their own creative research topics including the UK film industry with the financing of movies, the Premiere Soccer League, and artwork in the Underground,” says Palmer.

Interestingly, some of Palmer’s former students have become speakers for the seminar and have formed lifelong friendships with him.

Laura D’Albey (’04 accounting) manager, Risk Assurance–Corporate Treasury at Price Waterhouse Coopers in London, hosts a tour and presentation. Algis Pabarcius (’84 finance), managing director and global head of debt and credit market sales at Credit Agricole CIB, lectures about London and Europe’s financial markets.

Jeff Johnson (’06 finance), vice president, corporate credit risk at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, hosts a tour and presentation. Aysara Yusupova (’01 finance), is a manager at HSBC.

Joseph Mullan (MBA ’81), commercial director, hosts a site visit at BP as does Bill Spurgeon (’88 finance), general manager, global retail strategy at Shell Corporation.

Thomas Zimmerer (’92), professor at the University of Applied Sciences, Ansbach, Germany, lectures on risk-based asset allocation.

London Calling
STUDENTS EXPERIENCE FINANCIAL MARKETS OVERSEAS

London Seminar
Leeds students travel to London to immerse themselves in finance education as well as culture. These photos are from London Seminar, 2000-2012.

 Courtesy of Michael Palmer.

Did you do a London Seminar? Visit facebook.com/leedscuboulder to see photos from past trips to London and share your own photos and memories!