

Aarav Rakesh

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

As a keen student of Mathematics my outlook towards any exercise in valuation has been quantitative almost as a mandate. At my first stint in a Venture Capital firm, I learned to synthesize the numerical with the qualitative; assessing founders, ideas and sizing markets the intuitive way. I studied FinTech and Gen Z consumerism extensively, attending founder calls, interacting with incubators and making competitive outlooks almost daily. Throughout I learned at length about the Indian startup ecosystem and the key to a solid investment thesis.

As of now I wish to broaden my horizons into other areas such as Financial Consulting; specifically how consultants approach advising a firm which wants to transform itself, launch a new product/business line, enhance exiting lines of business and successfully guide firms and industries to financial success. I would also like to put my quantitative skills to use by applying it in valuations, audits, statistical predictors and the likes. I want to understand, through first hand exposure, asset classes as seen in the financial industry. In financial advisory and expertise, I am of the belief that depth as well as breadth is vital and I'm in pursuit of the latter.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer Associate, Equanimity Investments VC

May 2024 - August 2024

- Conducted extensive incubator outreach interacting with top IITs and IIMs.
- Represented the firm at startup and investor events.
- Produced a 'State of FinTech' brief with data analytic insights to explore investment opportunities.
- Participated in a number of founder calls to understand the VC filtering process.
- Prepared competitive 'outlooks' that were used to identify and follow through on differentiated startups.
- Concluded with a report on Gen Z consumer insights and consequent investment opportunities with a primary survey.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Michigan Math and Science Scholars

June 2021 - July 2021

Selected Internationally (with a scholarship) to a pool of 20 students. Motivated and worked on presentations in Analysis and Topology, particularly the relations between the game of Hex and Brouwer's Fixed Point Theorem.

Threshold Crossing Problem for Gaussians

May 2022 - Feb 2023

Multi-Armed Bandit Data problems for Large Gaussians. Worked under Professor Debapratim (UPenn) and Professor Sandeep Juneja (TIFR).

EDUCATION AND CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

International Baccalaureate Diploma, Nahar International School

May 2021 - May 2023

Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics AA at a Higher Level.

Communications Head, House Captain; Tennis and Football teams.

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Mathematics, Ashoka University

Aug 2023 - Present

CGPA: 3.9/4.

Courses in Real Analysis, Statistics, Linear Algebra and Advanced Matrix Analysis.

Collegiate Tennis and Chess Teams, Running Club.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Skills: Financial Analysis, Accounting, Applied Mathematics, Technical and Non-Technical Writing, Data Science based Modelling.

Languages: English, Hindi, Python.

Awards/Activities: Michigan Math and Science Summer Scholar; One of 25 students in a batch of 800+ to be offered 100% Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship at Ashoka University (conditionally withdrawn).