

To IFC Recruitment Manager,

To Whom This May Concern

My name is Roger Lin and I am writing to express my interest in the Investment Analyst role at IFC's Hong Kong office. I am a second year candidate pursuing a Masters in Public Policy at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, where my studies have focused on the confluence of finance and policy. My interest in this role stems from a desire to utilize my skills and knowledge to help further the IFC's mission of bridging development capital and the private sector to catalyze transformative change in developing countries. As an investment analyst, I hope to play a role in the organization's mission by helping identify and facilitate the allocation of capital towards its most efficient ends.

At the University of Chicago, I had the opportunity to meet with and study alongside brilliant minds from all across the world, all sharing a commitment to the humanistic endeavor of improving lives through development. I gained a wealth of knowledge and understanding learning from their diverse backgrounds and experiences in government agencies and NGOs. Through my courses, I had the opportunity to learn from those who were in positions of power—from former heads of Central Banks, to former ministers of Finance, to asset managers of sovereign wealth funds, and the challenges their positions entailed, and the decisions they faced.

My relevant finance and public policy coursework at Harris, and at the Booth School of Business, encompass Corporate Finance, Financial Investments for Public Policy, Bank Regulation and Management, Microeconomics for Public Policy, and Macroeconomic Policymaking, Financial Markets and Institutions, International Trade, Banking, and Capital Flows, and Statistics for Data Analysis. From my public policy studies, I have gained an intuitive grasp of how individuals, bureaucracies, and firms make decisions in the face of imperfect information, and how game theory can be used to model the likely outcomes of policy initiatives. I have also become thoroughly familiar with the various factors that impact investment performance and drive asset allocation decisions. The quantitative backbone of my masters program has strengthened my technical competencies in statistical analysis, data-driven decision making, financial modeling, and research. Through my coursework, I have gained practical hands on experience in analyzing and interpreting complex financial data, using financial models to evaluate investment strategies, and working with statistical software such as State and R for data analysis.

Beyond my academic experience, I have also had opportunities to develop and employ my skills in financial analysis, strategic planning, and data analysis in a professional setting. As a business analyst at Bainbridge Consulting, I worked alongside a team of consultants in advising a local startup offering event management software. We worked alongside them to map out the competitive landscape they faced, helping them to identify a niche in the market they could fill, and to build a long term growth plan to expand their business, with yearly targets to reach and various performance indicators to track their progress. Over the past summer, I engaged on an independent research effort on identifying and measuring various factors of equity return outperformance, working with large datasets of historical share prices, to identify changing trends in the autocorrelation of stock prices, and comparing the performances of different strategies. As one of our tests, we compared the relative performance of ESG screened funds with a benchmark S&P 500 index, finding that there was no systematic outperformance of ESG funds over the broader market index.

Moreover, in my capacity as editor-in-chief and co-founder of the Triton Business Review, I have had the opportunity to critically engage with financial markets and economic policy on a global scale. Working alongside a group of similarly passionate writers to publish monthly articles on a range of global issues, I shared my analysis of the second order effects of major developments, and helped many in my team to gain the confidence to share their views as well. These experiences have not only honed my written and verbal communication skills, but have also deepened my understanding of the multifaceted role of finance in driving economic prosperity.

Given my robust academic training, professional experiences, and passion for development, I am confident that I would be a valuable asset to your team. I appreciate your consideration of my application and look forward to the possibility of contributing to your mission.

Sincerely,  
Roger Lin  
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