



# Entrepreneurial Students

Read the testimonial of Anna Bessomo who was a QTEM exchange student for the fall semester in 2017-2018.

## Interview with Anna Bessomo who undertook a QTEM Programme at SBS-EM

by Genduso Giuseppina

### About Anna

Anna Bessomo was a QTEM exchange student at the Solvay Brussels School - ULB for the fall semester 2017/2018. She is German but left Germany after school to study Economics & Russian in Dublin. After her Bachelor Degree, she moved on to the University of Amsterdam to complete her MSc Economics with a specialisation in International Economics & Globalisation. It was after finishing her MSc that she had the opportunity to spend a semester in Brussels, followed by five months in Berlin for her QTEM internship. Now, she is a PhD candidate in Economics at the European University Institute in Florence.

### The beginning of a new chapter written by Anna Bessomo

When I left for my QTEM exchange I had just completed my master's degree in economics. I have always been very interested in international affairs and so I followed the specialization in International Economics and Globalization. I was very excited to learn that QTEM could give me the opportunity to go abroad one more time and experience another country, culture and university; all while furthering my education and learning valuable skills.

I chose to go to the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" which proved to have been the absolute right choice for me. On the one hand, I chose Brussels because I wanted to work on my French. On the other hand, the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" offers a wide range of courses, especially in economics. As a QTEM student I had access to all master's and some PhD level courses the economics department offered.

I was surprised by how much I liked Brussels. It is a lovely city, comfortable to live in and with its own charm. Also, the chocolate, fries and beer are spectacular. I did not expect to like it as much as I did.

A lot of the classes were very small, so it was very easy to make friends and I quickly felt like I was just a normal student. The courses were quantitatively challenging and interesting. I decided to focus on the [QTEM module Quantitative Techniques and Tools](#). This module might sound a little dry, but I got the chance to take classes ranging from theoretical econometrics to quantitative policy evaluation in development economics. In the end, all my classes taught me something and allowed me to broaden my horizon, academically and culturally. I made the effort to choose classes that complemented the ones I had already taken before but were not the same. I wanted to take classes I did not have the chance to take in Amsterdam.

I felt very lucky to get to study at the "Université Libre de Bruxelles", or ULB as it is called for short. Studying at ULB was a very interesting experience: the atmosphere seemed very different from all other universities I had ever experienced. The administration does not always work flawlessly and sometimes the organization becomes a little stressful. But everyone knows that it can be confusing and tries to help. I found everyone very helpful and welcoming. Since the ULB was a founding member of QTEM, they show great interest in their QTEM students and you receive all the support you need.

At the end of my stay in Brussels, I had made some great friends, studied at an interesting university and taken challenging classes.

For my QTEM internship I worked for NERA Economic Consulting in the competition economics team in Berlin. NERA is one of the largest and most prestigious economic consultancy firms worldwide. From early in my internship I was given interesting work. I stayed with NERA for around five months. I am very happy I worked there for longer than the two months required by QTEM. By staying longer, I could learn much more and form a better-informed picture about the work and the industry.

Now, after my QTEM experience, I decided to continue my education with a PhD. I think the QTEM programme and the courses I could take during it were a great help and asset in the application process. Because I got to focus on my quantitative knowledge during my QTEM experience, I can now start a PhD programme with confidence.

#### ABOUT QTEM

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