Interdisciplinary Major Programme in Global Economics and Finance

Q:
A: Social Science/ CUHK
Programme overview

Curriculum

• Interrelationships between world economies
• Functions and operations of financial markets, institutions and financial instruments in globalised economies
• Use of econometric and mathematical modelling tools

Highlights

• Solid interdisciplinary training in economics and finance in a global context
• Non-conventional and latest developments in international economics and finance topics
• Heavy emphasis on internships and research experience

Career prospects

• Multinational firms in the banking, financial and business consulting sectors
• Financial research in public or private organisations
At first, it was a difficult decision whether to go on a year-long exchange. However, after the exchange period ended, I am proud to say that it was one of the best decisions I made as a CUHK student.

I believe that joy in life comes from new and unique experiences. This was the case during my time spent in the Netherlands. From biking for my classes on a daily basis to enjoying the beauty of being in the small town of Maastricht, it was a wholesome experience. The teaching method that prevailed at my host university was much different from that at CUHK. We mainly had tutorials in groups of 12-14 people and few lectures. Studying in a classroom where no more than 2-3 students belonged to the same country helped me to broaden my horizons and become more interculturally competent.

The best part about going on exchange was travel. I managed to see 16 countries over the period of nine months. I will cherish these experiences and the friendships and bonds that I developed throughout this journey for the rest of my life.
Over two months, I worked as a System Parameter intern in the Operations Department. My main responsibilities were to study the core banking system and create technical instructions regarding the maintenance, update, addition and removal of data in it. … Upon completion of internship, I also gave presentations to my team regarding the whole LEAP programme structure and recommendations that were to be implemented in the Operations Division.

Credit is due to GLEF for helping me secure this internship. The two most beneficial courses were GLEF3010, International Monetary Systems, and FINA3030, Management of Financial Institutions. The International Monetary Systems was the most unique course that GLEF offered. Students were put into a simulation game, and everyone had to work hard to earn good grades. Students were also trained to write short research papers and give a 30-minute presentation. These tasks indirectly helped me improve my verbal and communication skills. Management of Financial Institutions is a course on the banking industry, and it was very useful to me during my internship at UOB Indonesia because it helped me understand the bank system. It did not take me long to learn the core banking system, as I learned most of the banking structure from this course.

Another factor that contributed to my internship placement was my exchange experience at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Through its teaching structure and method, I was able to build confidence in myself and control my fears about public speaking.

In short, GLEF has done an excellent job in offering me the classes that are necessary in the banking industry.
The Society of Global Economics and Finance (GEFS)

The Society of Global Economics and Finance (GEFS) was established in 2012 to serve student members at GLEF.

The seventh cabinet of GEFS, Glefalcon, which took office on 18 February 2019, is dedicated to serving GLEFers and to unite GLEF members as a family. We have organized a series of activities to strengthen our mutual bonds: the New Year barbeque gathering in January to assemble everyone after the Christmas holiday and to motivate each other before the start of the second semester, the Spring Dinner in February to celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Photo Day in March to share joy with our fellow graduates and the Orientation Camp in August to welcome our freshmen and help them adapt to university life.

Apart from networking events, GEFS has organised career-related activities to provide students with clearer aspirations and prospects for their careers. We have held several career-related workshops to help GLEFers gain a better understanding of different industries and to equip them with skills, experience and knowledge. We aim to assist our members in planning and preparing for their career paths at an earlier stage so they will have an edge over others.

GEFS will strain every sinew in the interests of our members and faculties and serve the GLEF family with passion and dedication.

Career ambassador

We believe that in addition to academic studies and recreational activities, career development is an important part of our students’ university lives. To provide more insights into different career paths for our students, two current senior students are appointed as GLEF Career Ambassadors every year. Their duty is to supplement the programme’s career support, such as by organising various events to enhance students’ awareness and understanding of their career pursuits.

This year, several career-related activities were organized. For instance, hard skill workshops such as investment and VBA workshops were held in response to our students’ demand. These workshops aim to enrich students’ skill sets and empower them with practical knowledge that extends beyond lessons. Furthermore, senior students were invited to conduct an exchange and internship sharing sessions. Such sessions not only establish an additional platform for junior students to connect with their fellow students but also provide junior students with useful job-hunting tips and diversified industry knowledge. Attendees can then plan for their career paths in advance as they learn more about the job duties and requirements of the various roles in different industries.

In addition to career events, we maintain an internship and exchange database with abundant and detailed information about past internship and exchange experiences for all students’ reference. Students are encouraged to use the database and to proactively reach out to senior students to make the most out of the strong GLEF network.
“It is such a great experience to participate in the HSBC Financial Innovation Case Study 2019. I was fortunate enough to be awarded the 2nd runner-up among all the elite teams from different backgrounds.

Our team proposed an all-in-one tech-driven solution for HSBC to increase the public’s financial literacy and capability. The extensive research process involved enabled me to acquire knowledge on the latest FinTech and the landscape of e-wallets in Hong Kong. With rapid technology advancement, the FinTech industry is becoming extremely popular and has become entrenched in our everyday life. We may use Apple Pay, PayMe and Fast Payment System every single day, but not all of us understand how they work and earn revenue. By doing the case study, we had the opportunity to tap into the industry and learn practical knowledge that cannot be acquired from textbooks.”

GLEF student Steven LO and his CUHK teammates won second runner-up in the HSBC Financial Dialogue Series 2019 – Financial Innovation Case Study.

The HSBC Financial Dialogue Series is a continuous programme that aims to engage over 300 local university students and HSBC Scholars in finance, business and economics each year through interactive dialogue sessions with prestigious leaders and financial experts, as well as through the exclusive accelerated learning programme afterwards.