



Academic Counselling for QFRM Freshman

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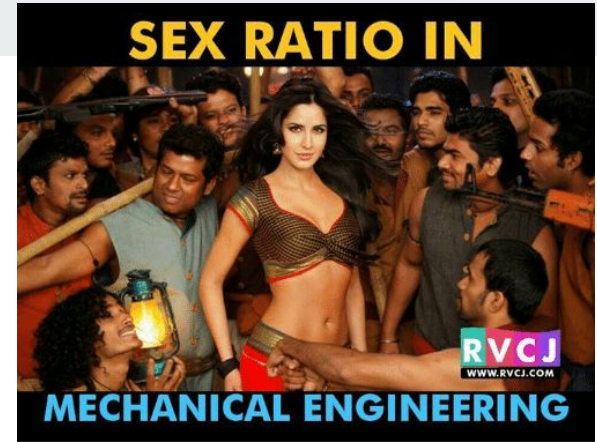
My pre-college background

A guy (yea another guy) who entered this 8:2 major

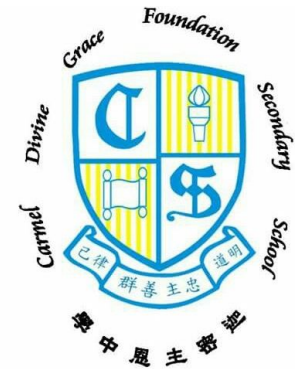
Median admission score from a school in TKO

DSE elective: ECON, ICT, BAFS, M1 (rare combination at that time!)

Knew nothing about quantitative finance and industries



Bechaare Mechanical engineers!



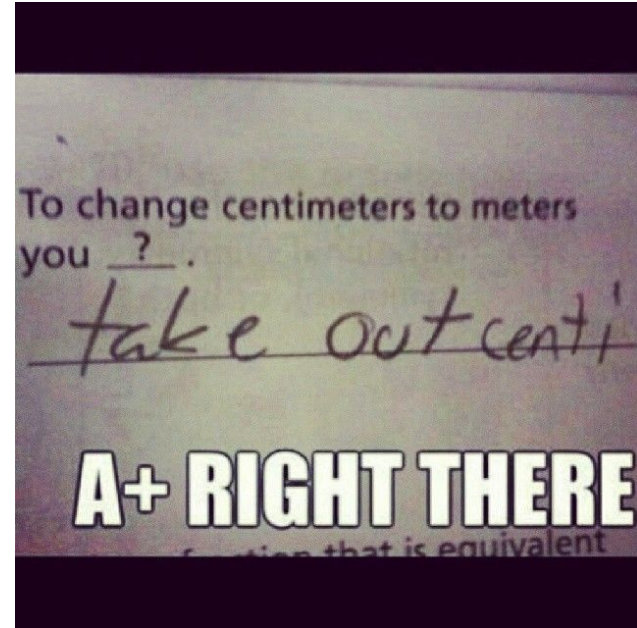
Me vs MATH1010

MATH
Mental Abuse To Humans

When you solved a math problem 3 times



And Got 3 Different Answer.



Part I: Overview



What QFRM offers?

Great peers and you can improve yourself

Excellent advisors and facilities

Wide range of opportunity

Fruitful academic study (some very useful at work)

Peer pressure (exists in every major though)

Tough courses (mid-term mean: 5x)

Lost of direction

Low degree of freedom (limited choice of minor without defer)



**A goal without a
plan is just a wish.**

~Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

You need to know:

Entering QFRM does not guarantee a high paying job after graduation

Being a QFRM may get you overqualified for normal jobs

Not all QFRM choose to enter banking industry (rumor: ~50%)

Try to discover your interest ASAP!

Determining your goal

Take courses/do internships -> brief feeling of the field

Attend recruitment talk/career event

Talk to Ada, Prof Yam (tea gathering), Prof Chow (focus group), seniors, peers etc.

Start ASAP!



Part II: First year

Planning process

- 1) Decide which courses to take (no matter what you are still a student)
- 2) Think about whether to join society or not (art fair is coming)
- 3) Find some friends to experience case competitions (optional)
- 4) Plan for your summer and goal (do not think it is far away!)
- 5) Revise your plan and take actions (e.g. apply for hostel if you want to be active in society committee)





Common course pattern in year 1

Fall (17 credits)

MATH1010, ACCT1111, DSME1030,
PHED1XXX, ENGG1000 (11 credits)

CHLT1100 (3 credits, no need if 5**)

GEWS1011 (3 credits, depends on your college)

Spring (17 credits)

MATH1030, FINA2010, DSME1040, PHED1XXX
(10 credits)

ELTU1001/1002 (4 credits, no need if 5*+)

UGFH/UGFN1000 (3 credits, special
arrangement)



Free credit from exemption

Fall (CHI 5**)

Recommend taking UGFH/UGFN first, as you can take UGEX in Spring (more flexibility)

Other options: CSCI1130 (Java), 1540 (C++), MGNT1020 (not so useful), STAT2001/RMSC2001 (depends on your MATH background)

Spring (ENG 5*+)

CSCI1510 (C), 1520 (C++), 1530 (Java), MGNT1020 (not so useful), RMSC2001 (recommend taking STAT2001 first or together)

Other courses that can possibly to push up your CGPA are fine, but **remember to plan for your minor**



Courses in brief

MATH

Probably your greatest enemy in year 1
unless you have a very solid background

Do the homework by yourself and you will
be fine (because the pool is large)

MATH1010: more proof and require
understanding (important topics: Taylor
expansion, improper integral, calculus rules)

MATH1030: less proof and require
memorizing (important topics: matrix
manipulation, eigendecomposition)



Courses in brief

DSME

Your GPA saver if you have taken ECON (?) - not necessary if the instructor teaches using MATH, e.g. $Q_d = 20 - 2P$ (demand function)

However not difficult in general as QFRM generally has a good quantitative background

Instructor recommendation: Fu Rao, Fred Ku, Sunny Ha



Courses in brief

ACCT

Your GPA saver if you have taken BAFS (?) - true in general but be aware of the difference between IFRS and GAAP (DSE)

Worth paying attention because accounting knowledge is useful in many jobs (some say it is the language of business)



Courses in brief

FINA

Your friend in next few years, but you will only encounter 2010 this year

Pay attention if you want to join case competition with friends (Well GBS often partner with QFRM)

Important topics: discounted cash flow (DCF), capital asset pricing model (CAPM)



Courses in brief

CSCI

It does not really matter which language (C, C++, Java) you learn first, but in terms of course:

CSCI11X0 is for major student, e.g. CS year 2 student will take 1130 in fall

CSCI15X0 is for minor student and other majors, such as QFRM

Do not take CSCI1580 unless you have no choice!



Courses in brief

Others

PHED: take a look on the exam content before decide which sports to take

ENGG: instructor does not matter but remember to submit things on time

UGFH/UGFN: FH has one more reflective journal, while FN has 4-5 more short quizzes



Join society or not?

Meet friends from other majors (even for QFiS there are QFIN students, so this must be true)

Enhance your CV (if you want to apply for summer internship, then this may be a plus)

Learn professionalism

Great commitment especially in college/major society

May affect your result (GPA is a decreasing function in general)

May hurt your relationship with others (as you have less time to spend with them)





Case competition

A good chance for exploring different fields and apply your knowledge in year 1 and 2

Nice enhancement to your CV (even if you are not the winner!)

Usually participate in teams, which consist of strategist, presenter and financial analyst (a rough classification only)

QFRM has edge to become the financial analyst (take FINA2010 and ACCT1111 early)



Spending the summer

Probably your only “degree of freedom” in year 1 as most likely you are taking same courses as others

Options: internship, summer semester/school, research

Potential internship target: HSBC, HSB, HKEX, small firms

Explore and revise your plan!





Sharing

My year 1 life

Sept 2015: participated in HKICPA with friends from same secondary school

Oct 2015: successfully waited for a hostel place, entered CTS, joined HK Bioblitz as volunteer for 3 months

Jan 2016: started Peak Time

Mar 2016: participated in ISACA

Apr 2016: won Peak Time final in Riga (actually first runner-up only)

May 2016: decided to take summer semester

Jul 2016: helped in YSBA ocamp



Q&A

Feel free to find me in LSB G32 later if you need help