YODHITA

**Essay 1 Instructions: In roughly 250-500 words please describe your educational goals and those academic and/or professional achievements which have contributed most to your development.**

With my goal of leading a venture capital (VC), I need to equip myself with a stronger foundation in finance while also possessing the versatility to adopt the elements of computer science and technology, among others, to be able to differentiate my VC from other investment firms. That is why, despite taking several Finance courses during and after my undergraduate studies, there are areas that I aim to study further, such as the use of data and programming in finance, which will enable me to create analytic tools to effectively assess my investments in MSMEs. I believe that pursuing a postgraduate degree in finance will elevate both my core knowledge and my credentials in finance. Particularly, the MSFE program at Columbia aligns with my objective as the interdisciplinary curriculum prepares me with the necessary skill sets in order to become an innovative leader in the field of finance.

As an Economics graduate, I am equipped with the fundamental knowledge of how the market system works. I have also taken several financial courses during and after my undergraduate studies to complement my knowledge in economics and understand the relation between economic forces and financial markets.

Aside from my studies during my undergraduate years, I have looked for other opportunities to hone my financial analysis and quantitative skills. To understand the capital market, I interned at the Investment Banking division of Mandiri Sekuritas, a leading brokerage firm in Indonesia. Having the opportunity to get involved in projects related to the capital market underwriting process for some of the largest companies in Indonesia, I was able to acquire skills in corporate valuations, financial modeling, and deal structuring. I managed to develop technical skills relevant to capital raising and learn the big picture of investing.

After graduating, I worked as a forensics associate at PwC South East Asia Consulting (SEAC) where I served clients from various sectors. In one of the projects that I worked on, I represented a buy-side multinational company and was involved in the due diligence process for an ongoing acquisition deal. By reviewing transactions of the target company, I managed to identify potential fraudulent transactions, with signs of bribery and corruption, resulting in questionable outstanding receivables. I then collected evidence showing that these transactions were conducted with related parties and there were no supporting documents to ensure a transparent and fair business practice in selecting the companies as a subcontractor. Our team’s findings ended up halting the acquisition plan and prevented over US$50 million potential financial losses for the acquiring company. My experience in PwC has equipped me with strong quantitative skills, a structured and analytical thought process, and great attention to details, all of which will allow me to thrive in the MSFE program at Columbia.

My professional and academic experiences have provided me with a strong foundation in finance. I am excited to pursue my studies in the MSFE program at Columbia University and apply the knowledge that I obtain from the program to further build my career in finance.

**Essay 2 Instructions: In 250-500 words please indicate your expected career track (examples include, but are not limited to, consulting, banking, asset management, research and modeling, risk management, etc.) and describe how the Master of Science in Financial Economics will help you attain your career goals. Please be specific.**

My long term goal is to create a VC firm focusing on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Accounting for more than 60% of Indonesia’s GDP and over 90% of its labor market, MSMEs often struggle to secure financing other than expensive micro loans to expand their businesses. Hence, I aim to build a platform that invests in MSMEs to improve funding accessibility so that they can grow their business and further contribute to Indonesia's welfare.

Columbia’s MSFE program is perfect to launch my career because it combines highly quantitative and data-driven modules, while also offering financial economics courses that can complement my undergraduate degree in economics. A thorough understanding of how the market system works will enable me to invest in MSMEs while taking into account the current and future economic situation when evaluating investment prospects.

From the program’s courses, I am interested in taking the Entrepreneurial Finance class to understand the financial considerations and challenges faced by businesses, therefore I can carefully evaluate MSMEs prior to investing and develop the proper strategies to grow them. Additionally, the Foundations of VC course allows me to learn best practices in deal structuring and valuation methods in growing ventures. Both of these courses will then serve as prerequisites for the Building a VC Investment Thesis course, in which I am eager to learn under Professor Angela Lee with her expertise in investing and building businesses, including evaluating investment prospects. From her, I also hope to obtain valuable insights regarding VC investing and learn more from her experiences of working with her fellow investors through her investing network, 37 Angels, and the numerous entrepreneurs that she has evaluated throughout her journey.

Outside of class, I plan to get plenty of practical experiences by participating in extracurricular activities and maximizing my experience at Columbia. I intend to join the Columbia Women in Business (CWiB) to sharpen my leadership skills by participating in the Leadership Development and Mentoring programs and expand my network through the series of events that the CWiB holds, which is important since networking is a key aspect in building a venture capital. I am also eager to learn valuable insights from the experiences of female leaders in finance that CWiB invites as its speaker to its Conference programs. In addition, I also plan to participate in the Venture Capital club to learn more about the entrepreneurial ecosystem and the role of VC in that ecosystem.

Upon graduating from the MSFE program, I see myself going back to Indonesia and working as an investment analyst at one of the leading VCs. Surrounding myself with experts in the field and observing how they value and assess businesses before deciding to invest will be pivotal to achieving my goal.

I am a determined person who always gives my best and eager to learn new things. The idea of continuing my degree outside my hometown fills me with motivation and determination to succeed as I believe I can develop not only my knowledge and skills to pursue a career in the financial profession, but also my resilience. At Columbia, I look forward to taking one step closer to shaping my future and contributing to the Columbia Business School community.