

Personal Statement

1. Motivation for undertaking this programme

I remember reading Robert J. Shiller's books, including *Finance and the Good Society* and *Irrational Exuberance*, and finding strength in them. According to Robert J. Shiller, finance is not merely about making money; it is about achieving deep goals and protecting the fruits of our labour; it is about stewardship and, therefore, achieving a good society. His words remind me of my strong interest in finance as a child. Many of my family members are engaged in finance-related work. My cousins have gone to Britain, America, France, and other countries to study finance-related courses and acquire degrees. Following in their footsteps, I was inspired by how fascinating finance is. Not only that, I have been sensitive to numbers since I was young. When I first came into contact with mathematics and other foundation courses, numbers, models, and algorithms attracted me. I felt the charm of finance considerably while studying at Sydney University; calculating the valuation of funds, stocks, and bonds triggered my curiosity. In addition, pursuing a higher degree in Finance at the Imperial College London, a world-renowned top-class university, has always been my dream. The turbulent finance industry is calling for more talented professionals around the world. I am eager to become an excellent financial practitioner and devote myself to the finance sector and its future research.

2. Proudest non-academic achievement

I have always held on straight to the end despite any adversities. One activity I have enjoyed since I was young is basketball. I had my first basketball when I was seven years old. My PE teacher at primary school taught me how to bounce, dribble, and shoot the ball. From then on, I kept practising basketball and became increasingly better at it. Later, when I entered middle school, I joined the school's basketball union and became a force to be reckoned with in basketball matches. One day when I was dribbling the ball through a pathway, I accidentally sprained my ankle. The instant pain and long recovery disabled me, and I could not walk or run, let alone play basketball, until three months later. During that time, basketball teams from different areas held matches, vying for the final championship. I was forced to do nothing due to my injury. At first, I was frustrated and lost my temper when I heard about my teammates winning without me. But I did not allow such negative emotions to prevail. I asked the team leader at the time to allow me to serve the team as an advisor. I could not run on the basketball court, but as the team's brainpower, I created plans for the team, such as position arrangement and player allocation. In the end, we took home the

championship trophy. The spirit of perseverance and strong will cultivated through basketball playing has since then become the pillar of my spiritual world.

3. What I can contribute to the cohort and the Imperial community

Firstly, as a non-local, my arrival can bring different cultural exchanges and promote cultural diversity in the school. Secondly, I am outgoing and willing to share; I can enliven the class atmosphere by organising fun activities. In addition, the experience I had as a volunteer for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in China gave me relatively rich knowledge and skills in anti-epidemic efforts, which I can apply to help my classmates, teachers, and the school in the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, as an analyst intern at China Securities Co., Ltd., I engaged in fast learning and analysed unfamiliar industries, conducted data collection and evaluation, and established an industry database with constant updates. I also carried out fund evaluation research and asset allocation strategy research. This internship experience allowed me to put my theoretical knowledge into practice, thus sharpening my practical skills and analytic ability. In addition, I can share my investment experience with my classmates and provide cases and materials for case studies and discussions. Finally, I have a wide range of hobbies; basketball is my speciality. I hope to meet and unite more friends and peers while playing basketball, which will, in turn, strengthen student cohesion in the school and contribute to building a stronger Imperial community.

4. How I would use my degree to make a positive impact

I wish to make a positive impact with my degree in three aspects. To begin with, as an individual with a helpful nature, I would like to participate in more volunteer activities or conduct more service projects related to the financial work of local communities. I have seen that there have been limited financial professionals in some community-level institutions whose financial work has been completed by staff holding other positions concurrently, causing long-term financial problems. Moreover, I believe that after obtaining this degree, I will be able to view problems from multiple perspectives and think independently, with strong management, communication, and analysis abilities. I hope to apply my financial knowledge and related skills to my work to play my part for the company and contribute to the company's social responsibility performance to repay society. Finally, as a Chinese student, I am proud to return to my home country with such a degree in finance. My homeland needs more talented professionals in its great rejuvenation, especially when economies have been

so closely intertwined. It would be an honour to devote myself to maintaining a strong financial market full of vitality for China.

5. Additional info.

I want to share my academic background and relevant skills during my undergraduate period. In my undergraduate degree at Sydney University, I specialised in *Finance* and *Business Analysis*. I took courses which offered me a variety of knowledge and laid a solid foundation for my future education through various coursework, workshops, seminars, and case studies. The *Foundations of Business Analytics* course introduced me to linear algebra (matrix properties) and calculus, using these concepts to analyse regression models with numerous variables. The course also covers optimisation fundamentals (focusing on quadratic problems) and demonstrates how optimisation models can be applied to generate statistical inferences. The lesson helped develop my programming skills, which I need to tackle real-world business challenges, alongside my awareness of the mathematical underpinnings required for business analytics. Through *Statistical Modelling for Business*, I gained knowledge of the primary statistical approaches used to model statistical dependence in discrete and continuous business data. In addition, *Predictive Analytics* introduced me to various data analysis and modelling methods that can be used to solve conventional and novel problems. As an undergraduate student, I have strengthened my academic foundation and improved my research and analytical skills.