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# Graduate Personal Statement

I have worked for about seven years at the Japanese Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Japanese Financial Services Agency (FSA), where I currently work as a financial regulator. I am applying for a Master's in Finance and Investment from the University of Edinburgh to study advanced theories of finance and their applications. After finishing your program, I plan to return to the FSA to pursue my long-term professional objective of contributing to the establishment of fair and transparent financial markets in Japan.

My background in finance began as a student of economics at Tohoku University, where I earned top grades in mathematical statistics and econometrics. I also completed graduate-level econometrics seminars that covered the generalized method of moments, unit roots, and cointegration. My coursework gave me the mathematical preparation to succeed in your program.

Since graduating, I have accumulated a wide range of experience in the financial sector, specializing in asset management and foreign currency. I started my career at the XXX in 2009. There, I was responsible for researching American financial regulation reform and the European sovereign debt crisis. That work trained me in the practical application of statistical models and enhanced my analytical skills.

Starting in 2015, I assumed the position of deputy director at the local office of the MOF and the FSA. My team's main task was to monitor security companies providing foreign exchange trading services. When the Swiss franc crashed in January 2015, however, we had to act swiftly to prevent the companies we monitored from collapsing amid the turmoil. I quickly established new risk management tools and delegated specific tasks to the four researchers I supervised so as to maximize their individual skills. In that way, we survived the financial crisis, and I gained problem-solving and management skills that I believe will serve me well in graduate school and beyond. In particular, I hope to convey my professional regulatory experience to my cohort and help us to draw upon each other's individual strengths during group study sessions.

In the professional roles described above, I have seen that financial instruments and services have become increasingly sophisticated. To effectively regulate those instruments and services, regulators must first have an in-depth understanding of them. That is why I am applying to the master's program at Edinburgh: I need to expand my knowledge base to achieve my regulatory goals. I am drawn to your program because it balances core courses like "Investment Theory" and "Credit Risk Management" with a broad range of electives to suit my needs. I then hope to apply these theories through the practical "Consultancy Project" or my dissertation, which will in turn prepare me to excel upon my return to the FSA. I believe there is no better place for me to complete that preparation than at Edinburgh, and I sincerely hope for the opportunity to study at such a great university in such a stunning city.

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