



# Diogo Gil

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am writing to express my strong motivation to join the International Master's in Finance at Nova School of Business and Economics. With an academic background in Physics, professional experience in Risk at BNP Paribas and a deep interest in how analytical reasoning can shape financial decisions, I consider this programme to be the natural next step in my academic and professional journey.

Throughout my studies in my bachelor's degree in physics with minor in Computer engineering, I developed a rigorous quantitative mindset strengthened by programming, and mathematical modelling. These skills laid the foundation for how I think about complex systems, a skill that I now apply to financial risk.

I am currently pursuing a Master's in Applied Mathematics to Economics and Management at the University of Lisbon, where I have been consolidating my quantitative and analytical skills through courses such as Probability and Statistics, Practical Statistics and Data Science, Operational Research Models, Multivariate Data Analysis and Advanced Analysis. This program has provided me with a rigorous foundation in data-enabled problem-solving and analytical reasoning, which I believe to be critical toolsets for analysing and "controlling" complex financial systems. Yet I learned that what really drives me is applying this way of thinking to finance, particularly risk, and strategic decisions in global markets. That is the reason for which I am eager to attend the International Master's in Finance at Nova SBE, where I can bridge my technical background with the financial expertise and global exposure that will allow me to make a meaningful impact in the field.

My present role within BNP Paribas' Rising Talents Program has granted me the opportunity to work within the Risk department, where I learned first-hand the critical role of structured thought in financial institutions. This experience further strengthened my desire to carve a career path that combines analytics and strategy in finance.

Beyond academics and work, I have always tried to expand my horizons. After completing some online courses from Yale, IESE, and Columbia, I delved into subjects like financial markets, corporate finance, and financial engineering, strengthening both my curiosity and preparation to pursue a demanding academic program such as the IMF. I also worked as a junior consultant at D&G Consultants, mainly contributing on data-driven decision-making projects, and as private tutor in mathematics and physics, where I developed my leadership skills, and has a waiter in two different restaurants.

At the same time, I have an entrepreneurial drive. In 2024, I co-founded EatSimple, a project focused on simplifying healthy eating through data-driven tools. While still at an early stage, it has given me a hands-on understanding of business strategy, and execution, skills I am eager to refine in Nova's environment of innovation.

What draws me most to Nova SBE, is its international scope, the chance to be taught in a community that values both analytical rigor and practical influence. The IMF's structure, with its strong quantitative core to international finance, perfectly aligns with my long-term goal to work abroad in investment or quantitative finance, where data-driven knowledge is applied in concrete financial decisions.

I believe my quantitative background, professional experience, and entrepreneurial mindset would make me a strong contributor to Nova's community. I am excited about the possibility of joining a program that reflects my ambition and determination to grow.

Thank you for considering my application.  
Sincerely,

Diogo Gil