Ethan Park

Alumni Informational Interview

Conducted 4/4/21

For my alumni informational interview, I spoke with Rishi Maheshwari, as I was very interested in learning more about him after hearing him speak at the Weatherhead Fund. He graduated from Case Western in 2019 and is currently working at BlackRock as an analyst within their Multi Asset Strategies and Solutions group.

He spoke about how he was unsure about what he wanted to do, originally majoring in mechanical engineering before switching to finance and computer. He previously had 2 internships at small venture capital firms before interning at BlackRock, which he decided to move to because he felt that traditional venture capital didn’t present enough room for growth for him and was too negotiation based. So, he decided pursue asset management on the quantitative side to combine his passions for stock trading and computer science. He feels that this line of work allows him to make a meaningful impact.

Rishi chose BlackRock, and this specific group, because BlackRock is the largest portfolio manager in the world, and the group allowed him to work in an unconstrained universe that didn’t limit him to specific products. He also expressed that he loves his work at BlackRock as it allows him to do something that he feels is of high value, while working with a diverse team that allowed him to find the best fit role after being hired by the company. He plans to stay at BlackRock for the foreseeable future as long as he feels that there is room for him to progress his role in the company.

He described to me his day to day schedule as well as how he balances his work with his personal life, stating that he works an average of 60 hours per week, with his workdays starting at 8:00. We ended the conversation with him giving me some advice for the rest of my time here at CWRU, including suggesting that I take Empirical Finance and Options and Other Derivatives next year. He also recommended taking programming courses if I wanted to try the quantitative side of asset management that he currently works in, and also that I should try not to place too much emphasis on where in the country I work.

I really enjoyed my talk with Rishi, and he gave me a lot of insight into his job at BlackRock and the journey he took to get to where he is now. I also really appreciated that he took time out of his weekend to talk to me and I hope to stay connected with him in the future.