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Dear Old Mutual Wealth,

I am a Second year Computer Science student currently studying at Nottingham Trent University. I achieved a 2:1 in my first year, and fully believe I have the ability and ambition to achieve a First class degree overall. I'm writing to you concerning your placement programme, commencing July 2016 until September of the same year. More specifically, I have applied for the roles of Fund manager, Information Technologist and Research Analyst. As a resident of Southampton, one of Old Mutual Wealth's key locations, the company has been at the forefront of my mind ever since I found interest in the banking and finance industry several years ago. Furthermore, I am aware of the positive impact your company has had on the financial wellbeing of many friends and family, and would like to be a part of such an influential company. As a result of this, Old Mutual Wealth was the first institute in which I sought a placement opportunity.

I have been drawn to this company because it sounds like an environment that genuinely believes in developing the careers of young individuals interested in the finance industry, whether they come from a Computing, Engineering, Physical sciences, Accounting or Finance-based background. This is really encouraging and something that I feel is very unique within the industry. The companies transparency is also refreshing, it's not often that you see a large institution such as yourselves advertising their financial performance on their homepage. For the past several years my primary interests have been computing and finance, which is why I went to University, and what I have revolved all of my work around ever since. In particular, I enjoy building software involving the collection, analysis and manipulation of stock market data. For example, last year I built a program that returns important information from a companies 10Q and 10K reports, and returns the data to the user. In addition to this, I produced a python script to scan a spreadsheet containing over 30,000 rows of data on real-world mutual funds. The opportunity to develop software similar to this but on an enterprise-level is really exciting to me. For example, I would love to learn about how Old Mutual Wealth builds and maintains its in-house software. Doing all of this with the support and feedback of a colleague sounds like a great way of learning about an industry I am very passionate about.

My financial-experience comes from being trusted with my own money from a very young age, and teaching myself how to invest safely and responsibly, whilst managing risk and training myself to spot opportunities in various different markets, sectors and industries. The maintenance of my own portfolio has been crucial in teaching me the importance of good money management, and therefore I feel as though I am up to the task of managing a professional fund. Along the way I've made a lot of decisions, both good and bad, but most importantly I have learned a lot from all of them and they're mine. These experiences have shaped who I am today, and have resulted in me being confident in my thought processes, methodologies and strategies. I feel like a good balance between self-confidence, good listening skills and a real passion for the industry will make me a valuable team member within your company. In addition to this, my real-world involvement in investing, trading and portfolio management provides an edge when it comes to the software that I build and the qualities I bring.

I feel I have the skills to be competent in many areas of the company, especially those that involve heavy use of computers and other information systems. Ensuring customers receive solid financial advice is something I am passionate about and have demonstrated this desire to help through my friends and family. Furthermore, working in a job or placement that has grown from personal interests that I am very passionate about seems like the biggest bonus I could ever receive. I have attached my CV and look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours faithfully,

Ashley Thompson
