

From Students to Professionals: Stories of EF Graduates



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Dear Friends:

We are very pleased that the following alumni are willing to share their professional profiles with us. These profiles are very useful for our existing students and prospective applicants to our three undergraduate programs, BBA (Hons) Business Economics, BBA (Hons) Finance and BBA (Hons) Quantitative Finance and Risk Management. Students and prospective applicants would know the typical job nature of graduates of our three programs. Prospective applicants would have a better idea on their career path and interests. We hope you enjoy reading these profiles. We wish to thank our alumni again for their support to our students and the department.

With best wishes,
Professor Kenneth Chan
Head of Department of Economics and Finance
City University of Hong Kong
18 June 2010

I am presently an Associate Director in Investment Risk, HSBC Global Asset Management. Before joining HSBC, I was with Prudential Asset Management as Portfolio Strategist. Prior to Prudential, I was Business Planning and Development Manager at Fortis Bank (HK) Branch and Quantitative Analyst at BOCI-Prudential Asset Management.

I got my Bachelor, MPhil and PhD degrees, all from CityU. CityU has provided me the specialized education in Finance for my career.

I have been back to CityU as a seminar speaker. My advice to students is to keep on learning. Being well prepared puts you on a stronger footing to seize opportunities when they come knocking at your door.



CHOW Wai Man, Florence
(1994 Graduate in BSc Finance)

Associate Director,
Investment Risk,
HSBC Global Asset Management (HK)
Limited



FAN Ka Chu, Carles
(2001 Graduate in BBA Financial
Engineering)

Senior Structurer,
Solutions and Structuring Team,
Banco Santander Asia

My three years at the City University studying the BBA Financial Engineering program had a profound impact on my career. The curriculum is adequately structured and courses offered scope for developing my technical knowledge and quantitative skills. Typical courses including Financial Mathematics, Numerical Methods for Finance and Principles of Option Pricing provided me a basic understanding for pricing derivatives and its implementations in general. More importantly, the program prepared me to fit in the fast moving and technology-driven financial world with confidence.

Academic staff members are not only exposed to industrial working experience and connections but are also approachable and very supportive of students. This made learning practically challenging and more interesting! The very well-equipped market information facilities, for example, Bloomberg, Reuters and Datastream and a resourceful library provided the environment I needed for my studies and doing market research. This program allowed me to acquire the necessary skill set, which is highly regarded by the investment banking and finance industry.

There is a long list of reasons explaining why I considered my three years of study in EF most worthwhile and enjoyable. I would like to list the top three of them here. First, it must be the teachers. I am very impressed by the teachers whose enthusiasm is easily seen and felt. Second, the well-structured program really helped me acquire essential business fundamentals. For example, the syndicate group work allows me to learn not only from the textbook, but also the applications of theoretical knowledge from interactions with other students. Third, the Department had given me the opportunities to work and study overseas. It broadened both my business and global horizons, which I believe are essential for my future career development.



FUNG Ka Shing, Wilson
(2008 Graduate in BBA Finance)

Audit Associate,
Audit and Assurance Department,
PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd.



KWAN Chi Wai, Thomas
 (1998 Graduate in BSc Finance)
 Vice President,
 Investment Banking Business,
 OCBC Bank

I joined Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman) after leaving CityU. I chose management consulting due to an inspiring class delivered by an inspiring professor (who had experience with top tier consulting firms before) at CityU. The economics and finance knowledge, particularly related to finance, proved to be very useful in my current career path as a corporate finance practitioner.

I dare not to say that everyone will have the same experience as I had at CityU or that I will forever be a corporate finance practitioner. However, I believe the skills that will really stand the test of time will be the interpersonal and problem solving skills I developed during my three years at CityU. It is this merit of CityU education that I find the most valuable every single day.

I am presently doing compliance-related work for UBS office in Hong Kong. It is an interesting job.

I appreciate very much the efforts of all professors and staff in the EF department. Their comprehensive and passionate teaching makes it easy and comfortable for me to learn up-to-date knowledge and develop my skill sets throughout the years of my tertiary education.

The skills that I acquired from using the information databases available at the department, such as Bloomberg and Reuters, also facilitated my transition to be a professional and helped me to land a job in the financial sector. I am very pleased that the professional knowledge that I gained at CityU is now being applied in my daily work.



LI Wing Yuen, Vitas
 (2009 Graduate in BBA Finance)
 UBS AG

I will be joining Citigroup as an analyst after graduation. I will be doing investment banking work, including initial public offerings and mergers and acquisitions. I really appreciate the efforts of EF department in providing lots of opportunities for me. For example, in 2008, I was selected to study at Carnegie Mellon University in the US where I joined several finance competitions as well as a local student-run fund management team. Working and studying with the US students has given me a good international exposure.

Through the assistance of our department, I joined Morgan Creek Capital as an intern after my second year. Morgan Creek is a US-based firm focusing on alternative investments. As an intern, I was able to work with senior investors and

get hands-on experience in the investment industry. All these help me to secure a good job. Besides the exchange program and internship, I also gain from practical courses. For instance, there is a course called "Trading Room Workshop" which simulates real-life trading of financial instruments like stocks, bonds and options.

Our department also organizes the Business Elites Seminar Talk where experienced professionals and alumni are invited to share their professional experience with us. These professionals give us good career advice too.

It has been 16 years since I graduated from the City University of Hong Kong. Yet, my memories of university life remain as fresh as if I graduated not long ago.

As I studied science in high school, my first year as a finance student at the University was not easy. I found it difficult to pick up commercial subjects including accounting, economics and finance in the beginning. Thanks to the guidance of the professors and tutors of the Economics and Finance Department, I gradually caught up with my classmates. The finance training I received at the University was practical and comprehensive. It paved my way for a smooth transition from the academic to the commercial world.

I like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. K C Lim who has lent me continuous support in my academic and career development. I am proud of being a finance graduate of the City University of Hong Kong. I feel the ambition of the Economics and Finance Department in making the degree programs to be among the best in the world.



MAN Ka Kwan, Carleton
 (1994 Graduate in BSc Finance)
 Vice President, Team Head,
 Investment Banking Department,
 ORIX Asia Limited

It was an invaluable experience to study at the Department of Economics and Finance, City University of Hong Kong. The program is so comprehensive and well-organized. It provides a step by step structure for students to gain professional knowledge. I was able to acquire broad and deep knowledge of finance from the courses I have taken.

I now have a better appreciation of how various types of securities are priced, how investment banks measure the risks of portfolios and how institutions hedge risks. Many courses are so practical that we can easily apply the knowledge and models learned in the professional world.



TSANG Tsz Man, Damon
 (2009 Graduate in BBA Finance)
 Audit Associate,
 Deloitte Touche Tomatsu

Apart from the courses, perhaps the best part of the program is that courses are taught by so many experienced professors. They are very passionate about teaching. This was reflected in the teaching quality. I also found the support provided by the department really helpful.



TANG Hon Fai, Jacky
 (2006 Graduate in BBA Financial Engineering)
*Investment Consultant,
 Sun Hung Kai Financial*

I joined Sun Hung Kai Financial as an investment consultant after graduation. My job principally focuses on brokerage services and suggesting investment decisions to clients based on my analysis on markets and a variety of financial instruments. My duties also include trade execution, credit controls, and portfolio management.

Over the past year, the capriciousness of the world financial markets made my job more challenging. I will have to keep up with new rules and regulations in response to the subprime mortgage crisis and the Lehman Brothers incident.

I have established good relationships with my clients. I get job satisfaction when my clients appreciate my financial recommendations and reward me with their trust and respect. The respect from my clients and their trust in me makes me feel successful and confident on this career path that I have taken.

Having worked in Sun Hung Kai Financial for almost four years now, I find that the financial markets not only provides opportunities to make money but it also teaches me the right attitude to confront difficulties, formulate strategies and grasp chances to success.

I have had great time learning at CityU. From the very beginning, the support and the guidance that I received helped lay a strong foundation for me to transform into a professional. I have learned to value other people's opinions whilst maintaining the integrity of my own. I am always given opportunity to express myself in class and debate with peers the contemporary issues from different perspectives.

During my second year, I started building up confidence and at the same time I examined my weaknesses and addressed them. I have made some great friends too. The respect that my seniors at CityU have given me has allowed me to learn in an amiable environment in which you are encouraged to discuss about your career and future.

Over my three years of study here, I could feel CityU's level of commitment to be the best, and I am lucky enough to have the chance to attribute my personal growth to this strong enthusiasm. What I have learned here will stay with me for the rest of my life.



WU Kai Yip, Dick
 (2010 Graduate in BBA Business Economics)
*Analyst,
 Barclays Capital*

My four years at the City University of Hong Kong are certainly a precious memory in my life. It was a golden time for me to learn, to experience, and to grow up.

We learned from dedicated professors and tutors during lectures and tutorials. Small tutorials in certain courses facilitated interaction and discussion of our views. Almost every course is designed to have projects and presentations. We could apply what we learned, hone our presentation skills, and build teamwork as well. The online resources such as e-learning facilitated our learning even when we were at home. The free "Financial Times" outside the office provided up-to-date business news. The i-Corner outside our department offered us access to information platforms, including Bloomberg.

University life is not only about studies. Overseas exposures such as student exchange to the University of Bath in UK provided me great opportunities to explore the marvelous world outside Hong Kong. My participation in the 2008 University Investment Research Competition organized by the Hong Kong Society of Financial Analysts, a member society of the CFA Institute, gave me a chance to work like a financial analyst in the financial sector. The 2nd Runner-up prize that my team received in the regional Greater China competition is a testimony that the rigorous programs at EF prepare students well for jobs in the finance and related business sectors.

The education at EF has directly benefited my day-to-day work. For an investment analyst working in an investment consulting firm, knowledge in finance and economics is crucial. From the basics of mean variance risk/return analysis to the working knowledge of how different derivative products work, from general macroeconomic and microeconomic concepts to the understanding of economy and development, I believe that all the things I learned when I was at the EF Department have laid a good foundation for my career.

More important than the knowledge itself are the problem-solving skills and the ability of independent thinking that I picked up during the three-year program. The nature of my job requires independent thinking and group discussion on a daily basis. My skills in analyzing and solving problems, as well as in expressing personal opinions in a group environment, are the fruits of my university life.

I believe the current programs offered by the EF Department equip students with adequate knowledge and competitiveness in the market. The opportunities for students to write individual and group reports, to make professional presentations and to work under time pressure are all valuable for their future careers.



ZHANG Shichen
 (2006 Graduate in BBA Finance)
*Associate Consultant,
 Mercer Investment Consulting Limited*

Five years ago, I was a freshman with a strong drive to learn but knew little about the financial and business world. Now, I am a confident graduate and am working to develop my career in this exciting and prosperous industry. I owe it to the EF Department, where I took my very first and important step in the transformation from a student to a professional. The BBA Finance program had helped me build a solid foundation in financial principles and quantitative skills. It also gave me a great platform to go abroad and gain international exposure and perspective – a very important asset in today's globalized marketplace. I enjoyed my learning and growing experience in EF with great help from highly professional and enthusiastic professors.



ZHOU Zihui, Colleen
 (2008 Graduate in BBA Finance)
*Client Service Officer,
 Global Wealth Management,
 Merrill Lynch*