What you wanna get from the program?

At (school name), I am eager to research the positive and negative aspects of big data and financial technology to identify and measure the magnitude of emerging problems and develop new technologies to address them. This detailed exploration will enhance my understanding of machine-learning models for consumer credit risk management and applications of secure multi-party computation to financial regulation. The Advanced Analytics and Data Science courses and Analytics Certificate are especially exciting as they will allow me to understand shallow models and train deep neural networks in an economic context. I also want to further improve my technical skills around asset pricing and the ensemble method, which are critical to forming accurately priced derivatives. Overall, I believe that (the program) will further sharpen my analytical skills to create advanced and intuitive approaches to simplify data processing such as alternative datasets to automate trading decisions and executions that I created at Munich Re.

Leadership experience.

I believe success as a leader requires one to have a passion for taking the initiative, thinking outside the box, and persevering in adversity. (I enjoy working on teams, and I find that I am more successful at work when I have a team supporting me.) In my second year, I started a non-profit association called the University of Toronto Chinese Volunteer Association, with the ambition of advocating equal access to education for students living in rural areas of China. To meet the fundraising goals, I scheduled brainstorming meetings where our group could come together to find innovative ideas and new tactics. We took the time to listen to everyone’s ideas, and by the end of the year, we succeeded to organize innovative fund-raising events such as Food Festival and Charity Run. By collaborating with local stores and achieving a better product price, we exceeded our fundraising goals by 20%. With the support of the “sponsors”, we are able to gain more revenue, enlarge our impact and bring in valuable fundraisers. My communication and innovation skills have significantly improved by working in a team. In the summertime, I collaborated with the local Chinese government to provide volunteer tutoring opportunities for UofT students and bring donations to the talented students there.

Describe an obstacle you overcomed.

Munich Re has been my dream company since I was a freshman, but I didn’t get chance to work there. To be a qualified actuarial analyst, I have been making a great effort to pass the actuarial exams called SOA Exam P and FM by self-learning. I also developed strong coding skills such as Python, R, and VBA. All of these are highlighted in my resume. The next step is to attend a few resume workshops and try to take advantage of every chance to present my resume in person to company representatives by attending some info sessions hosted by insurance companies and networking with them in career fairs such as ASNA. This was done to show my keen interest in the positions and to deepen their impressions of me. I also actively attended some mock interviews with our career consultants. Finally, in the last fall term, I got Munich Re’s offer.