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**It flows well and expresses your mathematical and programming skills, as well as your general interest and extra-curricular experience!**

**It is in Times New Roman font, size 12, and is currently 1106 words. I have asked a couple of questions in the TRACK CHANGES function, and look forward to your replies!**

**As we discussed, I have kept it longer as a generic personal statement that you can use wherever you need – would you like it to be reduced to 1000 words, or is the current length okay? Let me know, and I will take care of this in the second iteration!**

**Thanks, and I look forward to hearing back from you!**

**George**

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I need American English. I would like the essay to show what kind of person I am, the one that full of curiosity, always willing to explore more and never afraid of difficulties. Also, I would like to show my efforts on mathematics and programming.

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**Your edited/ enhanced document (with track changes)**

As an undergraduate student majoring in Financial Engineering, I have long admired the QCF program, as it equips students with advanced knowledge and a unique perspective into the quantitative financial market. I developed my personal interest in finance at a young age, and participated in investments alongside my family members. This early insight gave me exposure to financial markets, and helped develop what has become a life-long passion. However, though I have always been interested in finance, I was not exactly certain which aspects of my Financial Engineering major I wanted to pursue after I enrolled at university. Instead, I took on a multitude of courses, and was able to demonstrate my aptitude for the subject. One of these courses was called Financial Engineering, and it introduced various financial instruments while utilizing strict mathematical logic that I found fascinating. I also took courses in which I learned about the Stochastic Process and Time Series, and developed my knowledge of the field. Developing this knowledge expanded my curiosity, and I became keen to learn even more than the limits of the curriculum, so I began my own independent research into more advanced models. In class our professor taught us about the Monte Carlo method to price the European option, so I took the initiative to independently code the Least Square Monte Carlo model for pricing the American option using MATLAB and R. I also collected real data from the Chinese market in order to simulate the advanced GBM function, where I substituted the constant vitality σ with a geometric brown motion and added Poisson jump to the original function. As a result of these experiences and independent successes, my commitment to a future in financial engineering grew.

The most influential experience during my academic career was not my independent research, but in fact my internship with the CITIC-Prudential Fund Management Company in Shanghai during the summer of 2015. Throughout the middle of June, the Chinese stock market was facing a serious crash, which had a significant negative impact on all those who lacked technical investment strategies and relied on their own instincts to invest in the stock market. However, as I was working in the quantitative investment department tasked with helping to develop investment strategies, I realized that using quantitative methods could really help maximize profit while minimizing risk. During my internship I assisted the portfolio manager with trying out useful investment strategies, and a key success was helping the manager to program MATLAB code in order to find out the correlations between the change rates of different tic prices and trading amounts. This analysis showed that mathematical and statistical tools could scientifically be used to figure out if possible rules existed in the stock market. As a result, I realized that many indicators in the stock market are closely related, and so we could use mathematical methods to discover these relations in order to then use them to hedge the risk and optimize the investment portfolio. During this process I also studied a large number of research papers, and used MATLAB and ExcelVBA to backtest the strategies mentioned in these papers to find out the most efficient one, which further contributed positively to our work. Throughout my internship I would always stay in the office after hours, and used Bloomberg to write simple strategies as it directly showed the backtest results. I thoroughly enjoyed this, and found it exciting and rewarding. The new skills I learned during this internship compelled me to develop my own quantitative investing strategy with the use of advanced models and derivatives to help hedge the risk, and I feel comfortable and capable of impressive contributions in this environment. Quantitative finance methods seem to be able to offer better solutions regardless of what unpredictable changes in the market may occur, and so my motivation to acquire further quantative skills developed thanks to this experience, and has made me keen to commit to further learning in the field.

After my internship, I realized there was so much for me still to explore in quantitative finance, so I committed to learning additional skills through MOOC platforms in related subjects, including Python, R, and Machine Learning. Additionally, I chose to participate an exchange program at UCLA, and this experience afforded me the opportunity to challenge myself further than I ever had before. During the Mathematical Statistics course I participated in as part of the exchange, I engaged with the SOCR academic program my professor had helped to develop. This program aims to use JavaScript and HTML to develop online statistical tools for people to be able to use, and I initially struggled, as I had no prior experience programming with JavaScript. However, I resolved myself to take the challenge on, and started working on developing my understanding that step by step, while also combining my financial knowledge into the work in order to implement the financial tools into the SOCR program. I used the Monte Carlo method to create the webapp that enables users to input their parameters in order to get the output of pricing European and American options, and this was a big success for the project. By stepping out of my comfort zone and facing head on the challenges that I met at UCLA, I realized that I have the skills to succeed in this field, and am eager to apply the same attitude of pushing myself and using my significant abilities in order to fulfill my potential in the future.

I have developed a firm foundation in mathematics and computer science during my undergraduate education, and my extra-curricular undertakings fulfill the necessary prerequisites for the XXX Program. Having experienced the negative atmosphere and uncertainties that surrounded the Chinese stock market during my internship experience, I really am committed to acquiring more quantitative skills in order to help manage risk during the investment process in order to achieve my ultimate goal of working as a portfolio manager. I believe your program would equip me with the additional skills required to achieve this, and I am keen to begin. I feel that the career and applied project opportunities your program offers will help me build the practical skills I will need in order to work in the field, while I also feel that I will be a beneficial addition to the cohort due to both my previous experience of US study, my strong academic background, and my knowledge of China’s stock market. China is a growing market with infinite potential, so the opportunity to acquire the necessary knowledge in order to make the most of future possibilities is what I aspire to achieve.