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Dear Hiring Team,

I am writing to express my interest in the Sustainability Analyst position at CRU. I am a third-year university student who recently completed my Philosophy, Politics and Economics degree at the University of Leeds, and I am expecting to graduate First Class with Honours. I have a strong foundation in economic theory and econometrics, and decided to take these skills further by recently completing the IMF Macroeconomic Forecasting course. Furthermore, I have practical experience in economic foresight and research having worked for the Horizon Scanning team at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Due to my interest in economics, my degree features heavily in economics modules, despite being a joint-honours programme. I have completed courses in advanced micro- and macroeconomics, applied and theoretical econometrics, and maths for economics, scoring First Class with Honours on average and regularly above 80% on exams. I delved further into econometrics studies due to my interest in forecasting and advanced modelling techniques, and this led me to enrol in the IMF's Macroeconomic Forecasting course and conduct independent in-house investigations myself. The most recent example is an adaptation of Blanchard and Perotti's (2002) SVAR model to examine the effect of borrowing on bond yields under high and low interest rates. This investigation was conducted in EViews, however my academic econometrics courses have given me a strong familiarity with STATA too. This, combined with my National Foundation Diploma in Information Technology, has given me a strong aptitude in most statistical software, including Python and Excel.

I also have demonstrated excellent team-working, deadline management, and communication skills throughout my career. During the summer of 2024, I interned with the Horizon Scanning team in the Fraud, Error and Debt (FED) division at the DWP. I researched how the evolving Data Regulation, Privacy and Ethics (DRPE) environment might impact FED over a 5-10 year time horizon. Alongside this, I was tasked with writing short explainers on new policy developments, such as the King's Speech, the Chancellor's maiden speech, and several think tank papers. I discussed with my manager how to handle these new priorities – we added flexibility into my project and workshop deadlines so that I could dynamically respond to new requests as they arose. When different FED teams requested a specific paper analysis, I communicated closely with them to deliver concise and relevant summaries. I often drew on my economic expertise to highlight particular issues or inaccuracies in papers, but where necessary, I liaised with subject-matter experts to clarify technical terms and my interpretations. I made sure to proactively update these teams on my progress throughout the day and when multiple explainers were needed at the same time, I triaged them based on time-sensitivity. The FED division found the explainers very helpful, particularly during a high-volume policy week. Several of the teams who had requested analyses responded positively, and my manager commended my ability to balance long-term research with short-term deliverables.

I am very excited to work on sustainability modelling at CRU. I believe that my existing skills would be well placed working on green technology costings, evaluations and forecasting. Furthermore, my teamworking skills would ensure smooth communication with stakeholders and colleagues.

Thank you for your consideration,
Diogo Ferreira