

Graduate Admission Essay

Becoming future leaders in the finance sector requires students to “understand the causes of the things”. I strongly agree with this idea and mission of LSE Department of Finance. Either in class or during internship, I strive to shape myself well rounded. My understanding of financial principles and skills as well as my sense of ethics and compliance makes me well prepared for further learning and career.

During my study in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, I 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 could be but also by how mathematics could tear off the mysterious veil of the market 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 Accounting and Finance major student in class. 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 Motion.

Besides enhancing my quantitative skills, I have dedicated myself to a better understanding of financial industry and instruments. Representing my university and sponsored by Honored International Student Ambassador Award of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, I became a delegate of Finance Seminar of The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Conference. With extensive networking with world-leading financial professionals at the Conference, I exposed myself to the breadth of financial analysis and techniques. Many newly occurred financial cases and phenomenon shared by the practitioners also enlightened me that in addition to the foundations of finance concepts, it is more important to be able to do some modeling and to understand where the formulas come from, so that in the future I could be able to solve fresh problems.

Based on the combination of my continuous finance exposure and striving for better quantitative skills, I joined in the Financial Planner Award Competition organized by Institute of Financial Planner of Hong Kong. The team investigated the practical case through numerical information and analyzed financial issues.

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 assigned duties as intern. The opportunity to get familiar with financial products and conduct research in the industry granted me fresh understanding of trading strategies. Meanwhile, assisting in building investment portfolios for clients endowed me with cutting-edge knowledge of statistical models and market analysis.

Aside from building mathematical models, I also cultivated myself non-quantitative financial sense and my sensitive to numbers. During my Internship at KPMG Hong Kong, I recognized the significant power of market liquidity and sentiment by grasping the numerical information from the financial statements of some firms and communications with the clients. In the Corporate Banking Department of Bank of China, I understood why money supply and liquidity are critical for companies and the entire economy. Therefore, I realized the necessity for me to obtain a clear picture of the economic fundamentals before prematurely starting modeling.

I desire to be a mutual fund manager in the future, applying my quantitative financial knowledge to the service for investors. MSc Finance, 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 market 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 in Bank of Communications Schroder Fund Management Ltd. It's greatly beneficial for student's development before graduation.

The complex financial products in the Europe 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 I leant in 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. Though difficult, these challenges further ignite my commitment to achieve the role I have set my eyes on.

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 took the most advantages from my exchange studying in the United States. I stepped out of my comfort zone and largely involved in local culture and activities, training myself to be prepared for multicultural work environment. Serving as a volunteer at a non-profit-organization in one of the poorest provinces in Brazil for one summer is also one decision I made to train myself to be more independent and proactive.

The combination of Finance exposure and internship experience provided me a stronger grasp of my academic courses and of my potential responsibilities as a professional.

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