Cover Letter

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this cover letter to inform you of aspects of myself that might not be immediately apparent from the rest of my application for the Standard Bank Quantitative Modelling Graduate Program.

The reason I am currently doing my Masters in mathematics, and plan to do my PhD not too long thereafter, is simply because I love mathematics, both researching it, studying it and developing theories and solving problems both old and new, and teaching it to others. It’s like the way a master chef would love cooking so much that he yearns to understand how the different ingredients work together so that he can make new, tasty and interesting combinations from materials that others have taken for granted, as well as find (and perhaps even make) new spices, meats, vegetables that he can use to tantalise your taste buds.

This ability to solve old unsolved problems and develop new beautiful theories of mathematics is an essential tool for a mathematician, and one that I believe I have exhibited in my coursework while doing my BSc and BSc Hons at the University of Cape Town. This analytic mindedness and ability to learn very quickly (especially when it comes to mathematical things), coupled with a drive for innovation and solving problems in new ways, will I believe stand me in good stead in the position as a quantitative modeller at Standard Bank. Indeed, my third and fourth year projects were the products of my own individual and original research, and that in the midst of being ‘reassured’ that these projects needed not to be original research, that an exposition on work already done was sufficient.

That is another quality which I believe stands me in good stead, which I learnt from my mother: that drive to perform at my best regardless of the opinions and instructions of the world around me to live a mediocre life. This and other talents and characteristics I possess will take me far in the academic world, showing the men and women and boys and girls of the impoverished community that I grew up in that success in the greater world beyond is more than possible, but compulsory. So do consider my application for this position with all due zeal and diligence.

Regards

Liam Baker