

## Launch your career in trading, technology, or research

Discover graduate and internship opportunities designed to empower you with the tools, training, and mentorship needed to solve the industry's toughest challenges. Experience a flat, collaborative culture where great ideas come from anywhere, and your growth is supported from day one.



Scan to apply



# Banking and investment

**Opportunities in this sector are many and varied, so if you are interested in finance you should be able to find the role and firm that's right for you.**

Generally, this sector can be split into the buy-side and the sell-side, within which there are a variety of roles offering very different remuneration, work/life balance and skill requirements.

### **The buy-side (investment)**

The buy-side make money for their clients including high-net-worth individuals, companies, governments, pension funds etc by investing their capital in various financial products. Their aim is to deliver higher rates of return by devising effective investment strategies.

You may have heard of terms including hedge funds, pooled funds, mutual funds etc. All of these fall broadly under the asset management umbrella and have roles including fund managers, analysts, researchers and operations analysts. All have different skill sets but as an investment analyst you would typically conduct research and analysis to make decisions about which companies to start or stop investing in.

### **The sell-side (banking)**

The sell-side provide a market for their clients (the buy-side) to purchase financial products; this is known as market-making. They also provide complementary research and custodian



services (the holding of assets). The market-making roles, often referred to as 'markets' or 'secondary capital markets' include sales, trading and research roles.

The sell-side also has another core function in helping companies raise capital. This can be in the form of debt (similar to you taking out a credit card or loan) or equity (selling a part of their company). These markets are often referred to as DCM (debt capital markets) and ECM (equity capital markets).

Quantitative/Proprietary Trading firms, also sometimes known as "electronic market makers", are another significant part of the sector. These firms develop trading strategies based on quantitative analysis using automated trading models, and typically hire graduates with masters and PhDs in STEM subjects.

### **Mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance**

The other function of investment banks and other specialist corporate finance houses is to help companies to restructure through buying or selling parts of, or their whole company, or merging with another company. This is known as M&A and the function most readily associated with 'investment bankers'.

This is a deals-based, high-profile function and often the most competitive. Bankers in this area often work the longest hours, and are amongst the most highly paid.

### **Getting in and entry points**

This is a highly competitive sector so proper research and preparation are key to securing the right job.

You don't need to have studied a finance-related degree in the UK, but it's important to have a keen interest in, and understanding of, the wider concepts within the banking industry and global markets. You also need a high degree of analytical intelligence and the ability to build and maintain good working relationships in what can be a competitive and pressurised environment.

In order to secure a full-time graduate role getting work experience is very important, and even a requirement for some firms. It's important to note that most banks, and increasingly asset management firms, use their internships as a major pipeline for their graduate programmes. Look for banking 'spring weeks' (typically one-week work experience) in your pre-penultimate year and summer internships (8–12



weeks) in your penultimate year to gain as much experience and exposure as possible.

Have a good understanding of application deadlines; these can open as early as July and often work on a rolling basis, (they are reviewed as and when people apply) so there is a benefit to applying early.

If you don't get an internship in your penultimate year, all is not lost; a number of the large banks offer 'off-cycle' internships for those who have just graduated and smaller boutique banks, corporate finance houses and trading firms offer less rigid recruitment processes.

See the more detailed briefing on our website for further information on the skills required and recruitment timeframes associated with the different job functions.

### **Extra-curricular ideas**

- Engage with employers at careers fairs, etc, especially in Michaelmas term.
- Join and actively participate in relevant student societies: for example, the Oxford Alpha Fund, CapitOx, the Oxford Guild, and the Oxford Finance Society.
- Demonstrate your skills at managing finances by overseeing your own fantasy fund or learn a valuation methodology such as discounted cash flow (DCF).
- Apply to 'insight days' or 'spring week' programmes in your first year (or second year of a four-year degree).

### **Next steps**

[www.careers.ox.ac.uk/banking-investment](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/banking-investment)

## Alumni profile

# Joyce Crystal Ekakoro

**What:** The work I do revolves around executing transactions for leveraged buyouts and other forms of corporate finance for companies across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

My work includes modelling finances, preparing slide decks, researching the company comprehensively and analysing the secondary debt markets to see how comparable companies' debt instruments are performing. Where "live deals" tend to vary from project pitches is around direct engagement with the company and investors on a more regular and personalised basis, and the work involved tends to depend on what is needed for a specific transaction.

**Why:** Having read PPE at university, I found myself presented with several career paths to go into after graduating. I always found the intersectionality between the financial markets and politics interesting during my studies, so banking felt like a natural option for me to investigate. After completing some insight programmes, this was affirmed. From my years playing football I knew that I inherently enjoyed collaboration and being part of a team, which the nature of banking lends itself towards.

**Advice:** Don't be daunted by coming from a non-traditional background. I dropped the 'E' in PPE, and the prospect of a qualitative career initially seemed quite slim to me because of that. After speaking to several people within the industry, I learned that what matters most is the soft skills you have, and how these can be applied to the workplace. HSBC had an excellent training programme, both whilst I interned and when I initially started full-time, where the technical skills were taught in a very interactive and accessible manner.

Beyond this, members of my team were (and still are) super helpful in constantly teaching me anything new, as and when this comes up. It can often be daunting trying something completely new, but getting comfortable with being out of your depth is so important for personal development, and doing so has given me amazing opportunities early into my career.



### Position

Investment Banking Analyst, HSBC.

### Background

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University College, 2023.

## Alumni profile

# Leon Galli

**What:** Optiver specialises in market-making across a broad range of products. Rather than holding onto large positions for long periods like a hedge fund might, we're constantly buying and selling throughout the day, focusing on small price differences to accumulate gains without carrying significant risks. As a trader, you might end up working on a variety of desks, some of which rely heavily on quick decision-making, while others focus on automated trading at scale. My day-to-day involves a mix of improving the mathematical models at the core of the desk and stepping in to make manual trading decisions when we're faced with sudden changes in the market that the model won't properly adjust for. It's a fast-paced environment where you are constantly solving problems and seeing the impact of what you do in real time.

**Why:** I didn't start out wanting to be a trader and originally thought I'd become a maths teacher. But after a friend suggested I look into trading, I decided to apply for an internship at Optiver. What stood out, even from the interview process, was how different it was from the traditional finance roles I had imagined. Instead of generic, 'tick-the-box' questions, I was solving maths puzzles that tested my problem-solving abilities. The experience showed me that the company doesn't fit the finance stereotype I had in my head – it's much more about critical thinking and real-time decision-making. The collaborative environment and constant learning opportunities I encountered during the internship confirmed that this was the right place for me.

**Advice:** The best advice I can give is to try it out. If you're considering trading but aren't sure if it's for you, an internship is the best way to find out. You don't need a finance background – what matters is how you approach problems and how eager you are to learn. The specific courses you take really don't matter. Optiver is a place where you can learn a lot and really grow, both professionally and personally, so start getting used to being outside your comfort zone. Make sure to focus on understanding problems deeply rather than just taking surface-level solutions as a given – this mindset will serve you well in any challenging role.



### Position

Trader, Optiver.

### Background

MMath Mathematics, Lincoln College, 2022.



With offices in London and New York, GSA Capital combines a world-class proprietary platform with innovative thinking to develop and deploy systematic and process-driven investment strategies across all asset classes, geographies, and timescales. We are a collaboration of approximately 150 people. Over 60% of our staff work in research or on developing technology necessary to enable and monetise our research. We are an eclectic mix of mathematicians, scientists, programmers, economists, and a great deal more. At GSA we reward people based on merit and excellence, not necessarily on experience. We avoid the bureaucracy of larger organisations and keep our management structures flat. Decisions are made efficiently; changes are implemented quickly. People who work here enjoy a culture of trust, innovation, and scientific rigour. It is a friendly, open place where people are motivated because they enjoy what they are doing.

**Opportunities available:** Quantitative Strategists, Software Engineers, Algorithm Developers

**Graduates sought:** Students of all academic levels from STEM disciplines

**Vacation work:** Internships available for penultimate year undergraduate or postgraduate students

**Sponsorship:** We offer sponsorship for suitable prospects

[www.gsacapital.com/join-us](http://www.gsacapital.com/join-us)



**Email:** [dubcampus@sig.com](mailto:dubcampus@sig.com)

**Main locations:** Dublin, Ireland.

**About us:** Susquehanna is a global quantitative trading firm founded with an entrepreneurial mindset and a rigorous analytical approach to decision making. As one of the largest proprietary trading firms in the world, we trade our own capital at our own risk. We are experts in trading essentially all listed financial products and asset classes, with a focus on derivatives, and handle millions of transactions on exchanges around the world every day. While our presence in the market is broad, our trading desks are highly specialized, allowing for a deep understanding of the unique drivers of each product. Our expertise in probabilistic thinking and game theory combined with our focus on signal detection and low-latency performance have made Susquehanna one of the leading global market makers. By providing liquidity and ensuring competitive prices for buyers and sellers, Susquehanna plays a critical role in the financial markets.

**Opportunities available:** Susquehanna offers several internship and graduate paths, including Quantitative Research, Quantitative Systematic Trading and Quantitative Development.

**Graduates sought:** Bachelors, Masters, and PhD students with backgrounds in Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Machine Learning, Engineering or Computer Science. No prior knowledge of financial markets is required.

**Vacation work:** Our summer internships welcome students in their penultimate years of study, while our grad programmes are aimed at final year students and recent graduates.

**Application advice:** Susquehanna recruits on a rolling basis from early September, and we therefore strongly encourage applicants to apply early to avoid disappointment. Please see our careers website for our current open opportunities.

[www.sig.com](http://www.sig.com)



## The Summer Internship Programme



[www.careers.ox.ac.uk/sip](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/sip)

Funded internship opportunities, exclusively available to Oxford University students in the summer vacation.

UK and international internships available in a wide variety of sectors, carried out in person or remotely.



RBB | Economics

## Career opportunities for entry level economists

Global leaders in competition economics

We're passionate economists, committed to cases from mergers and litigation to market investigations and dominance abuse. We advise multinational companies on the economics of high stakes competition law worldwide.

Stimulating, challenging, rewarding

Our economists employ economic insights to real-world issues, developing technical, consulting and communication skills. Learning at RBB is constant. We offer a meritocratic, supportive and sociable work atmosphere.

Our requirements

We seek outstanding, motivated economists, usually postgraduate level and interested in industrial organisation. Preference for candidates who communicate complex economic concepts in a clear concise style.



Join us! Work in a global team on projects covering all industry sectors and shape your own path. Apply now:

[rbbecon.com/careers](http://rbbecon.com/careers)



## DA VINCI

**Email:** [recruitment@davincitrading.com](mailto:recruitment@davincitrading.com)

**Main location:** Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**About us:** Da Vinci Trading is a unique firm made up of some of the brightest minds in the industry. We were founded in 2015 by a group of passionate professionals who wanted to do things differently. Every day, we work hard to build the best proprietary trading house in the world through our innovative approach to trading, culture and tech. We identify opportunities based on short to medium-term strategies and we provide liquidity to the markets. Our philosophy towards work is best captured by "Be good, work hard and great things will happen". We are meritocratic by nature and believe in empowering our colleagues. We hire the most talented people, continuously challenge them, give them room to experiment and provide everything they need to reach their full potential.

**Opportunities available:** Graduate roles for Traders, Quant Researchers and Software Engineers

**Graduates sought:** Bachelor's or Master's degree in Mathematics, Physics, Quant finance, Engineering, Computer Science or equivalent

**Visa sponsorship:** We sponsor visas for highly skilled migrants

**Application advice:** We hire continuously for our key roles. Candidates are advised to apply through our website by uploading their CV and motivation

[davincitrading.com/careers](http://davincitrading.com/careers)



**The Oxford Guild Careers in Banking and Investment Arm**

The multi-award winning Oxford Guild Business Society, est. 1897 is the **largest society in Oxford, Europe and the world as of 2015 according to The Times, Forbes, Milkround and BBC**. Our unrivalled track record speaks for itself.

**100% FREE TO JOIN, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS, 120+ EVENTS ANNUALLY, 60+ SPONSORS.**

**We worry about your career so you don't have to!**

**BIGGEST SPEAKERS, EVENTS, BALLS, SOCIALS, TRIPS & CONFERENCES.**

We are widely recognised for being the **most established, dynamic, active and professional society on campus** for students looking to apply for internships/jobs and are renowned for our experience.

We have demonstrated consistent success in providing effective recruitment and brand awareness opportunities and services for organisations we work with. **We help a huge range of companies from JP Morgan and Citadel to BlackRock, Big 4 and more, to increase the quality, diversity and quantity of their applicants.**

We are the founders of the Collegium Global Network which has 40+ universities across the world involved so far including our Cambridge Guild etc.

With **world class speakers** (including major CEOs to Nobel Prize Winners, world leaders, top actors, musicians etc. from **OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman** last year to Kanye West and Malala), and **initiatives including our startup accelerator, investment fund, consultancy, app and intranet platform**, become part of something special at [www.theoxfordguild.com](http://www.theoxfordguild.com)!

[www.theoxfordguild.com](http://www.theoxfordguild.com)