Data Science in Financial Technology: Risk Management and Fraud Detection

Lilian Okpo, 2310768

12 March 2024

1 Introduction

Data science has become increasingly crucial in various sectors and industries including finance. In the United Kingdom, the financial sector has seen major advancements through the application of data analysis, statistical and programming techniques. This report explores the role of data science in the UK's financial industry, highlighting its impact and potentials.

2 The Importance of Data Science in Fin-Tech

Data science plays a vital role in various aspects of finance such as risk management, fraud detection,customer segmentation and strategies for investments. By analysing vast amounts of financial data, various institutions can make informed decisions, enhance performance and optimize analytic processes.

3 Applications in the UK Financial Industry

3.1 Risk Management

One of the primary applications of data science in the financial industry in the united Kingdom is risk management. By leveraging machine learning

algorithms, the financial institutions can assess and mitigate various credit and market risks.

3.2 Fraud Detection

Data science techniques are widely employed for fraud detection in the financial sector. Advanced anomaly detection algorithms and analytics are used to identify suspicious activities and also to prevent fraudulent operations.

4 Mathematical Models

Mathematical models are fundamental in data science for financial applications. Two examples of essential equations commonly used are the Black-Scholes equation for option pricing [1] and the Capital Asset Pricing Model(CAPM) [2].

1. Black-Scholes Equation:

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS\frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0 \tag{1}$$

2. Capital Asset Pricing Model(CAPM):

$$E(R_i) = R_f + \beta_i(E(R) - R_f) \tag{2}$$

Equation 1 represents the Black-Scholes equation, while equation 2 illustrates the CAPM.

5 Conclusion

Data science has revolutionized the United Kingdom's financial industry, enabling institutions to extract valuable insights from data and improve on their decision making processes. By leveraging mathematical models and advanced analytics, financial organizations can work competitively and address evolving challenges effectively.

References

[1] Black F, Scholes M. The pricing of options and corporate liabilities. Journal of Political Economy. 1973;81(3):637-54.

[2] Sharpe WF. Capital asset prices: A theory of market equilibrium under conditions of risk. Journal of Finance. 1964;19(3):425-42.

MA199 Assignment 4.1: Self-Awareness

12 March 2024 at midday; submit via FASER

Student Registration Number:	2310768
Name of Personal Tutor:	Ferdowsi, Saideh

Summary

This assignment is worth **20% of your final MA199 module mark**. This assignment is in 5 parts, where each part is worth 5%. You are expected to reflect critically on your own self-awareness in the context of career decisions and planning. High marks will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate a good level of breadth and depth to their responses. Where possible, you should also provide evidence and attempt to quantify/qualify what you write

Your submitted work is expected to be about 2 pages of A4. You may wish to produce the personal profile document in the self-awareness based lesson on Moodle to help you with this (link is available on the MA199 Moodle page)

The text boxes will expand as you write – you don't have to restrict yourself to the space given.

Part 1: In the box below you should **tell your story**. Outline your background, previous education and experiences, values, motivations and give some details about why you are studying your postgraduate course.

My education background is based on my undergraduate degree in business education in marketing as well as my professional certifications in business management.

My previous work experiences after my undergraduate degree span across various sectors in finance and data entry.

My first experience in Finance as a marketing executive in Mutual Benefit Life Assurance Limited in Nigeria groomed me in creating high quality marketing strategies, documentations, briefs FAQs as well as objection handling documents. I gained essential skills in developing technical and non-technical marketing presentations, public relations campaigns, articles, and newsletters. It also enabled me to carry out research in industry and marketplace trends to develop marketing solutions, enhance business operations and then make monthly and annual reports to support executive decision-making processes.

My second experience in Finance as a financial advisor with First bank Insurance in Nigeria gave me the effective skills to analyze clients' financial situations to identify their basic insurance needs, risk tolerance and plan their long-term goal after retirement. I integrated insurance products into clients' broader financial plans to help them achieve their financial objectives and to enable them to make better financial decisions for their future.

My first experience in the world of big data is my time as a data entry / capturer at VIP Express Tourism Limited which gave me the essential skills in providing essential insights into inventory management and real time stock levels to ensure accurate and available products for internal teams and customers. I demonstrated a very high proficiency in swift and error-free entry of client information into databases thereby helping me maintain data accuracy.

My second experience in big data that motivated me to take a post graduate degree in Applied data science is my job as a data analyst at Info scope Technologies which gave me effective skills in transforming numbers and data into understandable stories that helped the company to make smart decisions and make the data understandable to every member of the organization. I worked closely with different teams to make sure the company projects are well documented, and analysis is done strategically using data that is readable and accessible to everyone.

This encouraged me to seek further training and education in data science so I can be groomed with the right data tools and programming languages to aid in my future career as a data scientist so I can contribute immensely to various organizational bodies, especially in the financial industry.

Part 2: **When are you at your best? When are you not at your best?** Reflect on when you tend to do well, when you feel motivated and driven. Then think about when you tend to feel drained or demotivated.

I am at my best performance when I am emotionally and psychologically focused, it helps me to stay alert and attentive in any situation to attain productive results.

I am not at my best when I am extremely stressed and mentally down as I tend to lose focus no matter how hard I try, especially when I keep making efforts and not getting the desirable results.

Coming to the UK as an international student hoping to transition into data science, I was so intrigued and excited as I will be getting the desirable skills I need to move forward in my career. After a few months in a new environment trying to adapt and associate myself with the standards in the country as well as trying to achieve the desirable grades in my studies, it became more difficult as I progressed further.

I struggle so much with my schoolwork even after seeking assistance from study support groups for my various modules held in school which in turn affected my grades a whole lot. I suffered from severe anxiety, and it made coping with my life here as an international student more tasking and difficult.

Also job hunting and trying to get internships and graduate training / entry roles has been extremely difficult and draining despite efforts to make several adjustments with the help of various workshops organized by the departments.

I feel drained and demotivated having lots of financial restraints in trying to complete my degree, having issues in most of my courses, projects and grades as well as receiving daily rejections from various job applications for internships and graduate roles.

Part 3: What do you consider to be your **strengths?** What do you consider to be your **weaknesses?** Explain your answers - what made you choose these and in what ways do your strengths and weaknesses come out?

I consider my strength to be my ability to keep going forward no matter how disappointing the situation appears to be and that is what keeps me going in achieving my set goals and objectives in my future career.

My constant battle with depression, insomnia and anxiety are my major weaknesses and this has affected me in my study in so many ways.

Part 4: Consider your values, motivations and interests (in your personal and professional life) Identify your **3 most important ones** and outline why you chose them and how they impact upon you.

My three core values are diligence, enthusiasm, and accountability.
Diligence: this has helped me to be able to stay true to myself in whatever situation and enables me to also get things done at the right time no matter the surrounding circumstances at that moment for me to attain the desirable results.

Enthusiasm: this has given me the ability and zeal to push myself to attain greater heights in my chosen career path and put in the work for effective results.

Accountability: this has groomed me to be able to meet my set target goals and achieve the desirable results whether I am supervised or not so that I can achieve effective and efficient results.

Part 5: What have you learnt from your answers in Part 1-4? How might this inform your plans for the future, your time at Essex or the actions you might need to take to get to where you want to be?

My time in Essex has enabled me to learn, adapt and assimilate the right information needed to move my future career to the desirable point to enable me to achieve my set goals and objectives.
My time in Essex has also helped me to get the necessary skills to enable me to achieve my set down career objectives and goals for my future as a data scientist.

MA199 Assignment 4.2: Opportunity Awareness

12 March 2024 at midday; submit via FASER

Student Registration Number:	2310768
Name of Personal Tutor:	Ferdowsi, Saideh

Summary

This assignment is worth **20% of your final MA199 module mark**. For this task, you need to independently explore and research job roles and job sectors to investigate the graduate labour market. This includes both job roles where a Maths degree is essential, as well as those careers where a Maths degree is useful or can be an advantage. Using the information gathered for your self-awareness assignment you will personalise your research and assess your current labour market position.

This assignment can also be adapted to explore PhD and research opportunities (such as KTPs and operational research), including an evaluation of PhD programmes.

The following events and resources may be useful for this task:

- Careers Centre (including online resources at www.essex.ac.uk/careers)

- Seminar slides on Moodle

- IMA Maths Careers website: http://www.ima.org.uk/careers.cfm

- Prospects website: https://www.prospects.ac.uk/

For this assignment you will need to do your own personalised and independent research and then undertake the following tasks:

1. Research job profiles and identify one role that interests you and is appropriate to pursuing a career in a Maths-related area.

2. Identify a second job profile that interests you, where a Maths postgraduate degree is not essential, but would give you an advantage.

3. Pick one of the above job profiles and explain in detail what this job involves and the skills needed for success. Reflect on the extent to which you meet the skills requirements for the role.

4. Investigate a job sector that you would like to find out more about. For this sector, explain three key trends in the sector and identify three companies or organisations recruiting in this sector.

In all cases you must explain where you get your information from.

The word counts are for guidance only and you will not be penalised for going over / under as long as all relevant information is included.

The text boxes will expand as you write – you don't have to restrict yourself to the space given.

Section 1 – Identify a job role that interests you and is appropriate to pursuing a career in a Maths-related area

In the box below you should outline the results of your research into a Maths related job role.

You must explain the sources where you get your information from. *(Word guide – 50 words for each heading.)*

1. **Job Role: Coder in Residence, South Hampstead High School, London**

2. **Typical duties and responsibilities: To help ignite a love for coding and technology in young learners which involves leading engaging coding sessions that encourage pupils to experiment, problem solving and critical thinking. To also provide personalized coaching to pupils where necessary tailoring your approach to the individual needs and learning styles of the students.**

3. **Entry Qualifications: This is a one-year post that would suit someone who is currently undertaking undergraduate or post graduate study in a subject area relevant to computer science, math, or other STEM areas.**

4. **Skills, qualities, and attributes required for the role: Applicant will have to be proficient in Python and block-based programming such as scratch with strong coaching and communication skills.**

5. **Professional Development/professional examinations:**
All applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Sources of information:
www.prospects.ac.uk

Section 2 – Identify a job role that interests you where Maths is not essential but would give you an advantage

In the box below you should outline the results of your research into a job role where Maths is not essential but would give you an advantage.

You must explain the sources where you get your information from. *(Word guide – 50 words for each heading.)*

1.   **Job Role:**
Business Management Degree Apprenticeship, Fujitsu, Manchester

2.   **Typical duties and responsibilities: As a degree Apprentice Fujitsu, you will be allocated to one of our Early Careers Role streams. Each role stream will provide you with the specific training, network and support needed to start a career at Fujitsu. Additionally, responsibilities included in the job role are:**
a) Incident Management and liaising with our customers to resolve service issues.
b) Ensuring that internal processes are managed delivered to senior managers.
c) Investigating and delivering service improvement changes.
d) Supporting our social value initiatives.

3.   **Entry Qualifications: Evidence of level 2 qualification in Math's and English at GCSE grade C or equivalent.**
Some applicants may not have traditional qualifications as listed above, and have prior learning and skills developed from the workplace, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

4.   **Skills, qualities and attributes required for the role:**
Self-awareness, leadership, business awareness and business knowledge.

5.   **Professional Development/professional examinations: Degree apprenticeship is open to candidates with the right to work in the UK.**

Sources of information:
www.prospects.ac.uk

Section 3 – Explore the extent to which your self-awareness of skills meets the requirement of the job opportunity (matching self-awareness to opportunity awareness)

You should choose either the job role identified in Section 1 or the Section 2 job role and explain in detail the skills, quality and attributes needed for success in the role. Revisit assignment 4.1 Self Awareness and reflect on the extent to which you meet the skills requirements for this role.

You must explain the sources where you get your information from.

(Word guide – 200-300 words in total)

1. Job role being investigated: Coder in Residence, South Hampstead High School, London

2. Skills, qualities and attributes needed for success in the role: Applicant will have to be proficient in Python and block-based programming such as scratch with strong coaching and communication skills.

3. Reflection on the extent to which you meet the role requirements:
Reflecting on my self-awareness of skills, I possess a good level of proficiency in Python and block-based programming, having utilized those programming languages to an extensive level in my personal and academic projects.
I have been coached and mentored in coding-related activities and projects, helping me develop strong communication skills and the ability to transfer practical knowledge in a more simplified way to others. I am passionate about technology and education, and I believe I have the capacity to inspire young learners and to foster their interest in coding and technology.
I am also willing to refine my teaching techniques to cater to diverse learning styles and I am very confident in my ability to tailor my approach to meet the individual needs of students.

Sources of information: The skills, qualities and attributes needed for attaining success in the Coder in Residence role was derived from the job description provided in section 1 and then further elaborated based on my knowledge of educational and coding related roles.

Section 4 – Investigate a job sector you would like to know more about

For this sector, explain three key trends in your chosen sector and identify three companies or agencies recruiting in this sector.

(Word guide – 200-300 words in total)

1. Job sector being investigated: Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning and Data Science in the UK's Financial Industry.

2. Three key trends in this sector: a) Increased automation across the financial industries leading to a higher demand for Artificial Intelligence and Machine learning solutions to optimize decision making processes.
b) The advancements in deep learning algorithms and neural networks, enabling more sophisticated AI applications in areas such as natural language processing, computer vision and autonomous systems.

c) Growing emphasis on ethical AI development and regulation with companies focusing on transparency, fairness, and accountability in AI system to address the concerns about bias and privacy in the technology industries.

3. Three companies or agencies recruiting in this sector:
a) Google: known for its extensive use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies across various products and services and constantly recruiting talented individuals in AI research, software engineering and data science roles.
b) Microsoft: Known for initiatives such as Microsoft Azure, AI and research and majorly invested in AI development. Microsoft often hire professionals skilled in machine learning, AI ethics and data analysis.
c) Open AI: This is a leading research organization in Artificial Intelligence and known to offer opportunities for researchers, engineers, and policy experts to contribute to cutting-edge AI projects while also addressing societal challenges associated with AI deployment.

Sources of information: Industry reports, articles and research insights from Google, Microsoft and OpenAI.

MA199 Assignment 4.3: Decision Learning

12 March 2024 at midday; submit via FASER

Student Registration Number:	2310768
Name of Personal Tutor:	Ferdowsi, Saideh

Summary

This assignment is worth **20% of your final MA199 module mark**. For this task, you should create a realistic and achievable career and professional development plan, narrowing down a broad range of potential job roles to more focused goals. You should identify two goals: one career-related and one professional development goal and specify the actions necessary to help you achieve these goals. Each action in your development plan should be prepared using SMART objectives to help you accomplish your goals.
.
The following resources are useful for this task:

- Seminar slides on Moodle
- 'Career Action Planning' course on Moodle

For this assignment you will need to do your own personalised and independent research and then undertake the following tasks:

1. Identify one career-related and one professional development goal.

2. For each goal identify a number of specific actions you can take to work towards your goal.

3. Set SMART objectives for each action using the template below.

In all cases you must explain where you get your information from.

The text boxes will expand as you write – you don't have to restrict yourself to the space given.

1. **Career-related goal: (for example, exploring a specific job role or sector): To get a graduate job as a data scientist.**

2. **Overall target date for achieving this goal: 3 months.**

3. **Sources of information: online career job sites for graduate jobs and internships.**

What are the Specific actions I need to take to achieve my goal?	What will my Measurable success criteria be?	What support or resources will I need to Achieve this action?	How is this Relevant to my future career plans?	What is the Target date for accomplishing this action?
To apply for graduate entry job roles daily.	To be able to get a graduate job or Internship position as a data scientist	Access to open graduate job sites and also career sites for open internship positions.	It will help me get entry into the real world of big data and enable me work on company projects to improve my programming skills needed to boost my career in data science	June 2024

1. **Professional development goal: (for example, improve my oral communication skills): To improve my programming and strategic management skills.**

2. **Overall target date for achieving this goal: 4 months**

3. **Sources of information: LinkedIn learning, Udemy, University of Essex moodle page.**

What are the Specific actions I need to take to achieve my goal?	What will my Measurable success criteria be?	What support or resources will I need to Achieve this action?	How is this Relevant to my future career plans?	What is the Target date for accomplishing this action?
To put in efforts to complete my 100 days of code project I am currently undertaking on Udemy.	To successfully complete my learning tools and courses on Udemy and LinkedIn learning with	Constant access to the internet and set time to learn and practice every day.	It will help me grow and project my skills to enable me perform effectively in roles relating to my career in data science.	September 2024

	practical projects successfully worked on.			

MA199 Assignment 4.4: Transition Learning

12 March 2024 at midday; submit via FASER

Student Registration Number:	2310768
Name of Personal Tutor:	Ferdowsi, Saideh

Summary

This assignment is worth **20% of your final MA199 module mark**. You are required to search out and find a real postgraduate level job, or postgraduate level training, or further postgraduate study, that you would be interested in applying for, complete the application form and/or write an updated CV and covering letter (making them specific to the position in question), attend an interview, and then reflect on the whole application process.

There are four parts to this assignment:

i) You must first search out and find the position or postgraduate programme you are interested in. You then need to provide evidence of this position or programme (it must be a real position at postgraduate level or equivalent and a real postgraduate programme). Examples of 'evidence' would be a copy of the job advert, details of the course and institution you are applying for, etc. Note that the postgraduate level position is interpreted in a broad sense and it is fine to include (for example) details of a PhD course you are applying for. You should also write a short reflective statement explaining why you are interested in this position or programme.

(Part i mark is worth 5%)

ii) You should provide a copy of the application form that you have prepared (if the position or programme has one; a screen grab or picture is fine for this if it is an online form) or alternatively, an updated copy of your CV and a covering letter (adapted and made relevant for this particular position or programme of study).

(Part ii mark is worth 8%)

iii) You should attend a postgraduate level interview and briefly reflect on how you feel you did and what you learnt from the experience. Note that the interview needs to be at postgraduate level but does not necessarily have to be directly linked to the job application in parts i) and ii) if this is not possible.

(Part iii mark is worth 5%)

iv) You must write a final short reflective statement about the whole application experience, explaining what was difficult (or easy) and what you would do differently in the future.

(Part iv mark is worth 7%)

IMPORTANT NOTE – you do NOT have to do all these tasks from scratch. If you have already completed a job application or had an interview this year then you can include these experiences in your assignment (as long as the position or programme is a postgraduate level one). Similarly, you don't actually have to have applied for the position in question in reality, as long as you prepare an

appropriate application that could be used for this purpose (although if you have done all the work, why not apply anyway?)

If you have not attended an interview for a postgraduate level position yet then you can use the Interview360 system on CareerHub+ where you can set up a virtual interview to test yourself.

Note that you do not have to restrict yourself to the space available in each box of the template (you can expand these or add additional pages to include pictures or pages from your CV for example). Similarly, the word counts mentioned are guides only – you will not be penalised if you write slightly more or if you make all the key points required using less words.

Part i) Evidence and Motivation for Postgraduate Level Position (5%)

In section A you should provide details of the postgraduate level position or postgraduate programme applied for and the date you saw the advert or made the application. This could be a screen grab or picture of the job advert, details of the course applied for, or simply a description of the position and the details of the company. <u>Note that the position must be at postgraduate level!</u>

A:

Include evidence and details of the position or programme applied for here.

Organization: SANE
Internship job title: Fundraising Assistant
Internship Address: St. Marks studios, Chillingworth Road, London, UK, N7 8QJ

Organization summary: SANE aims to raise awareness, fight to improve services and host research. SANE also provides ongoing telephone support and advice to people suffering from mental ill health and their families.
Job description: The fundraising assistant will be involved with all aspects of handling donations, database management, supporter care and communications. They must ensure SANE's supporters experience the highest levels of service. The successful candidate will contribute ideas and support to fundraising, on/offline marketing and social media campaigns.

19:27

GE **Get Experience – Career programmes team**
To You

8 Feb

Good afternoon,

We have an exciting opportunity for an intern to work for one of Britain's oldest and most well-known mental health charities for 4 weeks during Spring! If you are interested in a fundraising role alongside working with a charitable organisation, then you may want to apply for this role!

Please make sure to: Update your CV to ensure you have met the essential criteria on the person's specification to help us with shortlisting and you have updated any contact details you have on your CV also. Your cover letter must explain in your own words why you are interested in this role and why you'd like to work for this employer, this is your opportunity to highlight what makes you suitable to be considered for the position and emphasise what skills you can bring to the role.
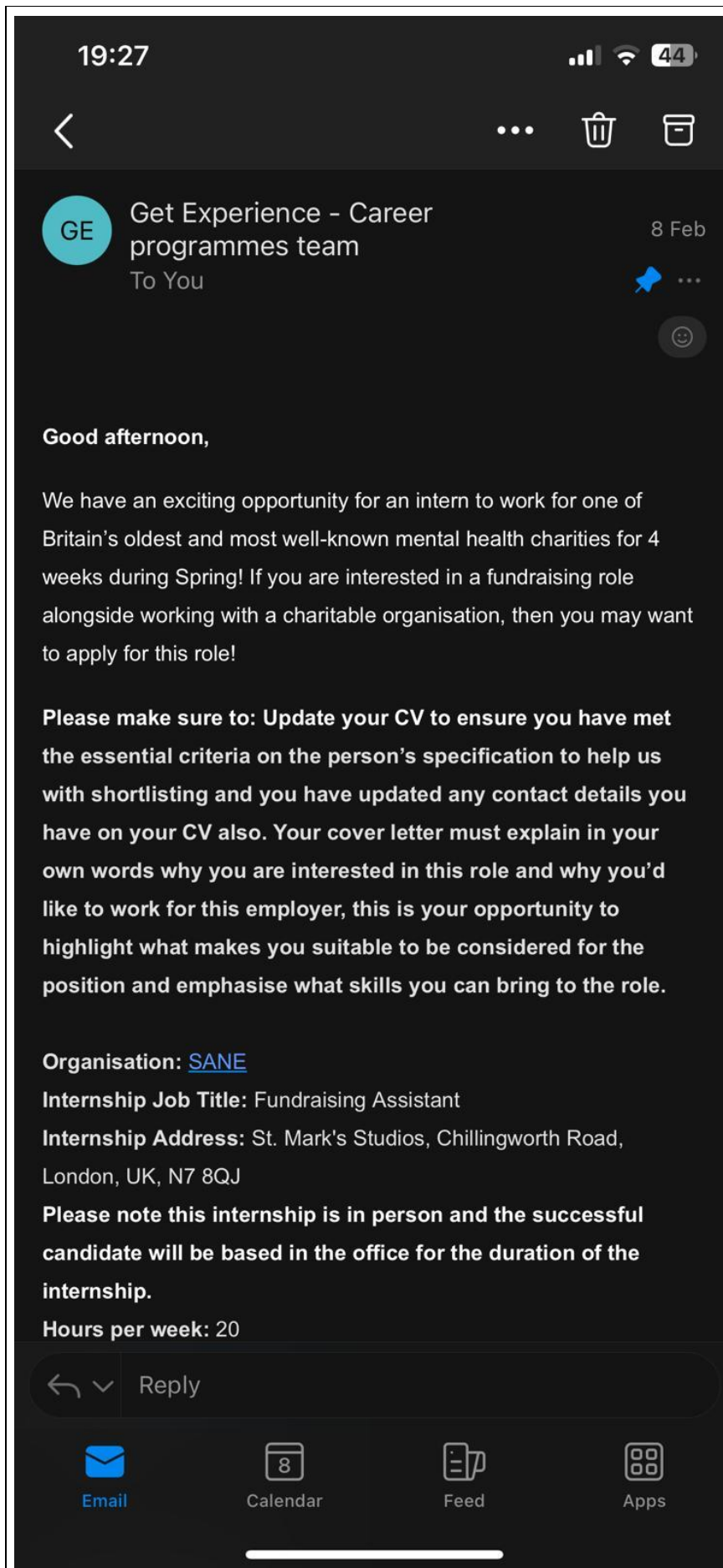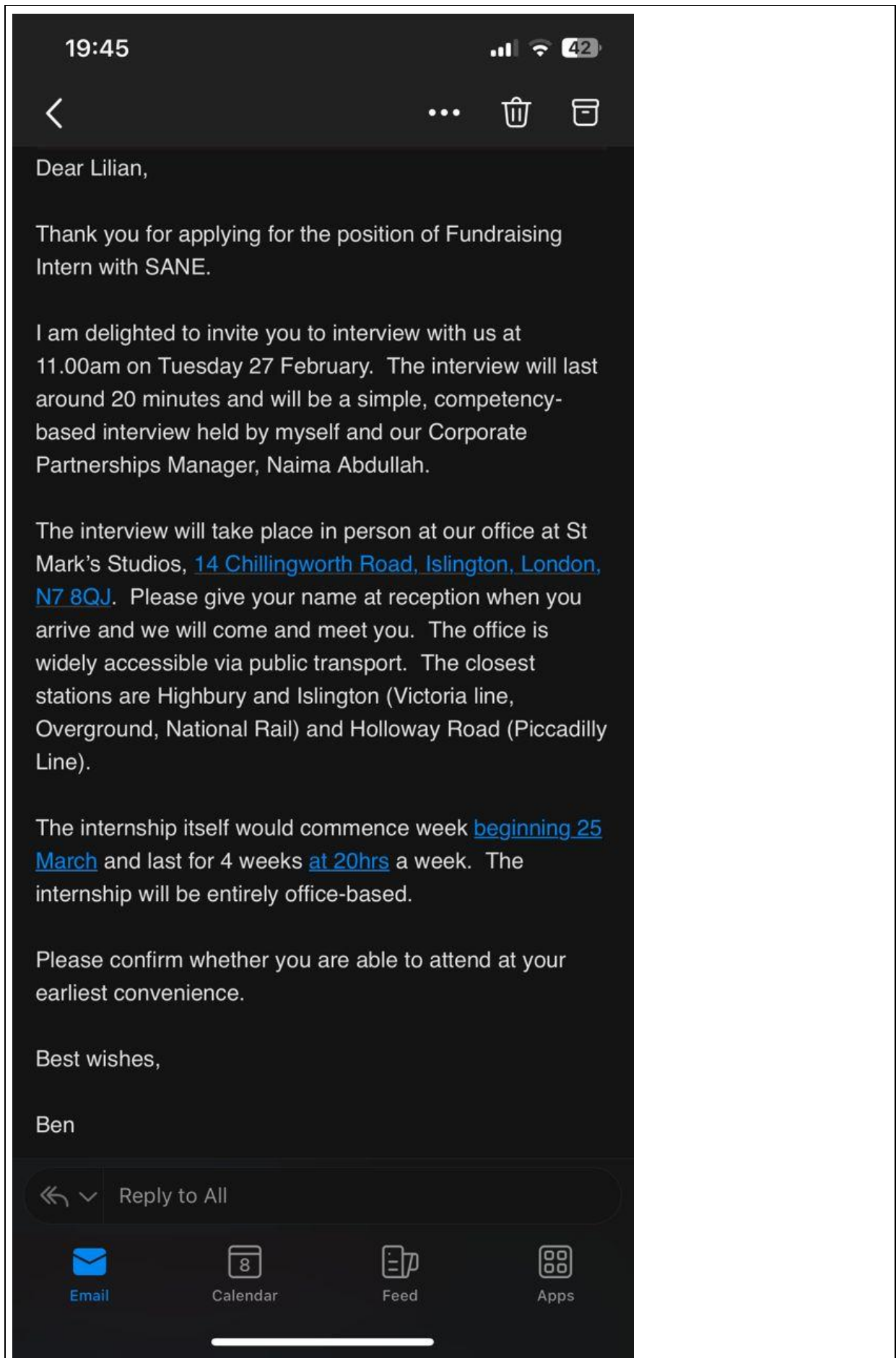
Organisation: SANE
Internship Job Title: Fundraising Assistant
Internship Address: St. Mark's Studios, Chillingworth Road, London, UK, N7 8QJ
Please note this internship is in person and the successful candidate will be based in the office for the duration of the internship.
Hours per week: 20

↩ ⌄   Reply

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Apps

19:45

Dear Lilian,

Thank you for applying for the position of Fundraising Intern with SANE.

I am delighted to invite you to interview with us at 11.00am on Tuesday 27 February. The interview will last around 20 minutes and will be a simple, competency-based interview held by myself and our Corporate Partnerships Manager, Naima Abdullah.

The interview will take place in person at our office at St Mark's Studios, 14 Chillingworth Road, Islington, London, N7 8QJ. Please give your name at reception when you arrive and we will come and meet you. The office is widely accessible via public transport. The closest stations are Highbury and Islington (Victoria line, Overground, National Rail) and Holloway Road (Piccadilly Line).

The internship itself would commence week beginning 25 March and last for 4 weeks at 20hrs a week. The internship will be entirely office-based.

Please confirm whether you are able to attend at your earliest convenience.

Best wishes,

Ben

Reply to All

Email   Calendar   Feed   Apps

In section B you should write a short statement explaining why you are interested in this position or programme and why you are applying for it (*guide – 100 words*).

B:

Include a brief reflective statement as to why you are interested in and applying for this position or programme.

Part ii) Application (8%)

In this section you should provide the documentation you used to apply for the position or programme. This can include an online application form (e.g. use the 'print screen' button in Windows to create a screen-grab of the form) or an updated CV and cover letter made specific to the position or programme you are applying for.

You do not need to enter your application details in the box below – you can also insert additional pages into this document if this is easier.

Application documents here or insert as additional pages.

CV FOR SANE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

LILIAN OKPO

UK | 07394297000 | lo23323@essex.ac.uk

Profile

I am a versatile professional with a background in marketing, transitioning seamlessly into data entry and, ultimately, data analytics. Proficient in leveraging marketing insights, attention to detail, and effective communication to extract, organize, and analyze data. Skilled in various data tools, equipped to provide actionable insights, and committed to enhancing data-driven decision-making. Adept at adapting and delivering value across diverse roles, transforming a marketing foundation into a data-driven career.

Experience

STUDENTS UNION REPRESENTATIVE AND VOLUNTEER TEAM | UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX | 2023
Certification: Student's Activities Welfare and Signposting Training.

DATA ANALYST | INFOTECH | 2021 - 2023

Transformed numbers and data into understandable stories, helping the company make smart decisions. I made sure our data made sense to everyone.

I worked closely with different teams to solve puzzles together, sharing my data superpowers to improve our business. I was the go-to person for making sense of our numbers.

DATA CAPTURER | VIP EXPRESS TOURISM LIMITED | 2019 - 2021

Provided essential insights into inventory management and real-time stock levels, ensuring accurate and available products for internal teams and customers.
Demonstrated proficiency in swift and error-free entry of client information into databases, maintaining data accuracy.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR | FIRST BANK INSURANCE | 2017 - 2019

Analyzed clients' financial situations to identify their insurance needs, risk tolerance, and long-term goals.

Integrated insurance products into clients' broader financial plans to help them achieve their financial objectives.

SCHOOL SECRETARY | ESALE-ARO GOVERNMENT SCHOOL | NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS | 2014 – 2017

Provided administrative voluntary services, including phone and email correspondence, making official copies, handling mail and faxes, writing, documenting, and reporting daily official meetings and activities for kids in government funded schools and education sectors.

Education

2023 | Applied Data Science | University of Essex | in view.

Carried out academic projects on programming and text analytics with R, approachable introduction to programming, databases and data processing with SQL, data analysis and statistics with R.

2015-2016 | MNIM Member | Nigeria Institute of Management (Chartered)

Awarded a graduate and proficiency certification in business management.

2013 | Bachelor of Science (B.Ed.): Marketing | Rivers State University

Awarded a bachelor's degree in business education and marketing.

SKILLS

Attention to detail.
Excellent writing skills
Communication skills
Mental health care and sensitization
Time management
Teamwork
Vast knowledge of the use of social media
Events management and organization
Research
Analytic and managerial skills

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCY

Microsoft Office Applications: Word, Excel, PowerPoint
R programming
SQL
Replit
Python
R Markdown
Pycharm

COVER LETTER FOR SANE INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

Dear Benjamin Barnard,

I am writing to express my interest in the internship position as a fundraising Assistant at SANE. I resonate deeply with the organization's commitment to raising awareness, conducting research, and providing support to individuals and families affected by mental health challenges.

Having actively volunteered as part of the Students Union representatives, SU voice groups and Volunteer team at the university of Essex, I have developed a very strong zeal and passion for advocating for the mental and general wellbeing of students and other individuals, create awareness and support initiatives which has helped to groom my skills in communication, project management and fundraising and I believe I will be a valuable asset in contributing to the mission and vision of SANE.

My volunteering experience with the National Youth Service corps for the Nigerian government aiding kids in government funded educational institutions in rural communities to assist in their learning and administrative activities as a school secretary has also given me basic knowledgeable and transferable skills that will actively help me carry out my role at SANE effectively and diligently to achieve favorable and profitable results.

I am eager to be a part of this great organization to enable me gain valuable experience in advanced fundraising strategies and campaign implementations within the context of mental health advocacy and for the opportunity to learn from the talented team at SANE for me to be able to contribute my time and dedication to the advancement of the organization's goals and objectives.

My deepest appreciation for considering my application and I am delighted for me to be given the opportunity to contribute to SANE for their impact on society. I am available for an interview at the earliest convenience to further discuss my objectives and contributions to the organization.

Part iii) Interview (5%)

In section A you should provide details of the interview that you have undertaken. This should be at postgraduate level but doesn't necessarily have to be directly linked to the job application in part i) and ii) (although this is preferable). You should give details of the date, location, who the interviewers were and details of some of the key questions you were asked.

A:

Provide details of the interview here (date, location, interview, key questions asked).

Interview date: 28th February 2024
Time: 12noon
Location: St. Mark's Studios, 14 Chillingworth Road, Islington, London, N7 8QJ
Interviewers: Ben Barnard (Deputy head of fundraising) and Naima Abdullah(Corporate Partnerships Manager)

Key questions asked were based on my work experiences on my CV, a time I had to handle a major challenge at a workplace, my volunteering experience as a student representative and also part of the volunteering team at the student's union and then my experience so far as an international student studying a post graduate course in the UK.

In section B you should write a short statement explaining how you feel the interview went and what you learnt from the experience (*guide – 100 words*).

B:

Include a brief reflective statement about how you found the interview process and what you learnt.

The interview process was a maximum of 20 minutes, and I was given the opportunity to express myself and talk about how my skills will benefit the organization if given the job role.
After the interview I received positive feedback on my performance although I was given the internship position at SANE.

Part iv) Reflective Statement about the Application Process (7%)

In the following section you should write a reflective statement about how you found the whole application process. Questions to think about include: Were you successful with your application (and if not, why do you think this was)? What did you learn from the process? Did you get any feedback from the prospective employer, interviewer or postgraduate provider? What do you think went well (and not so well)? Would you do anything differently with other applications in the future? How does this experience help with your future career planning?

(*guide - 250 words*)

A:

Include a reflective statement about your application experiences and what you learnt.
The Interview process was challenging and educative. I also found the process of the interview was

held straightforward and not time-consuming with a maximum of 20 minutes allocated to each candidate.
I got great feedback on my performance but sadly I wasn't given the internship position.
Below is the feedback I got from one of the interviewers.

I cannot specifically identify what went wrong in the interview process for me not to be selected but I will surely put in more effort in future applications and take notes of the feedback given by this employer.

Re: Interview Outcome

From: Ben Barnard bbarnard@sane.org.uk

To: Okpo, Lilian K

lo23323@essex.ac.uk Date: Thu, 29

Feb 2024, 14:29

CAUTION: This email was sent from outside the University of Essex. Please do not click any links or open any attachments unless you recognise and trust the sender. If you are unsure whether the content of the email is safe or have any other queries, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Dear Lilian,

Thank you for applying for the position of Fundraising Intern at SANE. I regret to inform you that your application has been unsuccessful on this occasion.

It was a really difficult decision. We thought you were an excellent candidate and we were really impressed by passion and determination.

We received 13 applications and interviewed 4 candidates. The standard of applications was generally very high and we had 3 candidates we would happily have selected, including yourself. In the end, the decision came down to very fine margins.

As a tiny piece of feedback for future applications, whilst you write very clearly, there were occasions in your cover letter when you would have benefitted from using 2 or 3 smaller sentences instead of one long one. However, this is a very small point and in no way affected our decision. Once you got over your nerves and you did really well at the interview and your personality really began to came across.

Good luck for the future.

Best wishes,

Ben

Dr Benjamin Barnard (Ph.D)

Deputy Head of Fundraising

SANE: Changing mental health for good

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