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RE: 2024 Full Time Analyst - Global Markets (Equities, FICC & Munis) Analyst Position (New York Office)

Dear Hiring Manager,

My name is Roger Lin and I am currently a candidate pursuing a Masters in Public Policy with a specialization in Finance and Policy at UChicago's Harris School of Public Policy. I am writing to express my strong interest in the Global Markets Analyst position at TD Securities's New York Office. What attracts me to this role in particular is the TD Securities's culture of collaboration, emphasis on personal and professional development, and the opportunity to explore different areas of the TD Securities's operations. My academic background in economics, finance, and public policy, combined with relevant professional experience, I believe, makes me an ideal candidate for this position.

I have long been fascinated by financial markets, especially their role in efficiently allocating risk across diverse investors. This enduring curiosity has led me to seek out opportunities to deepen my knowledge of financial markets, the macroeconomic factors which influence them, and the pricing of different asset classes from stocks and bonds to derivatives such as options, swaps, and futures. Through the MPP program's heavy quantitative focus, I have furthermore developed a solid foundation in mathematics and statistics, as well as strengthened my technical competencies in statistical analysis using R and Stata, data-driven decision making, financial modeling, and research. Such skills are highly relevant to a career at TD Securities, where analysts are quickly interpret the impacts of major events on financial markets.

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, the Chinese Economy, and Statistics for Data Analysis I and II. Through these courses, I had the opportunity to learn about monetary policy from the former governor of the Central Bank of Paraguay(Professor Carlos Fernández Valdovinos), about how beliefs can lead to self-fulfilling crises that result in bank runs in the absence of deposit guarantees from Professor Douglas Diamond, one of the recipients of the 2022 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, and about the nuances of banking regulation for the former Illinois State Banking Director (Professor Chasse Rehwinkle). Most recently, I completed an advanced course in Financial Instruments, which enlightened me to the centrality of interest rates in the pricing of all financial instruments, and deepened my understanding of the mathematical underpinnings of derivatives pricing and trading.

My professional experience has moreover equipped me with a nuanced understanding of financial analysis, strategic planning, and data analysis. During my tenure as a business analyst at Bainbridge Consulting, I helped advise a local startup offering event management software. Collaborating closely with the startup, we mapped out the competitive landscape using market research, identified a strategic market niche, and formulated a comprehensive long-term growth plan with measurable targets and performance indicators. In treating the client as a long-term growth partner we were investing alongside, we made sure that the proposals we made aligned were with what was best for the company. My prior involvement in helping run my parent's small business taught me this invaluable lesson in thinking like an owner. early on. This perspective, rooted in a sense of ownership and accountability for decision outcomes, has been a guiding principle in my approach to life.

This past summer I had an opportunity to apply my knowledge of financial markets and quantitative skillset in a real-world context as a research assistant at UChicago's Becker Friedman Institute, where I studied the link between inflation regimes and equity returns by looking at the historical correlations between equity and bond excess returns. My responsibilities entailed compiling and cleaning datasets, running regressions and interpreting the econometric outcomes, preparing data visualizations to highlight important trends in the data, and performing literature review on prior works studying the link between inflation and asset returns for a research project. This experience was especially valuable in allowing me to build upon the works of past contributors to the field of asset pricing research by exploring and testing new theories with real world significance. The opportunity to participate in expanding our collective understanding of the field, in my capacity as a summer research assistant was immensely gratifying and increased my appetite for further probing. TD Securities is the best place I can think of to continue my exploration of financial markets. My curiosity and eagerness to take on new challenges will be invaluable assets in this role. I look forward to discussing my qualifications further.

Best regards,

Roger Lin