

Personal Statement

I started my initial contact with the various areas in finance from a fairly young age under the influence of my mother who is an experienced senior accountant with intensive knowledge in financial management. Despite my choice of Japanese language as my undergraduate major, my passion toward finance and business never dies out, and I am always planning to further my graduate study in finance.

Others might find my choice of Japanese before finance confusing, but for me, the reason is very simple. Just like what Stulz and Williamson (2003) points out, in the *Journal of Financial Economics* for their researches into today's economics and corporations, differences exist among countries can be attributed to differences in the culture and language. Therefore, cross-culture understanding and the ability of cross-culture communication through language learning seems of vital importance for me to get to know better the global financial market against the backdrop of globalization and regional integration.

Owing to my undergraduate study, I am now fluent in three languages, i.e. Chinese, English and Japanese; more importantly, language learning has made me an open-minded person with a global vision. Together with my accumulated knowledge in economics and finance through my study of second degree courses in economics, I think this is the ripe time for my application for the graduate study in finance. I have confidence that my language ability and culture adaptability can make me quite distinct from my peers in economics, and those additional skills can make a difference in my future study and career in finance.

As my study goes deeper, I start to grow interest in corporate credit rating and determine it as my future career pursuit; working in corporate and bond rating in professional rating company has become my dream.

I chose the study of EU sovereignty crisis as the topic of my undergraduate graduation paper, examining its occurrence, progression and global impact. The study required thorough and detailed data collection and analysis; hence, to reach effective statistical process, I extracted data from monthly figures with noticeable fluctuations in the past four years (2009-2012) and average EU-China trade figures for the past five years for data comparison to reach a breaking point for my paper, that was, the trade increase rate had been decreasing for the past few years as a result of the crisis. Together with another observation on the euro exchange rate fluctuation against US currency, I managed to effectively analyze the negative impact on EU crisis on China through EU-China trade. The research for my paper has helped me further develop the ability of independent data collection, problem analysis and integration, and provided me a better understanding of the changing international financial market.

I have been working in China National Credit Information Service, Inc. since graduation, responsible for credit rating for domestic industries including fire control, construction and catering. The experience I have gained in this job serves as the first step to my ultimate aspiration. I have had a general understanding of a variety of industries through drafting credit rating reports for different corporations; my application of financial analysis algorithms has been enhanced through corporate rating practice that involves the comparison of gross company asset, net revenue and debt rate by analyzing major data in company balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement. More importantly, rating practice teaches me flexibility beyond textbook knowledge, for instance, I have learnt the asset-liability ratio of logistics companies is normally higher due to the demand of high rate cash flow of the industry. In addition, the analysis of a company's long-term and short-term solvency via indices like asset-liability ratio, liquidity rate and quick ratio helps me better assess the financing ability of the company and predict the possible above-average risk of stock investment.

As a member of a four-person team, I have always been an efficient and cooperative team player. Since

financial data logging-in requires extreme meticulousness, we always exchange rating report for proofreading to ensure the maximum accuracy. There was one time I found a major discrepancy when logging in the data of a renewable energy company. With a fine current asset growth rate, the asset-liability ratio of a year was 90%. After communicating with my teammates and scrutinizing the company's audit report, eventually we found that one of our colleagues misplace a decimal mark in one figure and timely corrected the error. By working in a team, I have enhanced my ability of collaboration and communication.

I am at the same time an activist of all sorts of extracurricular activities. I am a member of the Young Volunteers Association, organizing and participating in a number of different events. I used to be part of the “supporting education development in poor and remote areas” campaign of the School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, offering after-school tutoring for English study for students in Qianpu Primary School. As an event organizer of the Association, I have developed a strong sense of responsibility and a fair ability of leadership and collaboration through hosting various meetings, interviewing and recruiting volunteers and leading the team for various teaching activities. I truly appreciate the experience that makes me a more mature, devoted and responsible grown-up.

With my great passion, owing to my dream and experience and my exceptional academic abilities and personality, I believe I will make one of your qualified applicants to the program; and your favorable consideration of my application will be sincerely appreciated.