

Dear Admissions Committee,

My name is Gaofu Yu, and I am applying for the Master of Finance at University of Chicago. I am deeply interested in advancing research in Finance, particularly at the interface of theoretical modeling and empirical analysis. My academic background and research experiences have prepared me to contribute to your program and to pursue rigorous graduate-level research.

During my undergraduate studies, I built a strong foundation in quantitative methods through coursework in mathematics, statistics, and econometrics. I have applied these methods in research projects and internships, where I worked with real-world datasets to address questions related to Finance. These experiences taught me how to formulate research questions, implement empirical strategies, and communicate findings effectively.

I regularly read leading journals such as Journal of Finance; Review of Financial Studies; Journal of Financial Economics to keep abreast of current debates and methodologies in the field. These readings have shaped my research interests and motivated several project ideas that I hope to develop further during graduate study. In particular, I am interested in exploring the empirical analysis of finance with a focus on policy implications.

Technically, I am proficient in Asset Pricing; Time Series Analysis; MATLAB; Python; SQL; Machine Learning. I use these tools for data cleaning, econometric estimation, and machine learning-based analysis. I believe my technical toolkit will allow me to contribute to empirical and computational research projects at University of Chicago.

I am especially drawn to University of Chicago because of its strong faculty in Finance, its collaborative research environment, and the opportunities to engage with faculty whose work aligns closely with my interests. I am confident that the program will provide the mentorship and resources necessary for me to develop as a researcher.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to join your graduate program and contribute to its research community.

Sincerely,

Gaofu Yu