BSc in Quantitative Finance

2022-23
OVERVIEW

The QFIN programme is the first of its kind in Hong Kong. Since our establishment, we have created a knowledgeable and active pool of graduates with deep community roots in the Pearl River Delta region and beyond. Engaged in everything from local start-ups to multinational investment banks, and from tech companies to Big Four accounting firms and other leading businesses, our alumni represent a rich regional and global resource which will be within your arm’s reach when you join the QFIN programme.

QFIN offers a flexible, customisable curriculum that allows you to explore your potential and specialise according to your personal aspirations. You will also have the freedom to adjust your course selection to reflect real-time industry developments. Our targeted courses in finance, information technology, statistics and mathematics are complemented by enrichment courses such as the Banking and Finance Practicum, which brings you face-to-face with industry experts in real and simulated working environments.

A critical piece of the QFIN programme is whole person development, which we facilitate through a comprehensive co-curriculum that includes overseas exchange, internships, case competitions and volunteer service — along with on-the-job training experience and alumni engagement. These opportunities allow you to develop essential leadership and communication skills to complement your financial expertise, giving you a strong competitive edge in the marketplace.
YOUR DEVELOPMENT

QFIN graduates are highly sought after by employers, recognised for their strong financial quantitative and qualitative skills, including valuation, asset allocation, credit and portfolio analysis, risk modelling, capital budgeting and structured finance.

Through your study in QFIN, you will develop an appreciation for social responsibility and the substantial impact it has on business sustainability. Your heightened sense of ethics and integrity, along with a sensitivity to the world around you, will help you emerge as a perceptive, well-rounded business leader.

QFIN alumni actively give back to the communities in which they live and work, contributing to positive change in business and social environments.

Finance Trading Laboratory

Practical training courses on trading are offered as part of the programme. In addition to our in-house expertise, a number of firms and associations provide support and expert practitioner advice and training to our students.

As a QFIN student, you will be able to conduct and test your market analysis in our 53-desk Finance Trading Laboratory, among the best of its kind in the world on a university campus. The laboratory is equipped with Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters terminals, and is supported by unparalleled real-time data feeds from the New York Stock Exchange, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, and Eurex, one of the world’s leading derivatives exchanges.

Shiyu SONG

“Through the CUHK Finance Department, QFIN students have access to a world class finance trading laboratory, where Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters and many other databases are available. I benefited a lot from using this trading laboratory: the up-to-date research reports provided me with different perspectives of the financial world; real-time data feeds allowed me to be connected with the global markets; the news, chart and graph functions from Bloomberg also saved my time for analysis. Equipped with such powerful tools, students are more efficient when participating in trading or case competitions.”

Charlie LIU

“The real world of finance is very much different from what we learn from books, and that’s why practical experience is so critical in this industry. I am very grateful that as a QFIN student, I had the privilege to take the Banking and Finance Practicum course, which provided me with priceless real-life exposure to the equity research industry.

Even though it is part of the curriculum offered by QFIN, the practicum course is actually more like an ‘apprenticeship’ or ‘internship’ than a typical ‘course’. Instead of attending lectures, we communicate face-to-face with industry experts and equity research analysts from an external financial institution; instead of doing homework and taking exams, we present our original equity ideas and research reports in front of senior managers of the research department – and they challenge you just like you are a real analyst! The challenging but exciting course not only equipped us with the technical skills essential to succeed in this highly-demanding industry, but also gave us precious insights into how research analysts really work in the ‘mysterious’ world of investment banking. It was definitely a memorable experience, and I would highly recommend any young talent interested in the finance industry to apply for the QFIN programme for the countless academic and career resources it provides, especially the practicum courses.”

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

JUPAS Students

Local students applying on the strength of their Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination should apply through JUPAS.

JUPAS code: JS4252

Minimum Entrance Requirements

Level 3 or above in Chinese Language, English Language and Mathematics

Level 2 or above in Liberal Studies

Level 3 or above in any two elective subjects, including:

1. Two New Senior Secondary elective subjects
2. One New Senior Secondary elective subject and Mathematics (Extended Part) Module I or Module II

Non-JUPAS & International Students

For details regarding admission requirements for non-JUPAS and international students, including students from Mainland China, please contact CUHK Office of Admissions and Financial Aid or visit www.oafa.cuhk.edu.hk/
Internship Programme

QFIN internships complement and elevate the value of your undergraduate education, greatly improving your competitiveness in the financial job market.

• On average, QFIN students complete three internships during their course of study.
• More than 90% of students complete at least one internship in a finance-related institution.
• Students may take a leave of absence for one or more semesters during the programme to do full-time internships.

Our students have successfully completed internships in Hong Kong, the surrounding Pearl River Delta region including Shenzhen and Guangzhou, other cities in the Mainland, including Beijing and Shanghai, as well as overseas, including London, New York, San Francisco, Frankfurt, Singapore, Seoul and Tokyo.

Gareth SIN at Goldman Sachs

“My off-cycle internship at Private Investor Product Group (PIPG) at Goldman Sachs was truly a fruitful experience. I acquired precious opportunities to delve into the process of selling various exotic structured products, such as accumulators, bonus enhancement notes and so on. Moreover, as each structure is tailor-made to private banks and ultra-high-net-worth individuals, I had to frequently do manually quote exotic products according to their special requests. This experience provided me with a first-hand exposure to the trends of the exotic investment market and different structured product payoffs. Furthermore, through continuously coordinating with trading teams on volatility adjustment in a bid to make our products competitive, I also attained a concrete foundation on the interactions between sales and trading in the bank.

From venturing through different operations at the sales desk, to mingling with people from other teams, this internship enlightened me in every possible way. This experience strengthened my passion for being engaged in the financial industry and there is no doubt that it was the QFIN programme that enabled me to establish essential skill sets and knowledge. I am genuinely grateful that QFIN provided me with a constructive learning environment and ample platforms to achieve our career goals.”

Kevin CHEN at Credit Agricole

“My 10-week internship as a summer analyst at Credit Agricole Global Markets Division was a challenging yet fulfilling experience. During my internship, I took part in several projects including a Neural Network Project, in which we applied neural network algorithms to explain the daily profit and loss in the non-linear trading books using market data. In addition, I also assisted various teams in building spreadsheet tools for tasks automation and compiling research on a variety of topics such as Central Bank Digital Currency, Chinese Securities Firms and Precious Metals Analysis. The internship gave me an opportunity to learn and collaborate with experienced colleagues and work on projects that have an impact on the business. QFIN programme helped me pick up challenging tasks at work especially when it came to programming and complex calculations. The QFIN course structure enhanced my understanding in the financial markets and honed my analytical and quantitative skills, which are essential at the workplace. I am grateful that QFIN provides a supportive alumni network and substantial resources that further helped me grow personally and professionally.”

Alex PUN at Nomura

“Having interned in the Global Markets at Nomura, I was able to gain hands-on experience working across different functions (sales, trading, structuring and research) on the floor. While the internship has allowed me to learn from the technical side, I was also very fortunate to have listened to various career/industry insights shared by the seniors in the firm.

I was attached to the Equity Derivatives Sales team and was involved in a number of projects that aimed to facilitate and streamline our daily workflow for the trades. There were also a few group/individual presentations to deliver throughout the internship. I am grateful that the holistic QFIN programme has equipped students well with both hard and soft skills needed to work in a professional environment. Along with the mentorship programme supported by our strong alumni network, I was able to seek career advice from my mentor and understand more about the banking industry in advance.”

Jasmine KO at BlackRock

“My summer internship with BlackRock’s Aladdin Wealth Tech team provided invaluable insight into the use and development of technology in risk and portfolio management. I worked closely with the client engagement team, focusing on the external relationship management of large institutional clients. The experience was deeply interactive - I got the opportunity to sit in on client meetings, thus gathering an effective understanding of the business as a whole and making the internship projects and presentations much more relevant and applicable. The internship provided a good balance between technical problems and the more communication- and presentation-based aspects of client engagement. The skills developed in-class with QFIN have certainly complemented my undertakings during the internship.”
CONNECT WITH THE WORLD

International Exposure
In an increasingly interconnected world, graduates with international experience and global business perspective will be best positioned for success. QFIN is an ideal place to translate your cultural curiosity into cross-cultural dexterity and better business performance.

• More than 85% of our students go on exchange at least once.
• We have exchange partnerships with universities in more than 70 cities across 19 countries and 6 continents.
• From the start of your second year, you can choose to do summer, one-semester or one-year exchanges.
• To maximise your experience, our flexible curriculum allows you to go on as many exchanges as you wish, provided you graduate within the maximum study period.

In addition to overseas exchange programmes, our students partake in international case competitions, study trips and overseas internships. These types of exposure provide further opportunities for personal and professional development, and your participation will be backed by extensive training and support from QFIN to help you make the most of your time overseas.

Wendy GAO
Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) in France

“I will never forget the days spent at HEC Paris, France, during which I made new friends from all over the world, visited countless museums and explored my real interest by taking courses in different disciplines. Thanks to our flexible curriculum, I could enjoy my term exchange and have a fascinating adventure in Europe without deferring my studies. I can still remember the good memories in Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Nice... and also the difficult days when I managed to settle down to live under the coronavirus pandemic and quarantine. I really cherished this international experience which made me a more independent, open-minded and confident person, and I am very grateful to our programme which gave us maximum support and freedom during the whole university life, especially in the pandemic period. I firmly believe that everyone will definitely benefit a lot from QFIN’s intensive courses, practical training, responsible & helpful staff and strong networking resources.”

Gabriena ONGKY
at University of Aberdeen in UK

“I am privileged to have gone to the UK and experienced international exposure. The whole three months I spent at Aberdeen University was one of the best experiences I have had – I was exposed to different cultural backgrounds, perspectives, and teaching methods compared to Hong Kong. Also, I was in a community and organization that enabled me to build a network across the world.

In class, we implemented different methods through case studies and group discussions using real-industry problems. I got the opportunity to do group projects with another four international students from France, Finland, Italy, and Hungary – through this group project; I learned different perspectives that I couldn’t experience elsewhere. I enjoyed the time working with those from diverse backgrounds.

Besides, I went to different cities/countries with friends to explore the UK and European countries during the weekends. What an incredible experience which I won’t forget.”
"Being a QFIN major in the CUHK Business School has brought about many opportunities and benefits. Our course equips us with many useful skills which helps us in our exploration within the financial markets and services. In particular, my interest in equity trading when met with the core finance courses brought me to derivatives trading, opening up a larger variety of trading strategies and returns. Furthermore, with the increase in competitions and hackathons held by corporates, our finance and quantitative background coupled with our general business knowledge makes us an asset to the team. Having participated in competitions ranging from asset management, resource management and product development, I found financial technology competitions to be the most rewarding for they give us the opportunity to speak with executives from HKMA, Tencent, Alipay and many others, all of whom shared their prospects and enthusiasm regarding the future of finance. With FinTech shaping and propelling Hong Kong as well as many other financial markets into the future, I am so grateful for the exposures I have gained during my time as QFIN undergraduate."

"The CFA Institute Research Challenge in 2021 was held virtually, due to the pandemic, and I am proud of my team’s resilience to overcome this challenge. We compiled an equity research report on the designated stock and presented it to investment specialists. The QFIN programme gave me the valuation knowledge we needed in my freshman year. My team was also technically supported with access to Bloomberg Terminals in our own Finance Trading Laboratory. We, therefore, improved our competency as a team of sophomores in building financial models and analysing data to compete with more mature contestants and were awarded the 1st Runner-up Prize in Hong Kong. Joining case competitions is not only to enrich our CVs but, more importantly, to consolidate our learning and polish them in business applications. You will also find your aspiration through the demanding yet rewarding challenges."

"McGill International Portfolio Challenge is a global asset management competition. Participants are given the task to construct a portfolio which can solve problems of a pension fund in five years. Last autumn, our team represented CUHK at the final round of this competition. We went to McGill University and met finalists from 8 different countries. We had dinners and chatted with them to share experience. In the final round, we presented our investment ideas to professionals from famous asset management companies. They asked challenging questions during our presentation. All in all, it was definitely a fruitful experience to us. Through this competition, we widened our horizons and learnt how to apply theories to solve actual financial problems."

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Career Prospects

Upon your graduation from QFIN, you will be equipped with strong analytical and quantitative skills, as well as practical business experience that will let you hit the ground running in your first job. You will be well-prepared to launch a career in investment, private, commercial or corporate banking, financial services, consulting, accounting as well as general management in major business corporations in Hong Kong and beyond. Top employers frequently target QFIN students for graduate recruitment.

Employers Include

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Career Coaching & Support

Your QFIN education is supplemented by professional development support to help you discover and launch your career. We provide coaching, counselling and practical workshops covering all aspects of the job application process. We host career talks and networking sessions with major employers as well as sharing sessions with alumni and industry professionals. You may also benefit from the many mentorship and buddy programmes available to further enhance your first-hand industry knowledge.

CFA Institute® University Affiliation Program

The CFA Programme at CUHK Business School is affiliated with the CFA Institute® University Affiliation Program. This affiliation certifies that our curriculum is well-suited to prepare students for CFA examinations and employment in the finance and investment industry.

Our programme covers 70 percent of Level I topics under the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge and CFA Institute ethical and professional standards. As a QFIN student, you are entitled to CFA Institute curricula, exclusive online Level I sample examinations, journals, webcasts and other educational resources. You are also eligible to apply for Level I CFA examination scholarships.


**Student Life**

**Society of Quantitative Finance (QFiS)**

The closely-knit QFiS promotes the QFIN Programme within and outside of CUHK. It connects students with the business sector, providing society members updates on relevant news and developments within the financial industry.

**Heidi CHAN**

“I might not be the typical student who will enter the finance industry, but I was still fortunate to be a Quantitative Finance major. The programme offers me a high degree of flexibility to explore courses in different majors, and I can also balance my school work and extra-curricular activities to search for my real interests and passions.

I believe most young people love travelling. To me, volunteering overseas is an alternative way to understand the lives of others, the exposure to a new environment is also a challenge for me to become more independent and adaptable. In Costa Rica, together with 8 other volunteers, we travelled by truck to reach the hills where we visited Cabecar, one of the indigenous communities. There, we spent an evening around a campfire with them.

I also did a bridge-building service trip with Wuzhiqiao to Yunnan in China for 9 days and a humanitarian field training trip to Nepal for 7 days. Through planning educational activities for our audience and doing weekend travels, I was able to practice my leadership skills and different ways of communicating and solving problems with other foreign volunteers.”

**Candy NG**

“I was very pleased to be one of the representatives of CUHK joining the Cross-border Study Tour for Post-secondary Financial Talents Programme. In the programme, I paid visits to government bodies and financial regulators in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Through this, I got a better understanding of the differences in market operation and regulatory standards in these two places. I had the chance to spend five weeks working in a Chinese enterprise. This was a fresh experience for me since the working culture in Chinese enterprises is quite different from those in Hong Kong. In Chinese enterprises, the importance of seniority is significant and highlighted while local companies put more emphasis on the interaction among different levels of the company. And most importantly, in this tour, I made friends with students from other universities. Exchanging ideas with them was inspiring and made the tour very enjoyable.”

**Eric CHOI**

“Since picking QFIN as my first choice when I was in high school, I had always wanted to work in the equity business.

I graduated in 2003 which was one of the worst years of all times. I wasn’t able to get a relevant job in the equity market at all. However, I believe that if I am passionate enough my chance will come. Therefore, I spent a lot of time in building relationship and studying relevant things and hoping to get a chance to join the equity business. The training I got from QFIN became a critical part when the chance came. The hiring manager was an options market maker and he asked me a lot of questions about derivatives and concepts of market-making. I am very grateful that I learnt the relevant knowledge when I was in CUHK and this became a turning point in my career.

After running equity trading in Point72 for a few years, I am very happy to hire QFIN graduates given their strong academic background. However, I always try to remind our fellow classmates that finance is a human business. Never be shy and try to build your own relationships. I am looking forward to sharing more of my experience with QFIN schoolmates in the future.”

**Jack KO**

“The QFIN Programme has equipped me with the analytical skills and the foundation knowledge in finance. For those who are interested in exploring the finance industry, this Programme has also provided excellent career resources and guidance to get us well prepared. With the solid alumni network established over 15 years, we enjoy listening to plenty of stories of a wide variety of career paths. The flexibility of the study environment has provided us with opportunities to develop our own unique experiences in internship and overseas exchange programmes.”

**Ronald YIM**

“The most amazing parts of the QFIN programme are not only the solid academic foundation but also the exposure and networks you gain in 4 years of undergraduate life. I am from the first batch of graduates under the new curriculum. The flexibility and support from the programme allowed me to take courses that fit my interests, to go on summer and semester exchanges, as well as do several internships in various sectors. Every QFIN student has the chance to shape his/her own personal and career development.

Unlike most QFIN graduates, I joined the management consulting industry and I am now a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company. As a junior consultant, I have already been engaged in solving complex business problems for a wide variety of multinational companies and have worked closely with their senior management. The QFIN programme equipped me with essential problem-solving skills, communication skills and leadership abilities.

The exposure, skills and network you acquire in the QFIN programme are beneficial to you in all industries. If you are looking forward to taking up challenges and exploring your potential, CUHK’s QFIN programme will be your best choice.”

**Quantitative Finance Alumni Association (QFAA)**

The QFAA nurtures and maintains a close relationship among alumni of QFIN and helps them develop strong networks in the business world. The Association organises seminars and social gatherings to help alumni and students stay current on the latest financial market developments whilst also promoting alumni relations and potential business collaboration.
The QFIN Alumni Scholarships were established with the generous support of our alumni. These awards are exclusively available to QFIN students and are in addition to the numerous prizes, scholarships and academic awards offered through CUHK Business School.

QFIN Alumni Scholarships are intended to support and encourage exceptional individuals to pursue their studies at overseas universities. Recipients are selected on the basis of their academic merits, outstanding personal character, deep commitment to others and potential for leadership.

At present, one Outstanding Student Award and two Overseas Exchange Scholarships are awarded each year.

**Marcus CHAN**

“Being a QFIN student is certainly one of the greatest and best decisions I have ever made, for it is a place where people can achieve their career aspirations, a place where people can grow and shine. Indeed, I feel very honored to be awarded the Quantitative Finance Outstanding Student Award, it is a recognition of the efforts that I have paid along the way. Yet, nothing great would have been achieved without the support and mentoring I have received from my programme, my peers and my fellow friends. As an overseas student from Macau, I had very few connections at the beginning of my studies, yet QFIN provided me a great platform to make like-minded friends. As a student who had zero foundation in finance, economics, our well-structured curriculum filled me with practical knowledge, which I could later on apply on different international case competitions and on my current job as a trader. Mostly importantly, with long history of the programme comes a group of experienced and helpful alumni/mentors, who shared with me invaluable insights on the industry, guiding me to fulfill my career aspiration. To me, this award is not just a recognition of my efforts, instead it serves as a great reminder to myself of how much support I have received during my studies, thus motivating me to give back to our QFIN family whenever possible in the near future.”

**Matthew LI**

“The exchange to Malmö University has been a rewarding experience and definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made in my lifetime. Having spent my spring semester in such a renowned institution, I enjoyed intellectual exchange during lectures and developed life-long friendships with students from around the world. I was deeply impressed by their proactive teaching & learning culture and it was really inspiring even though online lessons were adopted during the semester. Apart from studying, travelling and experiencing different cultures across the world is also a crucial part of the exchange life. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 has stopped me travelling in different countries, I still grasp the opportunity to travel domestically in Sweden and explore the culture of local Swedes. Thanks to the tremendous support of alumni from the QFIN programme, the exchange programme has definitely added colours to my university life.”

**Helen WONG**

“Throughout my four years of university life, the QFIN programme has given me the flexibility to join various activities alongside a dynamic and fruitful academic life. Not only did I join a student society as a treasurer, but also took part in case competitions, participated in international voluntary events and even went on an exchange in Italy. Frankly speaking, exchange study at the Bocconi University was unquestionably one of the most memorable times in my life. My classmates in the university were always so proactive to ask questions and shout out their ideas in lessons. I was greatly impressed and felt very glad to be able to indulge in such a learning atmosphere. Apart from studying, travelling is another important component that completes your exchange. Italy is so famous for its huge contributions to the world of arts. Colosseum in Rome, Juliet House in Verona, Duomo in Milan, etc. These are all the places I have travelled to and have left me in awe of the beauty of their history and culture. Thanks to the generous support of the alumni from the QFIN programme, I was awarded the Exchange Scholarship, which allowed me to gain this invaluable and once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I would definitely encourage you to grasp the chance – explore the world and meet life-long friends.”
The QFIN Programme’s rigorous yet flexible curriculum is guided and regularly reviewed by the QFIN Advisory Committee to ensure the best possible learning outcomes for you. Comprised of seasoned professionals in finance and various related organisations, the Committee advises on the direction of the programme and the quality and relevance of course content. Members also facilitate internship and graduate placements, practicums and mentorship programmes.

Co-chairmen

Mr. Martin K MATSUI  
Adjunct Professor  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Mr. Christopher CHAN  
Chief Investment Officer (Public Markets)  
Exchange Fund Investment Office  
Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Members

Mr. Cliff CHAU  
Partner  
HOPU Investments

Mr. Martin K MATSUI  
Adjunct Professor  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Prof. CHOW Ying-Foon  
QFIN Programme Director  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Mr. Douglas CHOW  
Chief Executive Officer  
Selya Technologies

Dr. Kungsheng FAN  
Managing Director, Head of China  
Lazard Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited

Mr. Alvin KWOCK  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer  
OneDegree

Mr. Edward HUANG  
Senior Managing Director  
Head of Greater China and Korea  
The Blackstone Group

Mr. Andrew LO  
Senior Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
Invesco Asia Pacific

Mr. Christopher CHAN  
Chief Investment Officer (Public Markets)  
Exchange Fund Investment Office  
Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Mr. Edward HUANG  
Senior Managing Director  
Head of Asia Acquisitions  
The Blackstone Group

Mr. Mark LEUNG  
Chief Executive Officer of China  
J.P. Morgan

Dr. Kungsheng FAN  
Managing Director, Head of China  
Lazard Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited

Mrs. Ada LAI  
Placement Director  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Ms. Sau KWAN  
President  
E Fund Management Co., Ltd

Securities

Prof. Kalok CHAN  
Chairman  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Prof. Joseph CHENG  
MSF Programme Director  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Mr. Tom MORROW  
Chairman of Global Markets in Asia Pacific  
Goldman Sachs (Asia) LLC

Mr. Nick POLLARD  
Managing Director, Asia Pacific  
CFA Institute

Ex-Officio Members

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Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Mr. Andrew LO  
Senior Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer  
Invesco Asia Pacific

Prof. CHOW Ying-Foon  
QFIN Programme Director  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Ms. Jade CHAN  
QFIN Programme Coordinator  
Department of Finance  
CUHK Business School

Mr. Nick POLLARD  
Managing Director, Asia Pacific  
CFA Institute

Mr. William SHEK  
Managing Director  
Head of FX, EM Rates & Commodities  
Debt Trading & Financing, Asia Pacific  
HSBC Global Banking & Markets

Mr. Tom MORROW  
Chairman of Global Markets in Asia Pacific  
Goldman Sachs (Asia) LLC

Prof. Kalok CHAN  
Chairman  
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