# HONG NGOC LE

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## EDUCATION

**WorldQuant University**                                                                                                                    Remote
Master of Science in Financial Engineering                                                                          Oct 2024 – Current

**Western Sydney University Vietnam**                                                               Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Bachelor of Business – Applied Finance Major (advanced graduation - completed degree in 2 years)          May 2022 – May 2024
- **Dean's Merit List** for Academic Excellence - Distinction Award (GPA: 6.43 / 7.00)
- First-year Vice-Chancellor's Academic Excellence **Scholarship**, highest tier
- Second-year Vice-Chancellor's Academic Excellence **Scholarship**, highest tier
- Third-year Vice-Chancellor's Academic Excellence **Scholarship**, highest tier (awarded 1 year in advance)
- **High Distinction** in Econometrics, Philosophical Economics, Securities & Business Valuation, Financial Institutions & Markets, Management, Accounting, Economics, Enterprise Law, Consumer Behaviour, International Business, Corporate Finance, Human Resources

**VNU-HCM University of Economics and Law (UEL)**                                        Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Bachelor of International Economic Relations (Discontinued)                                                  Sep 2021 – March 2022
- Academic **scholarship for highest GPA** in Semester 1 across all students in the cohort
- Highest GPA **enrolment scholarship** (SAT/IB/ACT pathway)
- Assisted with qualitative data analysis for a paper titled "Peer Tutors' Agency and Emotions in Tertiary English Education in Vietnam" and participated in Sociology and Cross-Cultural Studies classes for Master's students

**Condell Park High School**                                                                                               Sydney, Australia
New South Wales High School Certificate (HSC)                                                                        Jan 2017 – Jan 2021
- **Valedictorian** / Dux of High School and First in Course throughout all academic years
- HSC Band 6/6 for **Mathematics Advanced** and **Mathematics Extension** 1
- School **Science Award**  |  Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
- High School Student **Academic Excellence Award**  |  University of Sydney
- **Distinction** & **Merit awards**  |  Australian Mathematical Olympiad (AMO) & Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads (APSMO)
- **Top 8% of students in Australia** in English  |  University of New South Wales International Competitions and Assessments for Schools
- Earned advanced standing, **skipping 1 academic year** based on outstanding performance
- Nominated for the **NSW International Student Award**  |  State of New South Wales, Australia

**Tran Dai Nghia High School for the Gifted**                                                        Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Quantitative research assistant**                                                                          Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
ICLS Tech                                                                                                                       April 2024 – Current
- Performed comprehensive **data cleaning**, **preprocessing**, and **feature engineering** on FOREX and CRYPTO datasets, ensuring high-quality inputs for machine learning models.
- Applied a triple-labelling method for labelling FOREX and CRYPTO data, integrating regime-switching models such as Gaussian Mixture Models and Hidden Markov Chains to enhance **prediction** accuracy in volatile market conditions.
- Developed and implemented **automated machine learning** pipelines to assess the probability of backtest overfitting and evaluate the robustness of existing cross-validation schemes.

**Product assistant**                                                                                                  Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
YOLA English                                                                                                                  Jan 2022 – Jan 2023
- Assisted the Product Manager in developing an English learning app and web extension, conducting **market research** and executing **targeted marketing** strategies; increased the app's user base by 25,000 and the extensions by 15,000, achieving a monthly active user rate of ~50%.
- Collaborated with external artists to implement **user nurturing** strategies, resulting in a 7-10% retention rate for the 21-day user cohort.

## SKILLS

- **Technical tools**  |  Python, R, SQL, LaTeX, Markdown, PostgreSQL, CSS, Excel, SPSS, Minitab, Stata
- **Finance**  |  Financial machine learning (time series forecasting, predictive modelling, algorithmic trading), securities analysis, company valuation, corporate finance & capital structure, portfolio management, economic and financial modelling, international finance
- **Business strategy**  |  Consumer behaviour analysis, customer segmentation, market research, strategic management, consulting, international business strategy
- **Graphic design**  |  Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

**Graphic designer**  |  Freelance                                                                                        Jan 2022 – Current
- Designed 200+ presentations, logos, marketing materials, and product packaging using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, with experience in preparing materials for both digital and print production.
- Collaborated with the Head of Marketing to develop cohesive brand concepts that highlighted brand identity.
- Ensured all designs met strict regulatory requirements, including U.S. FDA standards, for export to international markets such as Japan, New Zealand, and the U.S.

**English tutor**  |  YOLA English                                                                                            Feb 2021 – Jan 2023
- Developed teaching plans and instructed students, from school students to working professionals, in IELTS preparation and English proficiency.

## EXTRACURRICULARS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- **P&G PEAKathon 2024**  |  Top 4 Local Finalists of Vietnam
- **HCMC Department of Industry & Trade & HAWEE ASEAN++ Bridge Business Forum**  |  Represented Australia at the high-profile business networking event, attracting over 500 global business leaders, promoting sustainable development in the ASEAN region
- **Project X**  |  Participated in a non-profit fellowship program to connect tech startups with the Vietnamese students interested in IT and offer mentorship, career orientations, and technical / soft-skills training through events/workshops and building communities
- **IELTS Talent Contest 2021**  |  First place award (month) and Merit award (quarter) in Vietnam's Southern region
- **UEL English Club EFFI**  |  Project Leader for a team of 40+ members, organised two successful projects, which attracted over 250 participants