

## **Graduate Admission Essay**

Becoming a future leader in the finance sector requires students to "understand the causes of things." I strongly agree with this idea. Either in class or during my internship, I strive to make myself well rounded. My understanding of financial principles as well as my sense of ethics and compliance make me well prepared for further learning and a career in finance.

During my time at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, I have benefited from the financial atmosphere of Hong Kong as a financial center in Asia. I get tremendous exposure to financial knowledge and economic news. I am deeply impressed not only by how unpredictable the financial market can be but also by how mathematics can tear off the market's veil of mystery and lead to wise decisions. In order to enhance my mathematic and quantitative skills, I elected the advanced mathematics department subject, Applied Probability Models, and became the only student in my class majoring in accounting and finance. Combining my finance background with this mathematics knowledge, I am always longing for the magical connection between pure mathematics and its practical implication, like the explanations of stock price fluctuation and the Black-Scholes model.

I have dedicated myself to fostering a better understanding of the financial industry and instruments in addition to enhancing my quantitative skills. I had the wonderful opportunity to represent my university at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Conference as a delegate of the Finance seminar after I was honored with the International Student Ambassador award. At the conference, I had the opportunity to interact with world-leading financial professionals and expose myself to a breadth of financial analysis and techniques. Hearing about many newly occurring financial cases and phenomena discussed by the practitioners also enlightened me to the importance of doing some modeling and understanding where the formulas originate. This would enable me to solve fresh problems in the future.

In my pursuit of improving my practical and analytical skills, I moved forward through internship opportunities. At Bank of Communications Schroder Fund Management Ltd, I accomplished more than my assigned duties as intern. The opportunity to get familiar with financial products and conduct research in the industry granted me a fresh understanding of trading strategies. Meanwhile, assisting in building investment portfolios for clients allowed me to build cutting-edge knowledge of statistical models and market analysis skills.

During my Internship at KPMG Hong Kong, I recognized the significant power of market liquidity by truly understanding numerical information from the financial statements of some firms and from communications with the clients. In the Corporate Banking Department of the Bank of China, I understood why money supply and liquidity are critical for companies and the entire economy. Therefore, I realized the necessity of obtaining a clear picture of the economic fundamentals before prematurely starting modeling. I want to be a mutual fund manager in the future, applying my quantitative financial knowledge to the service of investors. An MSc finance degree, with its well-designed curriculum and Financial Markets Group, is critical for my career success.

I hope to attend MSc finance program of LSE, which would equip me with advanced skills in finance and provide me with firsthand experience of financial markets in Europe. Action Learning would help me to learn by doing and more practical experience. Finance Research Practicum would offer me an opportunity to apply my research in a business setting, and that is what I've luckily experienced during the internship at Bank of Communications Schroder Fund Management Ltd. It's greatly beneficial for students' development before graduation.

The complex financial products in the European market, the successful investment principles, and the advanced financial system would provide valuable lessons for an aspiring professional like me. After working as an analyst in UK for a few years, I plan to return to Asia. The similarity between United Kingdom and Hong Kong markets makes it possible for me to develop my own trading strategies based on the solid foundation of financial knowledge gained while at LSE. It might take me another 8 to 10 years to adjust myself from a trader to a mutual fund manager, which demands steadier return performance and smarter risk management. I have no hesitation to put in that time and effort. These challenges further ignite my commitment to achieve the role on which I have set my eyes.

Besides enhancing my professional skills, I am also striving for improvement of my soft skills that are essential to enter into the finance industry. Awarded the Hong Kong Government Scholarship, I did my best to take advantage of the opportunities available to me as an exchange student in the United States. I stepped out of my comfort zone and became largely involved in local culture and activities, training myself to be prepared for a multicultural work environment. Serving as a summer volunteer at a non-profit-organization in one of the poorest provinces in Brazil is also one decision I made to train myself to be more independent and proactive.

The combination of finance exposure and internship experience has provided me with a stronger grasp of my academic courses and of my potential responsibilities as a professional. I am eager to move forward in my career and education in order to continue to make a difference in the world of finance.